



# **William (Bill) J. Harper**

JAN 12, 1931 - SEP 22, 2021



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## **William (Bill) J. Harper**

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**W**illiam (Bill) Harper, age 90 of Millsboro, DE, passed away on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Bill was born in Plainfield, NJ and grew up in North Plainfield where he lived for most of his life. After high school he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, when he returned home, he worked as a carpenter and later became a member of the UAW working as a millwright for Mack Truck and General Motors.

Bill, and his wife Carolyn, moved to Millsboro when he retired, and he quickly became a dedicated member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Lewes. He used his craftsman skills working on many projects to improve the interior of the church. He was most proud of the preservation wall he designed and constructed to showcase the restored stained glass from the original Bethel Church. Bill also served as the Head Usher for many years, doing his best to make everyone who came to church feel welcome; remembering the names of church members and introducing visitors to people he knew would make them feel as comfortable as members.

He was devoted to his wife of 67 years, Carolyn, who passed away in September of last year. When she began losing her sight, he became a champion of BlindSight Delaware, taking Carolyn to meetings and working with their staff to help improve the quality of life of the blind and visually impaired. He was also one of the people who formed the Parkinson's Education and Support Group, the first in this area.

He is survived by his daughter, Judy Harper of Brooklyn, NY and his son, Jim Harper of Basking Ridge, NJ.

A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date. Memorial donations can be made in his memory to Bethel United Methodist Church, 129 W 4th St, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



## Tribute Wall

**William (Bill) J. Harper**

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LH

**Lori Holtzinger** posted:

Bill was our neighbor and always had a positive attitude and kind words when we met up. He and Caroline will be missed.

October 9 at 3:49 AM

JW

**Judy And Norm Woods** posted:

We were so saddened to hear of Bill's passing but know he is with Carolyn and Jesus!! We knew them when we were attending Bethel and would "bump" into them around town-so kind and cheerful! We were blessed to know both of them! In Him, Judy and Norm Woods

October 6 at 1:02 PM

JC

**Janet Capitan** posted:

We would like to offer our condolences to the family of our dear friend William Harper-Paul and Janet Capitan, Bethel United Methodist Church

October 6 at 8:07 AM

AJ

**Anastasia Jones** lit a candle in honor of William (Bill).

Sending condolences from all of us at Long Neck Cheer Meals on Wheels Program.

October 6 at 5:50 AM



MS

**Marge Fleming Smith** posted:

Bill will always be One of My Favorites! He always shared a welcoming smile and made the time to listen to my husband and me. I loved Bill greeting us and encouraging my husband and me at the Parkinson's gatherings.

October 3 at 8:27 AM



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LE

**Laura Ellis** posted:

I was a assistant frontend manager at Longneck Giant & Mr. Harper was one of the nicest customers I encountered. He shopped there for years, and he was one of my favorites, always kind, always spoke. He was really an awesome gentleman. 🥺👤

October 2 at 2:45 PM

CM

**Clay Monroe** posted:

Bill became my family's friend at Bethel Church. What a very talented wood worker. He certainly has left a part of his legacy at Bethel Church. When Bill did some work at our home we talked many hours about his love of Baseball. He will certainly be missed by all. A true Christian who gave much in service to others. May he Rest In Peace and this friend will truly miss seeing him. Sympathy's given to his family. Clay and Susan Monroe

October 2 at 2:05 PM

KL

**Karen Lankford** posted:

We are so sadden to hear of Bill's passing. What a kind, friendly, energetic, hardworking man he was. Rightfully, Bill was proud of his service to his country and church. We served with him as ushers at Bethel. And what a wonderful caregiver he was for Carolyn. Truly a most honorable man, he will be missed. His family and friends all have our deepest sympathy. Sincerely, Karen and Ron Lankford

October 1 at 5:27 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William (Bill) by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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