



Donald Harden

February 18, 2005

Services for Donald Jerry Harden, 74, Brownsboro, are scheduled for 3:00 P.M., Monday, Feb. 21, 2005, at Stewart Family Funeral Chapel with Rev. Danny Bristow officiating. Burial will be in DWF National Cemetery in Grand Prairie Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Harden passed away Friday, Feb. 18, 2005 at Hospice HomePlace. He was born to Henry Clay and Dale Swinger Harden on Feb. 1, 1931 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended public School in Chicago and graduated high school in Whitewater, Wisconsin. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1949. After retiring from 21 years of service with the Air Force as an E8 Senior Master Sergeant, he was employed at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas until 1988 as Supervisor of Labor and Delivery and Director of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation. Mr. Harden lived in Brownsboro the last 18 years moving from Bedford. After retiring, his joy was his grandchildren, traveling and working on his acreage. He was preceded in death by his parents, his son, Douglas Jeffery Harden, and his sister, Joanne Simpson. Survivors include his wife of 20 years, Linda Sue Harden, of Chandler; daughter, Donna J. McCallister and husband, Charles, of Chandler; son, Dale James Harden of Chandler; daughter-in-law, Sandra Harden of Greenville; grandchildren; James Robert Hargett and wife, Candice, of Houston, Megan Leigh Hargett of Tyler, Stephanie Harden and Keri Harden of Greenville, Ashley Harden and Austin Harden of Tyler, Kayla Harden of Whitehouse, Anthony Harden of Chandler; sister, Jane Goodkind of Orlando Park, Illinois. Honorary

Pallbearers are Frank Townsend, James Hargett, Rick Smith, Charles McCallister, Mark Goodkind, Jeff Moseley, George Rawls, and Doug Stanley. Memorials may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, 75701.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *I didn't know Don very well.
I wish to express my sympathy to Don's children and grandchildren.
I also would like Linda to know that myfamily and I are thinking of
her.*

Darlene Baker - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

WT

“ *Our thought are with you all.*

Wilma Thedford - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Marlena & Ron Bartlett - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ *ONLY TIME CAN HEAL THE PAIN YOU ARE
NOW GOING THRU. GOD BLESS ALL
LARRY*

LARRY ANDING - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I read a quote " Friends are a gift we give ourselves" and we were fortunate enough to have experienced the gift of sharing a friendship with Don and Linda for the past several years now.

We have taken several trips with them and all of them have great memories attached. Sometimes our destination was not as important as the trip itself. We'll remember how Don traveled with his snacks such as Twizzlers, Wintergreen Lifesavers and ALWAYS those cake doughnuts for his breakfast. In fact, we thank Don for first introducing Rick to Kispy Kreme doughnuts before they hit Texas. We looked all over Biloxi for those doughnuts and they were well worth the trip! Also during the Biloxi trip we learned how to shop in a military commissary - for following the "one-way" rules and walking within the lines.

Don could always be counted on to provide some great laughs such as "fiddling" with the car gadgets and ejecting out the luggage at the gas station, not to mention the backseat passenger! We experienced the now famous "underwear" malfunction at Mud Island in Memphis and just last summer enjoyed some really great BBQ at Rendezvous Ribs in Memphis. We've shared some really great nickel video poker hands and even a few \$20's from the "sock money".

Life is always too short and we are never ready to say goodbye to those who have touched our lives, but we can reflect on the good times. Even though we share tears today we would not have missed knowing Don and we thank him for sharing with us his life, his wife, and his family.

Brenda and Rick Smith - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Uncle Don has been a lifelong friend of my parents (Frank and Virginia Townsend). Looking at the memorial photos brought back memories of sitting in the kitchen of my parents home telling jokes and cutting up with Uncle Don. I can remember Uncle Don always having a smile and a very calming demeanor. How many people can say they have been friends for 52 years as my parents have been Don. I can not thank Don and Linda enough for all the support they gave my parents while my father was in the hospital last November. Linda, Donna and Dale my prayer is for God too comfort you and your family through this very difficult time. Love Suzette

Suzette and Johnny Eldred - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Linda,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Peggy Fisher - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Linda,
just wanted you to know you are in my thoughts and prayers.
Linda Sudduth

Linda Sudduth - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Linda,

I just wanted to send you a little note and tell you how sorry I am to hear about your loss. Don was a great man and I know he will be missed throughout our family. I wish I could be there for the services, but you are in my prayers. It is times like these that I am thankful to be part of a family that is so close because I know you are in good hands.

Kassity

Kassity Fojt - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *I was one of those "crazy old L&D nurses" who worked with Don back in the 70's. In fact, he hired me. I was sitting in the "nurse's lounge", room 10, just weeping, because it was my last day of the preceptorship in L&D, and I had to go to a job I dreaded. I had no idea there were openings in L&D. Don happened by, and asked me why I was "blubbering" or some other term for crying, and I managed to struggle out because I didn't want to leave. He asked my why I thought I had to leave, and offered me a job on the spot.*

Don actually changed my life that morning in ways neither of us could ever have imagined. He was always supportive, cheerful, reliable and friendly (took lots more from me than I expected), and I wouldn't be where I am today if he hadn't offered me that job. I was young and goofy (inappropriate at times with PPHS supplies - making adhesive tape into balls, using NG lavage syringes as water guns, etc.), but he never made me feel goofy.

Thank God for people like Don Harden. I know he's smiling down at all of us from Heaven. I'm sorry I didn't know about the service in time to attend. I would have enjoyed meeting his family.

Janis (Blissett) Holmes - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Thinking of you and missing you-deepest sympathy in your time of sorrow. Love always, Michelle*

michelle fojt-barnes - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ At times I am happy and handling everything well because I know my Papa is finally at peace. He's not fighting anymore and he feels no pain where he is. Most of all he's with my dad and that probably means more to him than we'll ever know. Unfortunately, its the times that I'm sitting outside on Papa and Linda's porch or at home thinking that are the hardest to deal with. At this point he's been gone 5 days and it still hurts just as much as it did last Friday. My papa was a great man but he wasn't perfect and had his faults, like we all do but he was still Papa. In our family papa was the patriarch. He had his little quirks that we'll never forget. Like the chair in the livingroom that was always his. It may have been a different chair, but it was always in the same spot in the living room for as long as I can remember and if he was inside sitting down, that was his spot. Or maybe his place at the table, always at the head, where he could see the tv, even if he was the only one sitting there. He had his shows during the day that he rarely missed, whether it was *The View* at 10 which he watched when I was younger, or *Dr. Phil* at 3 then *Oprah* at 4 once upon a time; thats the stuff you never forget. Then there are the quirks from being outside. He always wore the same thing no matter the temperature outside; blue jeans, ugly blue work shirts, work boots and a *Rangers Hat*. Then you had the "dinner attire" which was "the good" jeans, a nice plaid button down and the "nice" boots. Thats the papa I'll remember. I spent so many weeks out of so many summers at Papa and Linda's house that I have this picture in my mind of who he is and who he'll always be. He was a good guy, and a good papa. He was the guy that woke up early in the morning and was out taking care of the lawn with the birds. He was the guy that used to go outside with the phone and his plaid flannel coat on and smoke on the porch before he quit. He was the guy that used to take us on tractor rides because we were to little to do much else. I still see him mowing the lawn and cleaning the pool early in the morning so that we could go swimming shortly after we got up. Maybe the trips to the zoo across endless summers are gone, but they're never forgotten. The countless movies we saw that run from *Titantic* to *The Postman*, to *Swat*. He loved movies and shared that with us all, but lets not

forget, he never liked to watch them more than once. It's the little things like that you never forget, but as you get older some things change and grow and you learn new things about a man that you've known you're whole life. Like my grandpa was in the service for 21 years and it was his proudest accomplishment, he loved serving his country. He was proud of all his kids and grandkids despite their faults. And he loved me without a doubt. I know that through the talks we had and the listening he did. He was a great listener and he never failed to let me know he was proud of me. One of my other cousins got it right when they said, "just sitting in a room and saying nothing with him was one of the greatest moments and when he died a piece of my heart went with him." I loved my Papa and I can't express it all across this message board, and I'm sure as more things come I'll want to express them to just for a release and to let others know the kind of man he was, but I also don't want to forget Linda. I'm almost 22 and she's been my "grandmother" since I was one. She's the only one I've ever known and my heart is with her. I love her dearly and hope she knows how very important she is to me too. I pray every night not only for strength for myself to survive the loss our family is experiencing, but also for her and the rest of the family that is hurting right now. I love you all and wish peace and comfort upon us.

Keri Rae Harden - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *I will always remember "Mr. Harden". He hired me as a new RN to work in L&D at Parkland in 1977. There are still many folks here whom he hired and we were all saddened to hear of his death.*

Jane Gibson Kosarek - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Mr. Harden hired me as a student nurse in Labor and Delivery. At the time L&D was not hiring student nurses but I wanted to work there so much that I guess he and Bobbie saw my enthusiasm and allowed me to work there part time for over a year until I graduated. I then went on to work there as a new graduate nurse. That job was the start of a wonderful career at Parkland. Mr. Harden was a very kind man and he did many good things for many people. I read the tribute written by his granddaughter and I can just imagine what kind of grandfather he was. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. It is very hard to lose someone you love so much.*

Miriam Sibley - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ *I interviewed Don when he applied at Parkland and was impressed with his candor and willingness to learn the ends and outs of this new position Division Manager. I had the opportunity to work with him when we were developing our Information Systems for the nursing unit and other parts of the hospital. I again had the opportunity to work with him in establishing the computer needs for Physical Medicine. He was a great Guy and I know he will be missed by his family. You have my sympathy and prayers.*

Anna Robinson - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Uncle Don was really great to me. Don was a very good man to all of us. I had a hard time last week but, I keep him in my heart at all times. When I am sad I keep him in my mind. That Wednesday when I got back to school was hard for me. I keep the good memories in my mind. I loved him very much. He loved his chair in the living room and in the kitchen. When my mom and grandmother went to see him, he asked them, "If I came Up". Those words sounded so sad to me and I prayed for you when we had one minute of silence. Linda, I love you with all my heart.

Emilee Moseley - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Don was a very special and irreplaceable man. My earliest memories of him are from summers long gone by. Upon waking up, (frequently nearer to lunch than breakfast) I would roam around outside until I found him. Most often he would be ardently pursuing some repair or other outdoor task. Being the chatterbox that I was, I would ask him never-ending questions about what he was doing, why he was doing it, how the thing worked, etc. He patiently answered all of my questions, and it never ceased to amaze me how much he knew about everything. I remember taking out the Trivial Pursuit game and reading him the question cards- he knew the answer to almost every single question. His unassuming intelligence amazed me. Like Keri, I know he cleaned the pool for us kids early every summer morning, although I rarely awoke early enough to actually witness it. I loved the tractor rides, and being one of his only familial "Poncho?s" buddies, we would go to the restaurant and enjoy our greasy Mexican buffet together, because no one else would. He would tolerantly take us to the zoo year after year, which kids never seem to tire of for some reason, and I loved going to the movies with him. The trips we took were always the best, and I sincerely thank Don and Linda for the good times and the opportunity to see the United States with them. The world was a better place with Don in it, and although we miss him, it is comforting to know he's doing much better now. I think of him and his positive impact on my life often. He will never be forgotten.

Kristie Riley - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ I knew Don many years ago and had the honor of playing sports on the same teams with him. I especially remember Don as a very hard running back during football season, my favorite.

We had many good times together, though our athletic teams were typically small and won only a few games. Because the school, Whitewater College High School, was small, we all knew each other.

I was delighted to have been able to meet Don again after many years at a school reunion about 2-3 years ago. It was also wonderful to meet his wife Linda and to catch up a little.

I and others who knew Don will miss him and offer our condolences and blessings to Linda, his children and all of Don's family and friends.

Tom Bray

Tom Bray - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ There is only one word I can use to describe my grandfather and that word is remarkable. Despite the things I did or did not do he never judged me yea he gave his opinion but he still loved me the same. It is funny people think that I did not care about him when in all actuality I did. He would do anything for anybody. When you needed to talk to him about something he would listen, if you needed help he would help you. Keri said it right when she said he had faults but if you think about it doesn't everyone to some degree. The thing I can remember the most is when I was 22 years old and I went to him and told him that I was going to go to college, I dont think he could have been anymore prouder of me than he was that day. Don't get me wrong we did not have the best relationship but it seem to have worked for us. I was upset when my grandfather passed away yea I wasnt as upset as I was when my dad died but I think that was because I knew my grandfather was going to a better place and he was not going to be suffering anymore on a day to day basis. Anyways, I guess I just wanted everyone to know what he meant to me. My prayers and thoughts go out to Linda (grandmother) and family.

Stephanie Harden - February 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM