



## Ronald Preston Harper,

April 14, 2014

Ronald Preston Harper, Sr., 75, a lifelong resident of Lancaster City, passed away in his sleep on Saturday, April 12, 2014 after a long battle with emphysema. Ron is the son of Forrest and Susan Harper and the brother of Edward Harper, all of whom are deceased.

Ron was a 1956 graduate of McCaskey High School and was a varsity athlete in football and track. AT 5'5" tall and 160 lbs, he was a running back in a backfield of athletes much larger than himself, but with typical tenacity and heart gained a starting position on the team as a sophomore. In track, he ran the 100 yard dash in 10.1 seconds and had a personal best long jump of over twenty feet; these in the days of cinder tracks.

After high school, Ron received a draft notice from the army and he promptly contacted the United States Marine Corps and told them he wanted to join the best fighting force in the world. His recruiter informed him to not open the draft envelope and come to the office to sign up. He scored high enough in the exams that he qualified for aviation radar technician training. In boot camp in those days it was customary to lock two recruits in a quonset hut and allow them to fight for the right to be squad leader; at the end of boot camp, Ron was squad leader and also the platoon high shooter, qualifying as an expert. Ironically, Ron had a longtime aversion to firearms. He served three years working on F4 Hawkeye aircraft and was discharged honorably.

Ron worked for 30 years at RCA at first as a tube tester and then, with hard work, became Quality Control manager—with only a high school education; today that position would require a college degree. He then worked at Burle Industries and then at Hurley Industries where he ended his career in quality control.

Ron's love of sports continued throughout his life. He coached midget football for Manor Ridge, became a PIAA football official in the 1970's and continued in that capacity until the disease that took his life ravaged his lungs and he could no longer officiate. He also played fast pitch softball in the heyday of the sport in the 1960's and '70's for the rec league playing catcher and shortstop. Although not a big hitter, he was fast around the bases and took great joy in stealing those bases. Bowling was also a passion and he played in the Nut League at Rocky Springs for many years.

In later life, Ron participated in the home schooling of his grandchildren, teaching mathematics and his favorite subject, science.

Ron is survived by his loving wife, Bertha (Dissinger) whom he married in 1961, and their three children: Timothy, husband of Susan Harper; Ronald, Jr. husband of Melody Harper; and Jennifer, wife of Christopher Blakesley. There are six grandchildren: Joshua, Rebekah, Zachariah, Josiah (JJ), Melody Joy and Olivia. Zach and JJ have followed in their grandfather's footsteps and are both involved with aviation in the USMC.

Ron's legacy is one of compassion and love for his fellow man and animals, helping both whenever possible. His faith in God allowed him to weather his disease with dignity and grace, rarely complaining and always keeping laughter close by.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Ron's Funeral Service on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Millersville Bible Church, 1940 New Danville Pike, Millersville, PA 17551 with Pastor Paul Habecker officiating.

The family will greet friends at the church from 10:00 am until the time of service. Interment will be held in Riverview Burial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services, 132 S. 8th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald Preston Harper,*

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October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Dear Bert,*

*Sorry to hear that My good friend Ron went home to see The Lord last month. I wish I could have come, but did not find out till today May 13,2014. I just talked to him about a month ago and he sounded great. I really do not know what I would have done without him at Herley Industries as he taught me a lot about Inspection. I will miss him greatly and I want to offer my condolences to you and your family on the loss of your husband and friend. God bless you and yours. Betty Luzar.*

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**Betty Luzar** - May 13, 2014 at 10:57 PM

ED

“ Aunt Bert,  
You have our deepest sympathy for the loss of Uncle Ron. We will cherish the memories at the family reunion. You will be in our prayers.

Tim, Ron and Jen,  
You have our deepest sympathy for the loss of your Dad. You will be in our prayer as well as your children for the loss of there Grandpa.

Peace be with you,

Love,

Elias & Sharon Dissinger and Family

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Elias & Sharon Dissinger - April 18, 2014 at 06:27 PM

DM

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. Actually a loss to us all. I knew Ron for a short while when we both worked at RCA (in different divisions) and he was a mentor and friend as I started officiating high school football. I will miss him.

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Dennis Miller - April 16, 2014 at 08:03 AM

LC

“ Bert, Tim, Ron, Jenny and Family,

*As with a heavy heart, I am sorry to hear of Ron's passing, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Cherish memories will sustain you all each and every day.*

*Our prayers to Bert and rest of the Family.*

*Peace be with you,*

*Lori, Lin & Evelyn McCord*

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**Lori Cauler** - April 15, 2014 at 02:19 PM

RT

“ *I was truly saddened to here the loss of a great guy, I worked with Ron for many years and his helpful and cheerful out look on the job was very helpful to me, although I lost touch after retiring He will be missed very much*

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**Robert Tuscan** - April 15, 2014 at 01:57 PM

JB

“ *Ron's Family,*

*Sorry to hear of Rons passing, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a kind man and always had a smile for everyone he worked with.*

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**Janet Brown** - April 15, 2014 at 09:14 AM

RB

“ Bert, Tim, Ron, Jenny, and family,

*I was saddened to learn of Ron's passing, yet am so grateful to have known him as well as all of you in this life. It's somehow strange how I really only came to know Ron and you all after I had gotten to know Skeets and Susie.*

*My life was forever changed in knowing them and I am equally grateful to have shared life with you all. Please know that our church here in Philadelphia will be praying for you. God bless you now and always.*

*Peace,*

*Randy & Cindy Brubaker*

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**Randy Brubaker** - April 14, 2014 at 09:33 PM

NK

“ Ron, our prayers are with you and the family. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not on thine own understanding. His ways are higher than ours.

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**Nevin & Barbara Kraybill** - April 14, 2014 at 08:40 PM

KH

“ It's been 10 years since I attended Millersville Bible Church, but I remember Ron fondly. He was such a friendly man and obviously had a great love for people. I am saddened to hear about his loss. My prayers are with Bert and the rest of the family.

*Sincerely,*

*Kelly Hollinger (formerly Kelly McGee)*

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**Kelly Hollinger** - April 14, 2014 at 08:12 PM

SF

“ We will always remember Ron for his big smile at work at RCA, Burle and Philips. He was a "stand-up guy" -- you could always count on him to come through. Although we haven't lived in Lancaster for several decades now, we will always remember our friends there, and Ron was one of those special coworkers.

Our deepest condolences to his family,

Suzy and Ed Freeman

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Suzy & Ed Freeman - April 14, 2014 at 03:38 PM

RB

“ With a heavy heart I have many fond memories of Ron Sr and his encouraging words during my time in Lancaster since the early 80's. With hope I know that Ps 116:15 is true: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. The hope of our future reward as believers. My prayers are with the Harpers. The Lord's peace and Blessing to you at this time, Ron and Kim Blough

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Ron Blough - April 14, 2014 at 02:32 PM

TF

“ Ronnie,  
I was so sorry to read of your dad's death. He had quite a wonderful life from what I read in the paper. I know his passing will leave a huge void in your life and those of your family, and I trust the many memories you have of him will sustain you in the coming months. I will definitely miss seeing him at the rail at the all-league track meet this May. Please give my kindest regards to your mom.

Sincerely,  
Ted Fitzgerald

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Ted Fitzgerald - April 14, 2014 at 01:21 PM