



Clyde W. Harper

August 10, 1942 - December 11, 2020

Services with military honors for Clyde Wendell “Sonny” Harper, age 78 of Lindale, Texas, are scheduled for 11:00 AM Saturday, December 19, 2020 at the First Baptist Church in Lindale, Texas with Dr. Tom Buck officiating. Services are under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale, Texas. Clyde died Friday, December 11, 2020 in Live Oak, Texas. He was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on August 10, 1942 to Clyde and Icy Ruth (Magee) Harper. Clyde moved to Lindale in 1952 and graduated from Lindale High School in 1962. As a teenager Clyde sold popcorn at the theater, shined shoes at stores and barber shops, worked at the canning factory and later worked at the Ed B. Caudle Funeral Home. Clyde served in the Army as a cook in the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany from 1962 to 1965. While in the Army, he visited Hershey Pennsylvania, New York City, Denmark, Switzerland, Finland and all over Germany. After leaving the Army, he started working for TP&L in 1965. He worked in Tyler, Terrell, Dallas, Garland, Mesquite, Palestine and Athens. He retired from TXU in 1992. Clyde met Billie Jean Smith-Kelsey in 1967 and married the love of his life on February 10, 1968 at the First Baptist Church in Lindale. This next February 2021, they would have celebrated 53 years of marriage. Clyde coached his son Jimmy Kelsey’s Pee Wee and Pony baseball teams and they had several winning seasons. Clyde worked at Trinity Mother Francis from 1996 to 2006. He retired for a second time so he could help Billie Jean recover from breast cancer. Clyde also worked with NuTech delivering nuclear medicine for 5

years when he finally retired for a third and final time. After retirement Clyde traveled with Billie Jean to visit their grandchildren from Cleburne to Cibolo, Texas. Clyde also worked at the Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home. Throughout their marriage, Clyde and Billie got to travel including, Disney World Orlando, Hawaii, Cooperstown New York, Boston Massachusetts, Branson Missouri, New Mexico, Durango Colorado, New Orleans Louisiana, and Cancun Mexico. Clyde loved the Lord and served as a Deacon in Athens, Tyler and Lindale. He also sang in the choir and started the Welcoming and Greeters Committee at First Baptist Church Lindale. Clyde finally got the opportunity to move back to Lindale in 2002, the city that he always loved. He was an avid Lindale Eagles fan and attended as many games as he could make. Clyde served as a Councilman for the City of Lindale from 2009 to 2020. He was also involved in Jaycees, Lions Club, Optimist Club, Shriners, Masonic Lodge, Evening Garden Club, and the Tyler Aggie's Mom's. Clyde was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde Harper and Icy Ruth (Magee) Harper, sisters, Margaret Joyce-Harper-Richter-Price and Betty Lou Harper-Syma and son, Jimmy Dean Kelsey. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 53 years, Billie Jean Smith-Kelsey-Harper of Schertz, Texas; son, Madison Harper and wife, Christa Willis-Harper; daughter-in-law, Danita Brewer Kelsey; grandchildren, Jessica Kelsey-Richardson and husband, Todd; Leighton Kelsey-Martinez and husband, Martin; Jacob Kelsey and wife, Shannon Walsh-Kelsey; Abby Kelsey-Hernandez and husband, Jose; Connor Harper and Hayden Harper; great grandchildren, Hannah Richardson, Grace Richardson, Ruth Richardson, Jayden Martinez, Giavanna Martinez, Eva Martinez, Kai Kelsey, Warren Kelsey, Hadley Hernandez, Finley Hernandez, Milo Cruz, and soon to arrive, Sofia Martinez; and many unofficially adopted sons, daughters, grandkids and great grandkids all across the country. Honorary pallbearers are Mayor Jeff D. Daugherty, Councilman Rick Thelen, Mayor Pro-Tem Ginger Sims, Councilwoman Yvette Martin, Councilman Bryan Summerville, Councilman Bob Tardiff, City Manager Carolyn Caldwell, and City Secretary Michelle Wiese. Serving as pallbearers will be Clyde's

grandsons. The family will receive friends from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Friday, December 18, 2020 at the Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale, Texas. In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lindale First Baptist Church Building Fund (<http://fbclindale.com/unfinished-building-campaign/>), American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org/>) or American Heart Association (<https://www.heart.org/>). Due to COVID-19 protocols masks are required to be worn at the visitation and funeral services.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S Donnybrook Ave,
Tyler, TX 75701

Previous Events

Church Service

DEC 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lindale First Baptist Church
105 Hubbard Street
Lindale, TX 75771

Tribute Wall



“ *Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Clyde W. Harper*



Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home - December 21, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ *Clyde W. Harper*

October 05, 2023 at 02:48 AM

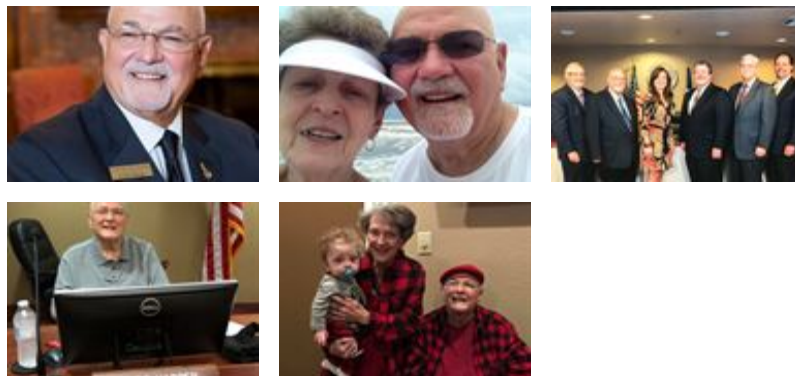


“ *Clyde W. Harper*

October 05, 2023 at 12:01 AM



“ *55 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home - December 18, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Clyde W. Harper.*



December 17, 2020 at 04:51 PM



“ *I know Clyde is in heaven and he will be willing to help the Lord by serving on any Council he may need someone. He loved serving Lindale and want to help make it "Good Country Living " for the citizens . Clyde always put Me, Billie Jean (his wife of 53 years) and our children first. He always had a smile no matter what the day was like or what we were going through. One of his little great granddaughters, Gia, started calling Clyde Papa bear, now her brothers and sister call him Papa bear. He was Papa to all his grandchildren and his great grandchildren. He loved them with all his heart. It made his day when the would face time him. He was a family man, loved serving his Lord.
Your loving wife, Billie Jean*

His wife Billie Jean - December 17, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clyde W. Harper.*



December 16, 2020 at 08:09 PM

LW

“ *Linda Willis lit a candle in memory of Clyde W. Harper*



Linda Willis - December 15, 2020 at 09:12 AM

HB

“ *Henry And Bowdoin lit a candle in memory of Clyde W. Harper*



Henry and Bowdoin - December 14, 2020 at 07:57 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Clyde W. Harper.*



December 14, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Clyde W. Harper.*



December 13, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ *Lajuanda Morrow lit a candle in memory of Clyde W. Harper*



Lajuanda Morrow - December 12, 2020 at 03:41 PM

LB

“ *Linda Bryant lit a candle in memory of Clyde W. Harper*



Linda Bryant - December 12, 2020 at 01:09 PM

KD

“ *Karen Damon lit a candle in memory of Clyde W. Harper*



Karen Damon - December 11, 2020 at 05:20 PM

RF

“ Mr. Clyde,
My heart hurts so much to know that you are gone but I know that you are not in pain anymore and that you are at peace. I will miss you so very much. You always called me your adopted granddaughter and I adopted you right back. I am so thankful for the love you always showed me and my family especially to my boys. It was an honor to work with you for a short time as well. Rest easy sweet friend. I'll see you again soon.
-Regan Fitts



Regan Fitts - December 11, 2020 at 04:35 PM

CC

“ Clyde will be so missed at City Hall, he served on the City Council for 11 years and his voice was always the last one heard at a Council meeting as he would state "so moved" to the adjournment of the meeting. We will miss you.

Carolyn Caldwell - December 11, 2020 at 12:49 PM

PK

Sincere condolences to the family. The Clyde I remember was bigger than life at Lindale High School back in the 60's. May all the family know he was loved and admired by so many 🌹
Patsy McClenny Kirby

Patsy Kirby - December 17, 2020 at 08:47 AM