



Wilbur Ed "Sonny" Harper

April 23, 1939 - March 29, 2018

Wilbur Ed "Sonny" Harper, 78, of Columbia formerly of Mexico, Missouri passed away peacefully with family at his side at the V.A. Hospital in Columbia on Thursday, March 29th, 2018.

He was born on April 23, 1939 in Mexico, MO to Ernie and Rita (Kerns) Harper both of whom preceded him in death. Sonny was a 1957 graduate of Mexico High School who excelled in both baseball and football throughout school. His athletic abilities allowed him to qualify for the All Europe baseball and football leagues for the U.S. Army while serving three years active duty which he followed with three years in the reserves. Sports were his passion, St. Louis Cardinals baseball, Kansas City Chiefs football, fishing, golfing, camping and anything Mizzou.

Following his time in the service, Sonny worked as a driver for UPS after which he began working in various sales and management positions in Missouri and Kansas. He, at one time, also owned and operated Harper's T.V. and Appliance in Mexico, MO.

In March 1963 he married Judy Wyatt formerly of Centralia (now Judy Ridgeway) and together they had two children Joni (John) Rudkin of Moberly and Jeffrey Harper of Seattle, Washington. Despite divorcing several years later, Judy remained part of Sonny's family and was loved by his siblings and parents.

In addition to his children Sonny is survived by two sisters: Bonnie and the late Jack McCoy of Aurora, CO and Becky Craig of Mexico, MO; one brother: Danny (Jane) Harper of Hallsville; one granddaughter: Lacie (Austin) Ilsley of Columbia; and two great grandchildren: Aris and Lillian Rose. Sonny is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Sonny spent 36 years with his life partner Karen Kenworthy who preceded him in death in April of 2017. Karen's daughters Kim (Dean) Hiegert and Kelli (Kevin) Fath both of Topeka, Kansas along with their children, Sarah Fath, Brittney Hiegert, and Hunter Hiegert

all held a special place in Sonny's heart and will also cherish his memory.

Over the past few years, Sonny spent a considerable amount of time in the Columbia V.A. Hospital, and at The Bluffs nursing facility. His family would like to extend their gratitude for the care provided by all involved. He loved you all.

At Sonny's request, no public service will be held.

Arrangements are under the direction of Parker-Millard Funeral Service and Crematory; 12 East Ash St, Columbia, MO 65203; 573-449-4153. Condolences may be left online for the family at www.parkermillard.com

Comments



“ My Uncle Sonny was an awesome man and we will miss him dearly. He was so funny and always making people laugh.

We love you, Sonny! We will always remember your vibrant, hilarious, gregarious disposition.

Carrie Craig

Carrie Craig - April 04, 2018 at 07:41 PM



“ My sympathy to the family.

Wilbur and I were friends through grade school, junior high and high school.

Jerry Brauer
MHS Class of 1957

Jerry7 Brauer - April 04, 2018 at 10:03 AM