



James "J.D." Harper

September 11, 1939 - April 18, 2024

James "JD" Harper, resident of Racine, passed away peacefully on April 18, 2024, at the age of 84. JD was born in Mississippi on September 11, 1939 to Clarence Harper Sr. and Candida Morales. The family spent many years as migrant workers coming to Wisconsin seasonally from Texas. JD graduated from Southwest High School in San Antonio in 1958. He then proudly served in the US ARMY earning the rank of Sergeant.

Over his long life, JD enjoyed gardening, making music, telling stories and jokes and spending time with his beloved family and friends where he was often the life of the party. He traveled America with his music career with the bands Walking Sticks, Good Intentions and the well-known—The JD Harper Band. In 1969, he bought and operated Harper Music Store in Racine simultaneously playing music at the Sliver Fox where he met his wife Susie (Smerchek). He proposed on Christmas Eve in 1987 and the two were wed in 1988. JD worked at Modern Woodmen of America as an insurance salesperson eventually earning District Manager.

JD is survived by his devoted wife Susan, loving daughter Sarah (Patrick) Hubbard, stepchildren Dean (Lisa) and Darrin (Debbie) Pinnow, brother Ed (Thelma), sisters-in-law Mary and Melody, grandsons Nate (Hailey), Nash, Noah and Aidan and his especially loving granddaughter Sofia. He also enjoyed special nieces Debbie, Susie and Barbi and nephews Mike, James, Scott, Jason, Travis and Brandon and special friend Ski. JD was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Claude and David.

A visitation will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Friday May 3, 2024, from 3 p.m. until service time at 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, for those wishing to remember JD in a special way may direct memorials to the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 3. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, WI 53404
(262) 632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

MAY 3. 4:00 PM (CT)

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3014 Northwestern Avenue
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Tribute Wall



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "J.D." Harper.



April 28, 2024 at 03:34 PM



“ Jimmy and Mary Ellen Garcia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "J.D." Harper.

Jimmy and Mary Ellen Garcia - April 28, 2024 at 03:34 PM

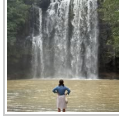


“ I've known J.D. for over 75 years, grew up together. After high school we joined the military service under the buddy system. J.D. has always been a kind and considerate friend. I remember a cold and snowy night in December 1958, while training in the Colorado mountains, I was scheduled for guard duty, I was sick with a fever and J.D. wouldn't let me do it and he volunteered and did it. That's the kind of person he was. Even though we lived over 1000 miles apart, we always kept in touch especially on our birthdays (2 weeks apart).

I will miss you my friend , until we meet again.

*Jimmy Garcia
San Antonio, Tx*

Jimmy Garcia - April 28, 2024 at 03:24 PM



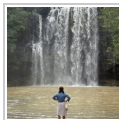
He spoke so foundly of you and the strength of your friendship was evident. 💕💕

Sarah Kowalsky Hubbard - May 03, 2024 at 01:25 AM

PA

“ *Im sorry to hear that J D die.I remember going to the Silver Fox and listen to Jd and the band at the Sliver fox.His brother Dave was good friend ,we bowl a the J W lanes. Then would go listen to JD at the Fox. Ed sorry for loss of your bothers. God be with you and family!!! Paul Aber April 28*

Paul G Aber - April 28, 2024 at 10:19 AM



Thank you Paul ❤️👍

Sarah Kowalsky Hubbard - May 03, 2024 at 01:26 AM

RE

“ *I've known JD almost my whole life, he played music with my father " Errol Tiny Edmonston" for many many years, and sold my father my first electric guitar and amplifier, I was around 5 years old, and have been playing music instruments ever since. JD was always very kind and an inspiration, and I am fortunate to have known him. The JD Harper Band members are all together again.*

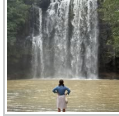


Randy Edmonston - April 22, 2024 at 12:55 PM

YM

I remember J D when I was just starting my career as a financiail advisor with MWA. My sympathy to the family.

Yvonne McNeely - April 23, 2024 at 06:05 PM



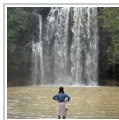
Randy I love that sentiment. The are "on the road again". Thanks for sharing 💕💕

Sarah Kowalsky Hubbard - May 03, 2024 at 01:30 AM

SA

“ *So sorry to hear of J.D's passing. He was a kind, fun, and wonderful man He played music at Thelma and Ed's, who were our neighbors for years. We were invited to the family picnics every year. We also had our boys insured with Modern Woodmen through him. My condolences to the whole family.*

Sherry Aukland - April 21, 2024 at 08:37 PM



Thank you for sharing 💕💕

Sarah Kowalsky Hubbard - May 03, 2024 at 01:28 AM

MN

“ *Very Sad new for me. J.D. was a wonderful person. I bartended at The Silver Fox for several years, and heard J.D. and crew many, many times, and conversed with them during breaks. Great "Entertainers" the crowds loved them. J.D. was the leader, and always put on a great show. For my Wife, and I, It was the time of our lives. She has passed, and I told her this morning J.D. was coming to join her, and sing Happy Birthday to her In June. "When you were young and In your prime" To ALL of J.D. relatives I offer my sincere condolences to you for your tremendous loss.*

Michael T. Nelson - April 21, 2024 at 12:12 PM

CP

“ So sorry to hear of JD passing. He was a great guy and I have so many fun memories with him. My ex husband Tiny played with him at the Silver Fox and was part of The JD Harper Band. We went to the music store a lot too. So many great times! Regards to the family.



Cindy Painter - April 21, 2024 at 09:51 AM

DH

“ Very saddened to learn of JD's passing. We shared many beverages and stories over the years. He sold my daughter her first guitar and first insurance policy. Memories bring a huge smile.

Dan Hiatt

Dan Hiatt - April 21, 2024 at 07:39 AM