



Richard L. Harper

September 6, 1930 - December 6, 2018

Richard L. Harper, 88, of Evansville, passed away Thursday, December 06, 2018 at his home surrounded by family.

Richard was born September 6, 1930 in Somerville, IN to the late Robert and Etolia Harper. He worked on the L&N and later CSX Railroad. Richard was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving from 1949 to 1955. He was also a Mason and a member of Lessing Lodge 464. Richard was an avid golfer and owned and operated Harpo's Custom Golf for many years. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, spending time with his grandchildren and his constant companion, Zoe.

Surviving are his daughter, Janice (Paul) Gunn; two sons, Michael Harper and Randall Harper, all of Evansville; grandchildren, Kris Gunn, Jenny Claycomb, Logan Harper, Ryan Harper and Jana Jean Harper and five great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Richard was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Delores Jean (Dausman) Harper in 2003 and by two brothers, William and Kenneth Harper.

Funeral services for Richard will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, December 10, 2018 at Pierre Funeral Home, Rev. Terry Gamblin officiating. Burial will follow in Somerville Cemetery in Somerville, IN.

Friends may visit with the family from 11:00 AM until service time on Monday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Evansville Junior Golf Association, 7800 E. Morgan Ave, Evansville, IN 47715.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

Somerville Cemetery

Somerville, IN,

Events

DEC 10 Visitation 11:00AM - 01:00PM

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street, Evansville, IN, US

DEC 10 Funeral 01:00PM

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street, Evansville, IN, US

Comments



“ I'm just hearing about this and it breaks my heart. The Harpers were our neighbors (Jean was mom's best friend, even after we moved to another state) and I've never forgotten them. I particularly remember a fishing trip to Kentucky Lake with Dick and the boys where I got hit in the eye by a tree branch and lost one of my brand new (and expensive for us) contact lenses. We stopped right there on that trail and searched for what seemed like hours until we found it because Dick didn't want me catching hell on his watch.

Another time, when the Harpers lived at the top of Reitz hill (I think) and Randy and my little brother Butch, both about 5 years old, were "play driving" in the front seat of my dad's real pride & joy, his Chevy. They managed to release the parking brake and knock the car into neutral and it started rolling down the street with me screaming for mom and running after it. Finally, one of the boys battling for the wheel jerked it to the left, steering it into an embankment and averting what would have been tragic for both families. Mom and Jean were running so fast they passed me, snatched those boys out of that car by the scruff of their necks, and I honestly didn't know if they were going to hug them to death or get a switch. (No switches, just hugs....and tears of relief....and more than a little swearing.)

I spoke with Dick on the phone a few years ago and he was the same ol' Dick. My heart goes out to Jan, Mike, Randy and their families. Dick could be a crusty old fart, but I always trusted him to "tell it to me straight" if I asked him questions many adults cringed at answering, and I seemed to have a lot of those.

And kids, if any of you see this, drop me a note sometime! donnajwade@gmail.com.

Donna J. Wade

Donna Wade - January 03 at 07:09 PM



“ dick was a great indivudal and person to know. will miss seeing him at the golf courses

ed nicholson - December 12, 2018 at 09:37 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard L. Harper.



December 10, 2018 at 02:09 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard L. Harper.



December 08, 2018 at 09:56 AM



“ Richard (Dick) and his brother Kenneth Harper, were guests of Robert Gunn and family of Dieterich IL., several years ago. They were welcome guests at our home and we enjoyed our time together. The main reason for the visit was squirrel hunting. On one particular hunt Dick was directed to a very productive grove of hickory trees that surrounded a trash pile in the woods, while Bob & Paul Gunn ventured into other areas of the timber to try their luck. We heard Dick shoot a few times so we were pretty sure he was having some luck. About an hour later the two Gunn brothers met at the edge of the timber and decided to see how Dick was doing. They traveled to the west side of the trash pile and saw Dick leaning against a tree on the east side, gazing upward for squirrels. It was about then that Bob decided to have a little fun and told his brother "Watch this". Bob proceeded to make the sound of a barking squirrel and Dick immediately went into high alert, searching the tree tops for the source of the noise. A second round of squirrel talk had Dick even more intent on finding the source of the noise until he saw both of the Gunn brothers nearly doubled over with laughter, to which he gave the Beverly Hillbilly "Howdy" (bird) sign. One of the better hunting memories of that period. We lost good friends in Dick & Kenneth Harper but still have cherished memories of our time spent together. Gone but not forgotten! Sincerely, Bob Gunn

Robert Gunn - December 07, 2018 at 10:50 AM