



Rev. William E. Harner Jr.

August 12, 1926 - May 8, 2015

The Reverend William Everett Harner Jr., 88, of Reiffton, was called to the Lord on Friday May 8, 2015 while at home.

The oldest of eight children, he was born on August 12, 1926 to the late William D. and Pearl (Schaeffer) Harner of Pine Forge. To most, he was known as Bill. After graduating from Pottstown High School in 1944, he went to work. In December 1944, he was inducted into the U.S. Army where he served his country proudly until his discharge on August 26, 1946.

Bill moved back home to the Pine Forge area to marry his sweetheart and the only girl he ever kissed, Thelma Reinert. They married on July 5, 1947.

Bill attended Ursinus College from 1949-1953, majoring in history and political science, all while working the 11pm-7am shift at Dana Corporation. Following graduation, he attended the Lancaster Seminary from 1953- 1956 and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1956 and Master of Divinity degree in 1970. He was ordained June 10, 1956 by the Philadelphia Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in his home church, Zion Reformed in Pottstown. He served as pastor in Shoemakersville, Gibraltar, Bethlehem, and Amityville. He retired from St. Paul's UCC, Amityville on December 31, 1991. He last served as Pastor of Visitation for Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Boyertown.

Bill was a decorated man and enjoyed serving the Lord, members of the church, and many community organizations. He joined the Masonic Fraternity in 1957. He was a life member of Boyertown Lodge #741 F&AM, Hamburg's

Vaux Lodge #406 F&AM, Pottstown Royal Arch Masons Chapter #198, Pottstown's Nativity Commandery #71, Valley Of Reading Scottish Rite Masons and Rajah Temple, Reading PA. He was chaplain of Rajah Temple for thirty five years and also was a former editor of Rajah News.

For most of his 88 years, he enjoyed watching, playing, and talking baseball. He cherished this love deeply, which he inherited from his father. As a child, he spent many long days playing ball. He shared his love for the game with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Loyally and lovingly by his side for 67 years was his wife, Thelma, his sweetheart and caregiver throughout their marriage. She provided stability and security during their blessed time as husband and wife. Together, they raised two children. He is survived by his wife Thelma, a daughter Dr. Kathy McCord and her husband Gregory and a son William E. Harner III and his wife Ruth.

He was a dedicated and loving Pop-Pop to all six grandchildren: William Everett Harner IV and wife Erica, George Harner and wife Jamie, Jason McCord and wife Heather, Dan McCord and fiancé Valerie Martin, Kristin Swartley and husband Mark, Kate Munn and husband Dan, and all twelve great-grandchildren: Adison, Reagan and William Everett Harner V, Travis and Gavin Harner, Teagan, Willa, and Mazie McCord, Kole and Reid Swartley, Hadley and Keenan Munn. Proudly, he baptized, confirmed, and married his six grandchildren. He also baptized all of his great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his siblings and their spouses: Robert, husband of the late Fern Harner, Louise, wife of Robert "Skip" Trainer, Merle, husband of Joy Harner, Marvin, husband of Shirley Harner, David, husband of Barbara Harner. There are also many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a sister, Joyce Weidenbaugh and brother, Russell.

We will miss him, his conversations, stories of the past, his prayers (a bit too lengthy at times), his love for his family, the Lord, and of course baseball.

Although he was a talented shortstop on the ball field, he never fell short in his life and always made those he surrounded feel loved.

A celebration of his life and Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 11:00 AM at Good Shepherd UCC, Philadelphia Ave and Walnut Street, Boyertown, PA. Visitation with the family will be from 9:30-10:45 AM. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 N. Rocky Pointe Dr., Tampa, FL 33607. Online condolences may be offered at www.royersfordfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are by Cattermole-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Royersford, PA.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

11045 Buchanan Trail W
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
Boyertown, PA

Service

MAY 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
Boyertown, PA

Tribute Wall

BN

“ Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers to Thelma, and children, and all of Rev. Harners family, he was a wonderful Pastor, and was greatly missed when he retired from St. Paul's UCC. I always enjoyed his sermons and stories. He baptized my sons, Scott and Brent Johnson and was there for me when I faced changes in my life. I cannot attend the service, but my thoughts and prayers are with all the family members. sincerely, Brenda Norman and sons



Brenda Norman - May 12, 2015 at 09:36 AM

RA

“ I was so sad when I received word of Bill's death. When I was an Assistant Conference Minister from 1986 to 1989 he made me feel most welcomed and loved and receptive of my ministry to the PSC. As I got to know him and his very soul better and better, I loved him more and more. Thank you Lord for sending us The Rev. Bill Harner on his mission in life and journey with us. Now may the Lord bless and comfort all those celebrate his life and yet feel his lost from among us. Amen. Love you Bill!

Richard L Adinolfi - May 11, 2015 at 01:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - May 11, 2015 at 08:15 AM

JF

Beautiful...Will Always Remember Uncle Bill fondly. He performed Kevin and my wedding ceremony...and I have many many wonderful memories of time spent with him and Aunt Thelma at the house and at all the family get togethers since I was a child

Janis Harner Good, and family - May 11, 2015 at 09:19 AM

RA

Thank you so much for this video. It is so precious to me and so beautifully rendered. What a wonderful tribute to your Dad.

Richard L Adinolfi - May 11, 2015 at 01:14 PM

KT

“ Nanny, Kathy, Greg, Bill and Ruth,

Please know how sorry we are to hear of the passing of Pop Pop. May the memories you hold dear to your hearts sustain you throughout this difficult journey. He was a wonderful man that was loved and cherished by many. God will guide you through, as He safely holds him in His arms. We, also loved him, and he will be greatly missed.

Our love and deepest condolences,

Carl and Kim

kim talley - May 11, 2015 at 07:15 AM

SM

Please except my sincere condolences on the passing of Reverend Harner. It was my privilege to have him as a patient.

Scott A. Horner, MD - May 11, 2015 at 07:44 AM



“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - May 10, 2015 at 11:58 PM

PC

“ We will never forget the comfort Rev. Harner was to our family when we lost our beloved son, Ricky. He cried along with us as we mourned our loss. He gave a beautiful tribute to him when he did his service. We have lost a very special person here on earth, but Heaven has gained a special Angel. Our deepest sympathy to your family.

Rick and Phyllis Cooper and family

Phyllis Cooper - May 10, 2015 at 07:39 PM

GM

Bill was more of a father than a father-in-law to me. When I was in high school and dating Kathy he always came to watch me play basketball something my own parents never did. I some times wondered if he was coming to watch me play or to make sure I behaved myself with his daughter. I always loved to watch sporting events or just talking about sports with him. He also always made a point to attend all of his grandchildren's sporting events. I can still here him cheering for my boys at those nightly games at Plowville. I remember his disagreements with umpires whether on TV or at one of the boys games. One time when Jason was coaching at Twin Valley Bill was riding an umpire pretty hard which was really funny since the ump was his own nephew Bob Trainer. Once at a game in Birdsboro he was in rare form, so much so that I kind of slipped away to get a hot dog. I understand that he was just as hard on refs at Kristen's and Katie's games. It was because of Bill that I became an elementary teacher. I had all the intentions of going to West Chester to become a gym teacher, but he talked me out of it. Thanks Bill! Now I am sure that he is in heaven probably questioning Eric Gregg about some of those terrible calls he made against the Phillies or apologizing to a few certain Pittsburg Pirate players that he had some unkind words for when they hit homers against the Phills. Something for all of us to remember that nobody is completely gone who has had children. We live on in them through God's wonderful miracle of reproduction. We pass our genes unto them and they do the same and so on and so on. So, now Pop Pop still lives on in all those wonderful great grandchildren and for thousands of years to come. Bill could never change a flat tire or fix a broken lawn mower, but he could and did fix many broken hearts. Maybe when I get to heaven I will get the chance to watch Bill play ball. I will miss you dad!

Greg McCord - May 11, 2015 at 10:58 PM