



Marvin William Harper

November 16, 1942 - October 2, 2021

Marvin W. Harper, 78 years old, of Matthews, NC passed away peacefully at home Saturday, October 2, 2021 surrounded by his devoted and loving family.

Marvin enjoyed playing sports growing up which included basketball and football at Charles D. Owen High School in Black Mountain, NC. Although he was a humble athlete, many remember him as a star 1962 quarterback! He also enjoyed serving as umpire at many youth baseball games played at the Beacon Village Youth Field.

He worked for several years as a Service Expediter at Kearfott Corporation in Black Mountain, NC and in maintenance at Beacon Manufacturing in Swannanoa, NC. However, he spent the majority of his career with his second family of 40+ years, Weeks-Williams-Devore Incorporated in Matthews, NC where he was a Service Representative. He was a loyal and dedicated employee that cared and enjoyed servicing industrial and commercial boilers for their many customers. During his career there, he traveled all across the United States and to Scotland, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Nicaragua servicing boilers for manufacturing plants, hospitals, prisons, you name it...he did it. Before retirement, Marvin had the honor and privilege of training his youngest son, Chris, to be his replacement. They traveled many miles together, meeting with customers and servicing equipment side-by-side. He trained him so well, that now, Chris owns his own boiler company, Lewis Boiler in Greensboro, NC. Although Marvin officially retired in 2008, he continued to work at Weeks-Williams-Devore on an "as needed" basis for many years afterward.

Marvin also served in the Stallings Volunteer Fire Department for approximately 10 years along with both of his sons. He enjoyed the people, it's purpose and helping with BBQ's and other special events as well.

Marvin married his lovely bride, Marian E. Lyda (Mimi), on his 20th birthday! In November Mimi plans to celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary and his birthday remembering the many days that he was able to enjoy doing his favorite things – listening to gospel music (Marvin knew the words to every song), fishing, word searches, playing solitaire, talking on

the phone with friends and savoring his 3 cups of coffee every morning. His favorite above all though, was spending time with family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He spent the past few months helping his oldest son Ricky tend and care for his farm in Oakboro, NC. Marvin's job on the farm was to check and fill the cows' water - he did it so well that he was promoted many times. Also, while on the farm he thoroughly enjoyed watching for deer, wild turkeys and anything that moved!

He leaves behind a beautiful legacy and one that he was so very proud of – in addition to his wife, Marian (Matthews, NC) he is survived by his two sons, Ricky and wife, Kathy (Oakboro, NC), Chris and wife, Marie (Reidsville, NC); three granddaughters Morgan Anderson and husband, Colton Anderson, Sydney Jackson and husband Isaac Jackson, and Jenna Harper; three great-grandsons Caden Harper, Camden Anderson and Easton Jackson. Marvin was also dearly loved by his sister-in-law, Becky (Harper) Buchanan as well as his nieces Vickie Bradley, Kim Hensley and Kayson Fulbright, nephew Keith Wilson and their families and many great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Sally Harper and his two brothers, Troy and Sam Harper, sister and brother-in-law Gail and Ronald Wilson.

Marvin was quick witted and always had something positive or funny to say, so we would like to share some of our most favorite (but not all) Marvin-isms:

- Walk slow and drink plenty of ice water.
- Everything is going to be all right.
- My name is Jimmie...I'll take what you gimme.
- Hot Dog!
- If she likes it, then I love it.
- Well hoot my tooter.
- Whatever the boss says.
- Is fat meat greasy?
- How do I feel? With my fingers.

And finally, he would end every conversation and meeting with.... I'm glad you got to see me.

Due to the rise in COVID the family has decided to postpone a Celebration of Life until Spring 2022.

Comments



“ Absolutely loved Marvin and his contagious smile and wit! Definitely will miss his sweet hugs and laughs! I look forward to seeing him up high on that mountain one day. Blessed to have known Marvin and Mimi as they love their family so much. Thinking of the entire Harper family during this time! Love y'all! Kimberly Anderson and Dan Thompson

Kimberly Anderson - October 06 at 09:39 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. He will be waiting on you when you get to Heaven. Peace and comfort to family and friends. Janice Walker

Janice Walker - October 07 at 12:30 AM



“ My heart breaks for Chris and the entire Harper family I have so many fun memories of our times spent at their house I was always made to feel like family he was a truly amazing man he will be dearly missed

shannon Hilton - October 06 at 03:28 PM



“ Gêne and I were so sorry to hear of the passing of Marvin. You will be in my prayers

Jackie Clark - October 06 at 12:27 PM



“ Thank you Jackie, I ready your post to Mimi and she truly appreciates your prayers. Take care <3

Kathy Harper - October 06 at 03:04 PM



“ I spent many years working with and learning from Marvin. One of my favorite memories happened very early on in my Weeks-Williams-DeVore, Inc career. I had only been at work for a few weeks and was working in the warehouse. Marvin came stomping through the warehouse, a little annoyed, mumbling, "Rooster and a Freight Train, Rooster and a Freight Train" so I had to ask. His response was, "If the boss man tells me a rooster can pull a freight train I'm gonna hook 'em up!" It made me laugh then and it makes me laugh now.

Marvin taught me so much over the years. I remember vividly Marvin teaching me to read a control wiring diagram and how to diagnose control issues. He would purposefully wire something incorrectly on our test board, hand me a multi-meter, and say fix it. He was truly delighted if I could fix it, but just as tickled if he could stump me and then teach me a valuable lesson. He taught me many lessons over the years.

He will be missed!

Love,
Kevin Hinson

Kevin Hinson - October 06 at 10:11 AM



“ Thank you Kevin, for everything. I read your post to Mimi and your kind words mean so much. You all truly were his second family. Give our love to everyone there from the Harpers.

Kathy Harper - October 06 at 03:01 PM



“ Marvin is my second cousin his mother Aunt Sally was my grandmother's sister we had a lot of reunions back in the day but as We Grew Older we lost contact I always thought that Margot Marvin was so handsome when we were growing up that's one thing I'm thankful for for Facebook is because of Facebook I was able to get back in touch with Marion and Marvin and I actually got to go see them in Swannanoa I called one day to talk on the phone and Marvin's talk to me for a few minutes and then he said I'll let you talk to I was asking him questions and he said I'll let you talk to Marion she likes to talk on a phone so for the past year Mary and I have talked to every once in a while on the phone I thank God that I got back in touch with my precious family and got to talk to Marvin and to find out about his family when Marion and I will be talking sometimes he could hear us and he would add what he had to say about the conversation usually about a western he was watching I'm so glad and I got to see him before he passed I know he's having a great time with our other relatives that's gone before us love Fanny

Fannie Reeves - October 06 at 09:36 AM



“ Thank you for your kind words Fannie, I read your post to Marian and it meant so much. Thank you! <3

Kathy Harper - October 06 at 02:59 PM



“ Gail Atkins lit a candle in memory of Marvin William Harper



Gail Atkins - October 06 at 09:13 AM



“ I'm glad to know this Man, him and his wife Mimi are a big part of my life. My late husband carl looked up to him. Now they are both in heaven flying high. Paw Paw I'm going to miss your smile your joke, but I know that you are a whole person now no more pain. I love you always. PawPaw please tell carl I love him and I will see you both again. You would be proud your family, they are taking good care of Mimi. Fly high.

Gail Atkins - October 06 at 09:11 AM



“ Thank you Gail, I read your post to Mimi and she said thank you <3, it means so much.

Kathy Harper - October 06 at 03:02 PM



“ 71 files added to the album Family Memories



Kathy Harper - October 06 at 08:36 AM



“ Dearly love all the pictures Kathy. My deepest sympathy for all the Harper family. Praying for comfort for everyone Marvin dearly loved. Please give Mimi a big hug and tell her I love her. Special prayer going up for her

Teresa Mulligan

Teresa Mulligan - October 06 at 05:24 PM