



Donald Ray Harper

February 3, 1926 - November 23, 2017

Donald Ray Harper was born February 3rd, 1926 in St. Louis, MO to the union of John and Madora Harper. He passed away November 23rd, 2017, in Tyler, TX. He lived to be 91 years old.

Don is survived by his wife of seventy years, Dorothy Ruth Harper; their two children: Donna Ruth Clements (Mike) and Dottie Rae Bisagno (Tony). They have five grandchildren: Megan Ray Tarrant (Chase), Abigail Ann Wesson (Aaron), Anthony Joseph Bisagno Jr., Harper Monroe Bisagno and Oliver Beck Bisagno. They also have two great-grandchildren: Michaelann Grace Tarrant and Charlie Monroe Tarrant.

Don lived a vibrant life filled with numerous honors and accomplishments over the years. As a young man, Don's innate leadership paired with the warranted respect from his peers landed him as President of his Fraternity at the University of North Texas where he achieved degrees in management, advertising and journalism. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. He went on to thrive in many professional roles including Advertising Director and General Manager of the Marshall News Messenger, Vice President in charge of Marketing at Marshall National Bank, Public Relations Officer of East Texas Baptist University and Owner of Cypress Valley Racquet Club. He cared deeply for the community of Marshall where his philanthropic spirit led him to serve alongside many local organizations including President of the Marshall

Jaycees and Camp Fire Girls Council, Secretary of the Rotary Club and Board Member and Director of the Chamber of Commerce. As he moved to Tyler 22 years ago to be closer to family, his involvement with Brookshire's Wildlife Museum created treasurable family memories of picnics and laughter.

Throughout the entirety of his life, Don was a passionate creative, spending countless hours painting beautiful scenes of nature, family and reminiscent memories. He wrote multiple manuscripts and books describing the powerful transformation the Gospel had on his life.

Above all, Don's sweet and kind spirit radiated onto every person he met. Known by many as Daddy Don, the love he had for his family was unconditional and steadfast. Don and his wife, Dot, were infamous for holding hands incessantly even throughout his last days. Donald Ray Harper lived life with unwavering optimism, joy, vitality and fervor many will strive to emulate.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Ronita Word.

Pallbearers will be Mike Clements, Tony Bisagno, Chase Tarrant, Aaron Wesson, AJ Bisagno, Harper Bisagno and Oliver Bisagno

Visitation will be at 9:00 a.m. with the memorial service following at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 27th at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler with Pastor Doug Anderson officiating. Interment will follow at Rose Lawn Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Rose Lawn Cemetery

2003 Blue Mountain Blvd.
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Mem. Service

NOV 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall



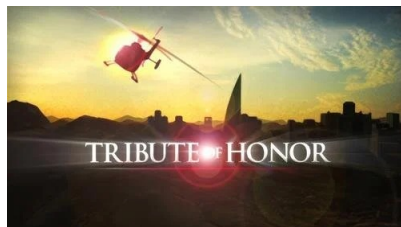
“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Donald Ray Harper



Stewart Family Funeral Home - November 27, 2017 at 10:58 AM



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Ray Harper



Stewart Family Funeral Home - November 26, 2017 at 07:44 PM

PS

Wow, what a beautiful tribute video!

Patrick Schmeier - November 30, 2017 at 06:04 PM

LM

“ *Loretta Martinez lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Harper*



Loretta martinez - April 25, 2018 at 02:09 AM

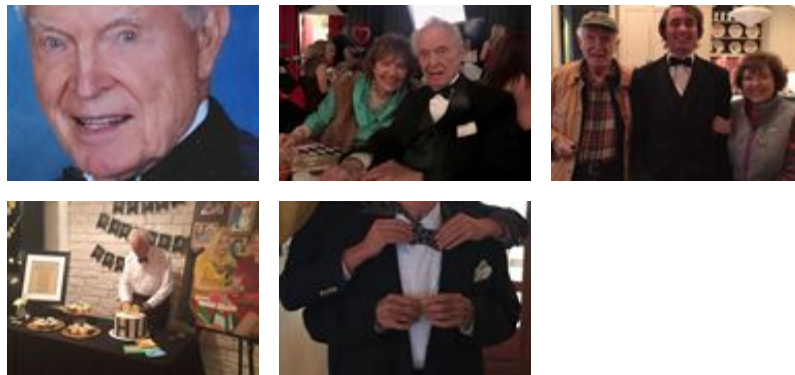
TC

“ *Our Sympathies to the Family
Sincerely
Thomas and Edith Clements*

Thomas C.Clements - November 27, 2017 at 06:48 AM



“ *59 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - November 26, 2017 at 06:37 PM

DF

“*Doug & Debbie Tarrant and family. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald Ray Harper.*



Doug & Debbie Tarrant and family. - November 26, 2017 at 04:09 PM

PS

“*Patrick Schmear purchased the Imagination Blooms for the family of Donald Ray Harper.*



Patrick Schmear - November 26, 2017 at 03:25 PM

PS

“*Being new to Tyler having moved here in 2012 and starting a monthly newsletter magazine for Hollytree, I didn't know a single resident in the neighborhood when I started. That can be a little intimidating to anyone. The first time I met Dottie and Don they were so gracious and full of love and life. From that time forward I always looked forward to seeing them and always made it a point to go up to them and say hello because they were always very welcoming. I will miss seeing Don around Hollytree and Tyler. My deepest heartfelt condolences to Dottie and all of your family. He will be greatly missed.*

-Patrick Schmear

Patrick Schmear - November 26, 2017 at 03:11 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Harper.*



November 26, 2017 at 10:42 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Harper.*



November 25, 2017 at 01:44 PM



“ *Love y'all and loved your daddy. He was always so encouraging and bright. Full of love for the lord! Glad we all got to be blessed by him with each encounter.*

carol foley - November 25, 2017 at 12:59 PM

CP

“ Our family has too many memories to mention, but while I was working with Don at the newspaper, I got a call that the nursery worker had taken my daughter to the hospital. She was choking. Don saw that I was too upset to drive and he drove me to the hospital to be with my daughter. He was such a sensitive man and I will remember his kindness.
I also knew him and his family as close friends. Many good times with daughters who were lifelong friends! And Dot was connected by family! Our thoughts are with you at this time! Love Carol and Charles Pace

Carol Pace - November 25, 2017 at 10:38 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Harper.



November 24, 2017 at 09:59 PM

LH

“ Dot, Donna, Dottie,

I was so saddened to hear about Don. He was such a wonderful and kind man. I have many fond memories of swimming at the house on Lansdowne. I always remember him laughing and smiling!
Love & prayers!
Lacy Henderson Hensley

Lacy Hensley - November 24, 2017 at 08:01 PM