



J. Joseph Harper

January 18, 2013

J. Joseph (Joe) Harper, passed away on January 18, 2013. Joe of Ft Myers FL and Columbus OH was born April 7, 1926, the son of Walter and Anna Marie Harper. Joe is survived by sisters, Rita, Patricia and Nancy; and was preceded in death by infant son Patrick, brothers W. Joseph (Bud), William, and sister Alice. Joes' surviving family includes wife, Patricia (Whetzle); their nine children, W. Joseph (Lynn), Kathleen, Carol, William (Mary Klee), Mary Thompson, Jean (Ed Yackenovich), James (Tara), John (Susan) and Patty. The extended family included 19 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A member of the greatest generation, Joe graduated in 1944 from St. Charles Preparatory Academy where he captained the football team. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was in bomber pilot training as the war ended. He was, to the day he died, a true patriot and staunch defender of the US Constitution. After the war, Joe returned to Columbus where he met, and in 1946 married Pat, his lifelong love. Joe and Pat attended OSU where Joe earned his Mechanical Engineering degree in 1951 and proceeded to achieve his Professional Engineer License. While still in college, Joe began his business career with Otis Elevator Co. where after graduating college, he accepted increasing levels of responsibility, in consistently larger markets. He achieved such enviable records of success that he was awarded a return to his hometown Columbus, and the position of District Manager. In 1972, after 25 years with Otis, Joe, with Pat by his side, founded his own elevator company, Elevators

Inc. and successfully competed head to head with the likes of Otis and Westinghouse. Joe then strengthened his position in the Columbus market by acquiring Capital Elevator Manufacturing Co., moving his offices to the Town St. location. Entering retirement, Joe had built one of the largest independent elevator companies in the Midwest with offices in Columbus, Dayton, Cleveland, and Athens. Nationwide, in the elevator industry, Joe was regarded as a gutsy businessman with an immense practical knowledge of machinery and sophisticated electrical components. He was respected and appreciated by his employees, customers, and competitors alike. His interpersonal skills and his no nonsense, trustworthy and demanding approach created strong bonds with his employees and customers, retaining their lifelong loyalty and respect. A devoted family man, Joe was exceptionally generous with his guidance, care giving and support to family, and those in need, and he was always available for advice and direction. Joe was a member of the St. Timothy Parish, Athletic Club of Columbus, Scioto Country Club, Cypress Lake Country Club, BOMA, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Franklinton Board of Trade, Builders Exchange, and The Mansions and Peppertree Point/FL Boards. Friends and family may call 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME, 2383 North High St., Columbus. Mass of Christian Burial, 11 a.m. Wednesday, at St. Timothy Catholic Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Joe's memory to Kobacker House.

Tribute Wall



“ *J. Joseph Harper*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *John and Bob Gardner pass on our most sincere sympathy. He was “Mr. Elevator Man” (after “Frannie” Lombard passed on – many years ago.) Our families, all, go back “a long time.” Even our father, David E. Gardner ---- who passed away in 1955 awarded contracts to “Joe”. He left a wonderful heritage. You all have much to be proud of.*

Bob and John Gardiner - February 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *I grew up with two fathers. One was Dan Dan Musgrave, the other was my grandfather. I left Fort Campbell as early as I could and drove 90mph almost the whole way... I was 45min from the hospital when he passed I would have given anything in the world to tell him one last time that I loved him... Not sure I'll ever forgive myself, feels like I could have done more. RIP Joe Harper. You taught me more about the world than anyone I've ever met. I'll spend the rest of my time on this planet remembering you, all that you've taught me, and everything you've done for me. Every day I've thought about you and what I learned from you. I'll never forget you and I'll still think about you everyday until I leave this world.*

Tom Musgrave - February 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ My Granddad was part bear, part owl, and part mother hen. My memories always consist of him laughing or fishing or telling me how things work (often all at the same time). To me he had a quite strength, but being in his presence I understood there was a depth of wisdom and character that made me stand up a bit straighter. He lived a life worthy of trying to emulate and left a legacy that cuts a wide swath. He will be missed.

Brett Harper - February 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ I have so many fond memories of Grand-dad, one of which was that he not be called "grandpa". Some of the best memories are around playing golf together and the challenge he always gave me to beat him, and when I finally did, I got to move back to the white tees to play with him. Being his euchre partner was always a daunting challenge, but would almost guarantee you a win with some crazy play. He loved all his grandkids and would always sing our praises. I feel so blessed to have had him involved in my life for 37 years and that he got to know my kids as well. Molly likes to say that "he is getting all our fishing poles ready in heaven" because she remembers fishing in Florida off the dock and that it was something he loved to do with his family. You will be deeply missed. Love,
Tracy

Tracy Hayes - February 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ He always called me William when I was in trouble. My fondest memory was when he was planning the HAH orchard and as we were walking, in the winter with no leaves, he was identifying to me the various names of trees by looking at the bark. He indicated a dogwood and explained they came in two colors white and pink. Trying to appear interested I asked what color was this one. He replied BOY I ain't that good. Also as Brother Jim and I planted the orchard we had the planting directions from the supplier and;in particular, we were to plant berry bushes in a 3'diameter by 3'deep hole. Rented a 3' dia. auger and drilled and shook our way through the dirt and limestone on a 40 degree hill, 9 holes, only to find the berry bushes were smaller and shorter than a std. pencil. We looked at the plants before we dug anymore holes.

William Harper - January 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ We were the lucky ones to have had Dad for a Father. The world would be a much better place if more children had a Father like him. We were taught that money is a wonderful thing to have; it makes life a little easier. But, the real measure of a man is not his bank account, but his word. Your word is your bond and your integrity is your real net worth. Thank you for all of your help and guidance through the years. Thank you for having us in church on Sundays to know the Lord. We will miss you every day and you will be in our hearts forever. Love you, Dad. Carol Harper-Musgrave

Carol Harper - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Thank you for being such a wonderful grandfather. I am lucky to have had you in my life for 35 years and to have my children know you. Much Love, Kelly

Kelly Harper King - January 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ I grew up with two fathers. One was Dan Musgrave, the other was my grandfather. I left Fort Campbell as early as I could and drove 90mph almost the whole way... I was 45min from the hospital when he passed I would have given anything in the world to tell him one last time that I loved him... Not sure I'll ever forgive myself, feels like I could have done more. RIP Joe Harper. You taught me more about the world than anyone I've ever met. I'll spend the rest of my time on this planet remembering you, all that you've taught me, and everything you've done for me. Every day I've thought about you and what I learned from you. I'll never forget you and I'll still think about you everyday until I leave this world.

Thomas Musgrave - January 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Joe was an amazing man and has left a wonderful legacy through his children and grandchildren. We wish you peace through comforting memories. God bless you.

Terry and Alan Starr - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Randy and I would like to send our condolences and love to Pat and Carol and all the Harper family at the loss of Joe. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and a good man. Carla Pflug

Carla & Randy Pflug - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Kintsukuroi; A word I discovered almost a week ago. While it is not an English word, when translated and it's definition put into the English language, it couldn't be a more perfect word to describe our family right now. And let me tell you what it means: "To repair with gold; the art of repairing pottery with gold or silver lacquer, and understanding the piece is more beautiful for having been broken." When I stumbled upon this word and it's meaning, my first thought was of Grand-dad and his family. Right now, his family is broken by sadness, grief, and uncertainty, and we will remain this way for some time. As we continue on in our lives and mend our souls, know that what we have experienced right now is the lacquer being set in place to piece us back together.*

Jonathan Westly Thompson - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ *To Jim and Tara as well as the entire Harper family, I am sorry to hear of your fathers passing. It was an honor to meet your father. I always enjoyed the stories of fishing and time spent with your father.*

Nate Dawson - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *My sympathy to Pat and the Harper family - so sorry for your loss. I will always remember Joe with fondness and great respect.*

Sharon Rowe - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Dear Pat, Joe, Kathy and the entire Harper Family, So sorry to hear about the passing of Joe. (Jim called last night.) My prayers and deepest sympathy are with all of you. I have many fond memories of our families living on Kolping. We had some great times together as children. God bless.

Margaret Gottschall Good - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ Hello Pat & Family: We are very sorry to hear about Joe. We worked together a long time in the Elevator business. In fact we both took the Union Test together back in late 1949 or early 1950. He was one of the smartest & hard working persons in the business. I am very sorry I could not make it to the Funeral Home as I do not get around very good. Please accept our Condolences. Glenn

WedemeyerGlenn - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. PsalmS 116:15

Beckie & Steve Hoagland - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Harper Family, So sorry to hear about the passing away of Mr. Harper. My wife Mimi and I will keep your family in our prayers. Sincerely, Jonathan Anglin

Jonathan Anglin - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Dear Pat and Family, Words cannot say how any of us feels when a loved one has passed away. We can only think how good it has been to know and love Joe and all the Harpers. Joe's accomplishments, family, personal and business speak for themselves. He leaves a wonderful legacy. And with, you, Pat, at his side Joe was able to accomplish great things. Love to all. We will miss Joe but know that he remains with us forever in spirit. God bless you. Don and Kathy

Don and Kathy Durham - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GO

“ Condolences to Pat and family on the passing of a former friend and boss. He was one great man.

Ginny & Rik Laiho, Findlay, Ohio - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ To Jean and the entire Harper family, it is with deep sympathy that I convey condolences for your great loss.

Anita Aume - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Jim, So sorry to hear of your father's passing. Lou Ann

Lou Ann Nye - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ This message is being sent on behalf of my father Ted Campbell. He does not have a computer. To Patricia Harper and the Joe Harper Family: I am so sorry about Joe's passing. My sincere sympathy and prayers are with all of you. From Ted Campbell, a St. Charles classmate of Joe.

Mary Cowell, sending message on behalf of Ted Campbell - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Our thoughts, prayers and love to Pat and the family. Joe was one special and very favorite person. My he now soar on the eagle's wings. Love, Dennis and Elaine

Dennis and Elaine Rotondo - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ You taught me a lot about life as well as elevators and were the best boss I ever had. Thank you for allowing me to stand in your shadow.

Robert M Sutter - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Dear Harper Family, Thinking of you during this difficult time. Eileen & Elliot Reiff

Eileen Kohn Reiff - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Joe will be missed by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him. The Harper family will be in my thoughts & prayers.

Chuck Pond - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Joe and Lynn You are included in our prayers in the loss of your Father, Joe. We are sending you our hugs.

Daun and Dorothy Peterseim - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Our prayers and sincere sympathy to all of the family for your loss, Deb and Jeff

Debi and Jef Johnson - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Joe provided us many unforgettable happy memories at Hide A Way Hill. He was always available to help or offer valuable advice. His devotion to his family was second only to his devotion to God.

David Lucas - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM