



Jerry L Harper

March 26, 1940 - April 13, 2020

Jerry L. Harper, age 80, of Elizabethton, Tennessee went home to be with the Lord on Monday, April 13, 2020 from the Johnson City Medical Center. Jerry was born in Portland, Tennessee to the late Raymond O'Dell Harper and Elsie Mae Randolph Harper. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Joyce West Harper; and one sister, Martha Pirtle.

Jerry attended Tennessee Technological University where he earned his degree in Chemical Engineering. He went on to have an illustrious career as a Chemical Engineer at North American Rayon and Service Thread, Inc. Jerry was a member of First Baptist Church in Elizabethton, where he was a deacon and a member of the Messenger Sunday School Class. Jerry's church and community were very important to him. He was active in the church choir, the community choral choir, the meals on wheels program and he specifically enjoyed visiting and caring for members of his church and community. Jerry loved spending time with his children and grandchildren and was a man of many hobbies, he enjoyed traveling, the Scottish games, woodworking, roasting coffee, motorcycles and working on the Appalachian Trail.

Those left to cherish his memory include a daughter and son-in-law, Kathy Harper May and Joe May and his granddaughter, Emily May, all of Elizabethton; a son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Lori Harper and grandsons, Price, Reed and Vance, all of Clemmons, NC; a sister, Peggy Shanks and husband Jim, of Portland, TN; two brothers, James Harper and wife JoAnn, of Indiana and David Harper and wife Jane, of Portland, TN; and a special friend, Lillian Oliver, of Johnson City. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Due to Covid-19 concerns, a private graveside service will be held at Happy Valley Memorial Park. A celebration of life service will be announced at a later date, to be held at First Baptist Church of Elizabethton.

Those who prefer memorials in lieu of flowers, may make donations to First Baptist Church Technology Fund, 212 East F. Street, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

Online condolences may be shared with the family on our website,
www.tetrickfuneralhome.com

Mr. Harper and his family are in the care of Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton. Office
423-542-2232, service information line, 423-543-4917.

Cemetery

Happy Valley Memorial Park

2708 Elizabethton Hwy.

Johnson City, TN, 37601

Comments



“ I loved working in the Welcome Center at First Baptist Church with Jerry! He loved sharing stories about his grandchildren. He will be dearly missed.
Jill and Andy Naylor

jill naylor - April 20, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ Joan Harper lit a candle in memory of Jerry L Harper



Joan Harper - April 18, 2020 at 05:44 PM



“ As Moody Aviation students in the 70's, Jerry and Peggy treated us and other students in as some of their kids. Most of us were long distances from home, during the 2-3 year training period at Moody, and were so blessed to be taken in as family. Jerry and Peggy both checked on our welfare, brought food over when they perceived funds were short, connected with us regularly at church, and participated heavily in a baby shower at church when I was pregnant with our first child. Our years in Elizabethton during a very intense time of training and learning to be godly adults and preparing for ministry overseas, was greatly enriched and blessed by Jerry and Peggy. I'm quite certain that God had a big smile and a 'welcome home, faithful servant' for Jerry. One day we'll be able to fellowship together once again, in God's presence. Kathy and Randy, praying for comfort as you say 'see you later' to your Dad. Much love, Sylvia and Dan Rogers

Dan and Sylvia Rogers - April 18, 2020 at 11:41 AM



“ Jerry was a jewel and he will be missed by all of us. He was a great husband to my sister, Peggy, and a wonderful father and grandfather. He was your friend even if you only met him one time. He is now with his Lord and Savior, his wife and loved ones.

Randy and Teresa Graves - April 18, 2020 at 09:48 AM



“ So sorry for your . Your family is in my prayers.



Donna Townsend - April 17, 2020 at 11:15 PM



“ We have lost a valued and faithful member of our church, First Baptist, with the loss of Jerry Harper. He was a kind man that always had a smile on his face. He could always be counted on to assist with any effort the church undertook....he will surely be missed by many, including our families. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with Jerry's family, as God brings them comfort and peace.

Love, Rick & Teresa Broome and Christine Eller

Rick & Teresa Broome & Christine Eller - April 17, 2020 at 10:15 AM



“ The Service Thread Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jerry L Harper.



The Service Thread Family - April 17, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ Kathy, So sorry to hear about your Dad, prayers be with you and your family.

jimmy sanders - April 17, 2020 at 08:54 AM



“ Karen Cline sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry L Harper



Karen Cline - April 16, 2020 at 03:38 PM



“ Randy, So sorry to hear about your dad. You and your family are in my heart and prayers.

Karen Cline - April 16, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ God bless you both, Kathy and Randy. Loved your dad and you both. Mona Carter

monna carter - April 16, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ Beverly Guinn lit a candle in memory of Jerry L Harper



Beverly Guinn - April 15, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ We have lots of wonderful memories over many years with the Harper family. Jerry was a kind man with a great sense of humor. We will keep all of you in our prayers.

Mark & Helen Ross

Helen Ross - April 15, 2020 at 06:11 PM



“ Jerry Harper was one of my best friends. He served on the pastor search committee that brought me to First Baptist. His heart was a heart of gold, and his love for people was contagious. I always knew that he "had my back." That did not mean that he always agreed with me. On the contrary there were several times that we did not see 'eye to eye,' but I always knew that he was well-intentioned, and he was always seeking the best in people, and the best for people. He often would be a calming voice in a storm, and he did well at presenting multiple-facets to any given situation. He was the type of leader that every leader wants to surround himself. He was not a 'yes-man,' but he genuinely put forth his views in a loving, heart-felt, unconditional, and flexible manner. In enjoyed our many conversations was tremendously enriched in my own ministry. Our many morning breakfasts would focus on everything from news items, to current trends in the church, to troubleshooting how to effectively bring Christ to our community. He was a thinking Christian and a Christian thinker. He will be well-missed, and today there is void at First Baptist that will take several people to fill! I prefer not say good-bye. I will simply say, "Good night Jerry! I will see you in the morning when the Son rises."

Todd Hallman - April 15, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ Jerry and Peggy were members of the Elizabethton Choral Club for many years. He never let me forget our experience singing back up for Steve Green! He came back to Choral Club and was active until the last couple of semesters. Even when he wasn't singing with us he continued to help with our dinners! To Kathy, Randy and the family our most sincere sympathy. Your Dad Was a man of devotion to his Lord and his family. To Lillian and her family, Jerry was a wonderful friend and companion and both of you were blessed the time you had together.

Our love and prayers are with your all.

Ruth and Fred Bowers



Ruth H Bowers - April 15, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ We are sorry to hear this sad news about Jerry. He will surely be missed.
Larry and Nancy Merritt

Larry & Nancy Merritt - April 15, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ Your Daddy was very special to me. I have many memories of coffee with him during my summers off. He called me one of the blonde street walkers, his choice of words. My prayers for you and your family.

Claudia Lane Montgomery

Claudia Montgomery - April 15, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ Kathy & Family, & Randy & Family, so sorry about your precious Dad. Wish we could stop by and just give you a hug, but with these uncertain times we do what is best. Just wanted to let your family know how much we loved your mother and dad, they were both great friends.
What a wonderful testimony to leave behind to your family.
There is comfort in knowing Peggy & Jerry are together again, they are well and enjoying the presents of their Savior & Lord.
May you know we are praying for you.
Tommy & Sherry Maines

Sherry Maines - April 15, 2020 at 09:34 AM



“ So sorry to learn of Jerry's passing. He is again with Peggy. I worked with Jerry until the end at North American Rayon and became close to Jerry and Peggy. Jerry coached my son in baseball the same time Randy played and his granddaughter was in the Betsy band with my granddaughter. Kathy and Randy, you are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless You!

Judy Cole - April 15, 2020 at 09:22 AM



“ Kathy & Randy I am deeply sorry for your loss.
Your Father was a wonderful , caring man. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.



Mikki VanDeVenter - April 14, 2020 at 11:55 PM



“ Jerry was a beloved long time member of the Elizabethton Choral Club. We will greatly miss his cheerful smile and kindness. Heaven gained another good singer!
Rita F. Schuettler

Rita F. Schuettler - April 14, 2020 at 10:59 PM



“ Randy and Lori my prayers are with you and the boys and Kathy and Emily

Cynthia Sisson - April 15, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ Jeff Guinn lit a candle in memory of Jerry L Harper



Jeff Guinn - April 14, 2020 at 04:06 PM