



Jerry Davidson Harper

August 12, 1937 - January 25, 2021

Jerry Davidson Harper of Madisonville, TX; 83 years, 5 months, 13 days; passed away at his home on Monday; January 25, 2021. A celebration of Jerry's life is scheduled for Saturday at 2PM at The First Baptist Church in Madisonville, TX with Bro. Troy Brooks officiating. The visitation is also scheduled for Saturday at The First Baptist Church beginning at Noon. The burial will follow at Ten Mile Cemetery in Normangee, TX.

Jerry, who was known throughout our community as "Coach Harper" was born on August 12, 1937 in Teague, TX to Olon Thomas and Lillian Beatrice (Maloy) Harper. He was a graduate of Teague High School, Navarro Junior College with an Associate of Arts degree, Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, and Sam Houston State University with a Master's degree in Physical Education. Coach Harper was a lifetime educator and coach, retiring from The Madisonville Consolidated Independent School District in 1995, but continued to work in different capacities for the district through the 2008 school year. A lifetime member of The Texas High School Coaches Association, Coach Harper began his coaching career in Falls City, TX from 1959-1965, taking his career on to Rockport-Fulton Independent School District from 1965-1972, before settling down in Madisonville, TX in 1972 where he completed his career. He was also very civic minded having served on the Madisonville City Council for two terms. Coach Harper was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Jon Harper; and his niece, Shawna Smith. He leaves behind to cherish his memories his

wife of almost 64 years, Patsy “Pat” Elaine (Reese) Harper; his daughter Kim Rigby (Billy); his granddaughter Ashley Rigby; his grandson Jace Rigby, father of Jerry’s great-grandchildren Hunter Rigby and Emory Rigby and their mother Katie Rigby; his nephew, Kevin Harper; and a host of friends.

Serving as pallbearers are: Jessie Jaenicke, Drew Montgomery, Herbert Gilbert, Keith Smith, Terry Dean, Randy Walker, Pat Hoffmann, Robert Bustamante, Chuck Heath, Dennis McWhorter, and Craig Bailey – these 11 men represent Coach Harper’s last football team!

Serving as honorary pallbearers are: The Deacon Body of The First Baptist Church and the Senior Adult Men’s Sunday School Class of The First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to The Sunshine Outreach Center (320 N May St; Madisonville, TX 77864); The National Brain Tumor Society (55 Chapel St, #200; Newton, MA 02458); or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Ten Mile Cemetery

Madisonville, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
300 South Elm St
Madisonville, TX 77864

Service

JAN 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
300 South Elm St
Madisonville, TX 77864

Tribute Wall



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Jerry Davidson Harper.*



February 10, 2021 at 03:08 PM



“ *Such a lovely family. I'm so sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers.*

Brenda Brown - January 31, 2021 at 09:36 PM

JH

“ Coach Harper has been a great man and role model for so many of us coming up through our school years at MHS. He was an excellent leader of young men who needed lots of direction in those adolescent years, and 'Coach' provided a steady example for us. With his coaching/teaching mentality and rugged nature, he quickly commanded the respect of his football teams, and the student body in general. While he 'struck fear' in the minds of many of us early on, we began to see hints of his humor, and sly smile, and the bonds of friendship were 'in the works'.

I know he got my attention quickly, and I held a deep respect for him, serving for 2 years as his football team 'manager' back in those days. Though I never 'suited up to play' for him, I relished the time I spent as an 'associate member' of his teams. In those times, he taught me some lessons about life like, finishing what you started, and taking pride in what you're doing. As I said, he was a great leader of young men, who needed one who was steady, rather demanding and firm, yet rewarded us with kindness and friendship. I regret I never actually told him some of these things, but I do want to say;

"Coach Harper, thanks for helping mold my life and those of many of my peers in those high school years." "I'm a better man today, because of you, back then."

With great respect and admiration, A 'Mighty Mustangs' Alum, Class of '77,

Rev. James D. Hooper,

James Hooper - January 28, 2021 at 11:40 AM

BB

Lovely words James. Such a heart felt tribute.

Brenda Brown - January 31, 2021 at 09:35 PM

CB

“ Mrs. Harper, Kim, Billy, Jace and Ash.

So sorry to hear about "Coach's" passing. I will miss him as coach, former neighbor and a fine Christian gentleman. We can take comfort in knowing he is now in a better place. "Coach" gave me the only licks I ever got in school.

Clifford Barnett - January 28, 2021 at 10:49 AM

GK

“ Coach, thanks for the memories that will last our lifetime. We are glad God sent you to Falls City. You taught us honesty, integrity, dedication, sportsmanship, how to win and how to accept a loss, the value of hard work, and so much more. You will be missed and we will miss seeing you at the Beaver Roundup.
George Kowalik (#79 class of 62-63) Betty Hooks Kowalik, Head Cheerleader class of 63-64.

George and Betty Hooks Kowalik - January 28, 2021 at 10:34 AM

KP

“ Ashley...so sorry for your families loss as well as the community he served. What a remarkable life and career in education. Very noble. I'm sure there are so many wonderful memories of "Coach Harper"

Kim Parsons - January 27, 2021 at 07:03 PM

CW

“ Jerry and Pat Harper have been friends to the Walker Families their entire time living in Madisonville. Colvin remembers Jerry from high school football when Madisonville played Teague in Madisonville and Jerry was Quarterback for Teague. They whipped us as Jerry was an outstanding quarterback. It was fun to reminisce about those early times, as we were the same age. Also, it has been a great pleasure to serve as a Deacons with Jerry at FBC Madisonville. We regarded Jerry and Pat as Christians because they were always good examples to everyone. Coach Harper will be greatly missed in the community. We are praying that God will bless the Harper Family in this time of their loss. God Bless.
Colvin and Sandra Walker



Colvin Walker - January 27, 2021 at 06:45 PM

MV

“ I'm saddened to hear of Mr. Harper's passing. May God cover each of you as the days come and memories are shared. His presence will forever be felt in this community. Mrs. Pat...we love you and are praying for you and your family.
Martha & Jim Vance & family



Martha Vance - January 27, 2021 at 04:17 PM