



Walter Reynold Harper

January 17, 1939 - September 28, 2024

Chief Petty Officer Walter Reynold Harper USN (Ret), aged 85, departed this life on September 28, 2024 at his home in Portsmouth, Virginia. following a lengthy illness. He was born on January 17, 1939 to William Paul Harper, Sr. and Hazel Koonce Harper in Craven County, North Carolina. Walter was the fourth of their ten children. His dad thought he showed potential for working the farm but Walter had other ideas. He was an adventurous, industrious soul who was excelling as a student at P.S. Jones High School in Washington, North Carolina. until something else arrested his attention. Walter responded to the Navy's appeal to young men to "join the Navy and see the world" so that in 1956 he left school to spend the next twenty years seeing the world as had been promised. He became a skilled barber and acquired many other skills while serving the nation as a seaman until he was honorably discharged in 1976. Walter spent the following decades in Portsmouth where he enjoyed gardening, manicuring his yard, using his carpentry skills around the house and to helping his dear cousins in the area whom he viewed as his bonus sisters.

Walter was predeceased by his parents, a sister - Bertha Harper Artis and four brothers - William Randolph Harper, Levie W. Harper, Marion Harper and William Paul Harper, Jr. He is survived by his patient, loving wife Zelma Minor Harper and her faithful, caring daughter Christine Hyman (George); two sons, Steve Minor (Edna) of Williamston, North Carolina and Reginald Harper

(Mary) of Holly Springs, North Carolina; three stepsons – Carl Daley (Monica), Roy Daley (Charlene) and Earl Daley (Debbie) all of Washington, North Carolina. Also surviving Walter are three sisters: Dr. Mary Harper Watkins (Walter), Centerville, Ohio; Christine Kenlock, Greensboro, North Carolina; and Josephine Harper, Kinston, North Carolina; one brother, James Henry Harper (Linda), Baltimore, Maryland; grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and four very special cousins – Wilma Harper Horne and Carolyn Harper Faulks both of Chesapeake, Virginia and Jackie Harper Matthews and Elvira Harper Johnson of Portsmouth, Virginia.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Gardens

6329 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Norfolk, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 6. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Chapel Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Crystal Harper - October 05, 2024 at 04:55 PM



“ 28 files added to the album Mr. Walter R. Harper



Crystal Harper - October 05, 2024 at 04:46 PM



“ My Father/Grandpa was an amazing man who is one of the main reasons I am so blessed today. His heart was so huge, even though he didn't want to show it. I always saw through his “tough guy exterior,” and I was the baby girl, so it was broken easier for me ❤️ but not that easy, still got my tush torn up! His kids were already well into adulthood (My two uncles ; Steve Minor , Reginald Harper and my Father Larry Harper)when he and my grandmother, Maxine, decided to take in two more young children. I was only about 4 when my elder brother, Larry, and I went to live with them. He always wanted to teach me something and make sure I was ready for the world ahead of me, keeping me up late to explain math problems to me, having me help pull down trees in the yard, building garages, twice I might add, cutting the grass, on the roof fixing shingles, and so many other things. He gave me a love for puzzles and games, he would take me for bike rides and later, become the best teacher I could've had for learning to drive while repeatedly saying “ You have more time then you have money Crystal, slow down”. He could understand my tears better than anyone else I've ever met besides my grandma. He loved to put salt on watermelon and his fresh picked tomatoes and one time molasses on chitterlings..... He loved his family especially his mother and father, he'd tell stories about how they had to climb Mt Everest to get to school 😂. Holidays were done to an extreme, they loved them, he'd creep in my room dressed as Freddy Krueger to scare me,I mean the man built an entire coffin and put a vampire in it placed it in the front yard, he made sure Larry Regina Reginald jr and myself had an orange and apple each year for Christmas . I wish I could tell all the stories they are all very special to me, but to sum it up he was the best father a girl could ask for, and I'm so happy I got to have him for 34 years and please I got a chance to say goodbye!





Crystal Harper - October 05, 2024 at 04:33 PM