



Gale R. Harrison

September 14, 1943 - September 1, 2017

A Memorial Service for Major Gale Robert Harrison, age 73, of Tyler, Texas will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 16 at First Presbyterian Church of Tyler with Reverend Stuart Baskin officiating.

Major Harrison passed away Friday, September 1 after a difficult struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was born September 14, 1943 in Refugio, Texas to Stafford and Theodosia Harrison. He and his wife Judy (formerly Judith Ann Harwell of Robstown, Texas) met in the sixth grade and were married in 1963.

Gale and Judy were active members of First Presbyterian Church of Tyler for 30 years with Gale serving as both a Deacon and an Elder. Gale was also an avid golfer at Cascades Golf & Country Club. Above all things, Gale was a devoted husband and father.

He graduated from Robstown High School in 1962 where he excelled as a track star with his team placing second in the State of Texas Track Meet. He went on to attend Abilene Christian College (ACC) on a track scholarship, graduating from ACC in 1966. That same year he was selected as a Co-Captain of the ACC Track Team and was named All-American.

He served in The US Army from 1966-1986, including tours in Korea and Japan and was in the US Army Corps of Engineers. After retiring from The

Army, Major Harrison was the Sr. JROTC Instructor at John Tyler High School in Tyler, Texas where he was a dedicated teacher and mentor to many. He retired from TISD in 2010.

Gale was preceded in death by his parents Stafford and Theodosia Harrison; his brother James Harrison; and, his sister Frances "Madis" Harrison.

He is survived by his adored wife of 54 years, Judy Harrison; son, Scott Harrison and his wife Lori Beth Lemmon and their children Jacob and Gabriella; daughter, Melissa Billings and her husband Bob Billings and their children Presley Gale, Reece and Chayse; his brother, William Henry Harrison and his wife Elsa; and, many nieces and nephews.

If desired, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Alliance of Smith County <http://www.alzalliance.org/> or 211 Winchester Drive - Tyler, Texas 75701.

Previous Events

Mem. Service

SEP **16**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
230 Rusk St.
Tyler, TX 75701

Visitation and reception after service

SEP **16** (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
230 Rusk St.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

AS

“ He was a great instructor and a good man. This memory is years later but he still is truly missed.

Andrew Solano - May 15, 2021 at 09:58 PM

AC

“ Truly a great man and mentor. Him and Sgt powers were as good as they came

Adrian Crayton - September 16, 2017 at 07:31 PM



“ Major Harrison was a great friend to my dad when he needed it the most. I am the third person in my family that was in JROTC. I will always remember him as someone who cared about his cadets and had a wonderful sense of humor. RIP Major.

Carrie Henderson - September 16, 2017 at 02:55 PM

HH

“ Harvey Hill lit a candle in memory of Gale R. Harrison



Harvey Hill - September 16, 2017 at 12:43 PM

HH

“ I worked with Gale at John Tyler High School for many years. He was a great teacher and friend. No one had a better sense of humor. I know he will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and former students.

Harvey Hill - September 16, 2017 at 12:42 PM

TG

“ When i joined JROTC my freshman yr in high school i didn't know what i was getting myself into it lol. Ill never forget i feel asleep in class and he put his wet finger in my ear i was so mad 😊. Maj Harrison brought me out my shyness and taught me to stand up and be a leader esp when i had my own patune i had to deal with. He told me, "this is your squad your gonna have to get them and them how to be as good as you are ok". And i think i did a pretty good job lol. Anyways Maj im ssooo gonna miss you and their will never be anyone who could run JROTC like you did.



Tammy Grandison - September 16, 2017 at 08:09 AM

PA

“ I was a handful but he would just Andrews get it together lol. RIH Major Harrison!!!

Patsy Andrews - September 16, 2017 at 01:47 AM

CC

“ *Marjor was the best teacher i had at John Tyler high school. He push me to do my best and the leadership skills he gave me in my early adult life has been my footprints for how i live my life . I will always remember you. May you REST IN PEACE .*

*YOURS TRULY
CAP. C. LYNCH*

Crystal L. Lynch- Coleman - September 16, 2017 at 01:26 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Gale R. Harrison.*



September 11, 2017 at 01:37 PM

KM

“ *Major Harrison was a sweet and caring man I took care of his mom while she was in assisted living I got to know him during that time my son was in jrotc in 2007-2008 under major Harrison as well he was well respected by the young men and women.R.I.P. major to the family my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time fly high sir*

kaye mcquigg - September 06, 2017 at 04:04 PM

MK

“If not for paper pushers there would be no military, C/Cpt. King.” said Major Harrison. In a conversation I had with Major Harrison when I met him in 1986 for the first time. I was 18 and stubborn not used to change. We were transitioning from a combat commander to an administrator. Major Harrison never tried to dismantle anything that made his life easy that year. He had the aid of Sgt. Powers and 10 well seasoned cadets who would make running John Tyler's JROTC program easier for him. While we hated change we had to accept it and move on. Maj. Harrison grew on me after a while, he made me understand what I learned in military science is privileged information that the average adult would probably never know and a Boy Scout may know half of what you learn. Sgt. Powers pulled me over to the side and said to me, "Margo, there are ten of you to graduate out, y'all are the leaders I need you to be leaders. The companies have to have leaders. This is Maj. Harrison's first year." JROTC had fun with Major Harrison during his first year he pretty much let us run it as he guided us. The weekend trip to Louisiana, I called it the leadership weekend with SROTC (I had to kill the chicken to make soup), we had plenty of MREs after that,lol. Maj. Harrison walked through to check on us and shook his head because the some of the boys were crying and some of the girls brought nail polish and make-up, for real, along with hair rollers. The rifle team, the drill team, the Ranger Team all placed top three, Color Guard had one special request from an organization. Annual inspection was a grade of 95. No one gave him a hard time. He was a gentle character so gentle that when we played the end of the year trick on him, he didn't know whether to laugh or get mad, Sgt. Powers was in on that. I had to leave the room cause I couldn't keep a straight face. I took a picture with him, Maj. Archuleta, Sgt. Powers and C/Col Gerald Mickey at the Military Ball in 1987 I have it somewhere. He touched me with his understanding of the cadets in John Tyler JROTC and his instruction. He was proud of his success that he later would succeed in touching 2300 cadets who walked through his doors during the next 24 years that followed.

Margo King - September 05, 2017 at 01:21 AM

CS

“ *My son Dakota was in ROTC until 2012 and my nephew until 2003. He loved Major he was always picking on Dakota. He will be missed alot. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family!*

*Cheryl and Dakota Stacks and
Kristopher Smith*

Cheryl Stacks - September 03, 2017 at 07:12 PM