



Gerald L. Harp

March 21, 1940 - October 16, 2020

Gerald L. Harp passed away October 16, 2020 at 8:17 p.m. Gerald was the son of Harvard and Floy Harp, founders of Harps Food Stores. He was born March 21, 1940, in Springdale, Arkansas. Gerald married Vicki in 1989, she was the inspiration of his life, and motivated him to levels that he did not know he could achieve.

Gerald graduated from Springdale High School in 1958 and helped organize the class reunions during the years following graduation. Served his country in the US Army, most notably during the Berlin Wall Crisis. Years later he would be instrumental in a monument being erected for Veterans of Springdale Schools who died serving their country. He returned home to graduate in 3 ½ years from the University of Arkansas in 1966. Gerald joined the family business, Harp's Food Stores, where he worked for 45 years. He served the last seven years as the President of the company and was instrumental in selling the 70 year old company to the Employees in 2001. He gave 10% of his share of the sale to long term employees of the company. Harp's Food Stores operated on the belief that if associates and customers were served, that the company would be successful.

Gerald has been a member of the First Baptist Church of Springdale since 1940. He and Vicki believed in faithful tithing and supporting the church.

Gerald enjoyed annual fishing trips to Alaska, elk hunting in Colorado (38 yrs) and pheasant hunting in South Dakota with friends.

Gerald was a Rotarian, joining the Springdale Rotary Club in 1968 serving as President 1977-78. He served as District Governor of District 6110, RI, 2004-05 in the 100th Anniversary Year of Rotary International, with a firm belief that Rotary benefited mankind throughout the world. While District Governor of District 6110 and a Paul Harris Fellow, he helped over 800 other Rotarians become Paul Harris Fellows. District 6110 was the number two club of 150 districts in the United States, fifth in the world of 529 districts, and led the U.S. in total membership growth.

He was a level six donor to the Rotary Foundation, endowed a scholarship to the University of Arkansas where a low income student could come and study. Endowed a Rotary Peace Scholarship believing this would be a major source of supporting peace in the world. He supported Rotary in many other ways from delivering loads of medical supplies and equipment to the District Medical Supply Warehouse to support digging water wells in Nigeria, Nicaragua, Peru, and other countries. He purchased soybean/milk producing machines for the country of Peru.

Gerald was a major supporter of the Polio Plus campaign that eradicated Polio from the world. He was a major donor to the Wheelchair Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Broyles Matthews Scholarship, and Springdale Rotary Family Park. He supported Springdale Schools and helped finance Harp's Elementary School in honor of his parents and their children.

He served on many charitable boards during his life including the United Fund, as Fund Chairman/President, Ozark Guidance Foundation Board, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and the Washington Regional Hospital Board.

Gerald was a life member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, National Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited,

Arkansas Historical Society, Arkansas Alumni Association, Springdale Schools Alumni Association, AAll, Consumer Reports, National Rifle Association, and was the first Life Member of the National Hummingbird Society of Arkansas.

Gerald enjoyed supporting the Washington 4-H kids in the premium buying of their animals at the county fair each year and has left support for this project in the future.

Gerald and Vicki enjoyed cruising the many seas and oceans of the world and were fortunate to visit many countries. They enjoyed staying in Branson because of it's family orientation and peaceful atmosphere.

Gerald was proud to have lived in Springdale, Arkansas. Based on it's great southern hospitality, along with the persons in the community who gave of their time and resources, he always said it was the best place in the world to live and raise a family. He believed that the quality of your life is greatly influenced by helping others less fortunate than you, prayer, and by taking care of your body through exercising and proper nutrition.

Gerald and Vicki are very appreciative of Pam Everett as a long time associate, and Roger Collins who was instrumental in leading Harp's Food Stores employees after the purchase of the company by the employees.

"Made many mistakes in my life and being a perfectionist, tried to correct as many of them as possible and apologize for the ones that couldn't be corrected." Gerald Harp, 2005

He was preceded in death by his daughter Kimi, son Jerry, sister Judy,

brothers Don and Reland, and his parents.

He is survived by his wife Vicki, his daughters Timi Ray; her husband Frank; Jackie Harp. Step Daughters, Christy Moreno; husband Gerry, Heather Scholl. Grandchildren; Kourtney Blythe, Frankie Ray, Tiffani Ray, John G. Ray, Kate Williams; husband John. Joshua Moreno; his wife Sydney S. Moreno; Sydney B. Moreno, Noah Scholl and Nick Scholl. Great-grandchildren Parker and Kimberly Ray, Nyla Barbosa, Haley, Haiden, and Jase Willaims.

Funeral service will be Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 2pm at Cross Church in Springdale.

Burial will follow in Friendship Cemetery.

Memorials should be made to the Springdale Rotary Charitable Foundation, P.O Box 6006, Springdale, AR 72766 for the purpose of digging water wells.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Friendship Cemetery

1980 E. Friendship Road
Springdale, AR 72764
<http://www.friendship-cemetery.com>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cross Church - Springdale
1709 Johnson Road
Springdale, AR 72762

Tribute Wall



“ *Gerald L. Harp*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Vicki I am just learning of Gerald's passing. I am very sorry for your loss. The best job I ever had was working for him. Way back in 85 and 86 att the 40th street home farm.*

Scott Davis

Scott Davis - October 26, 2020 at 09:06 PM



“ *Pam and Don Bohannan*
Vicki, we were saddened to hear of Gerald's passing. Gerald made a huge impact on me. He was with me at every turn in my 19 years in Rotary. I look at the trees in Rotary Park and remember planting those baby saplings with Gerald and friends years ago (Gerald's donation). When we were collecting medical supplies, I'd round up a donation and call him. He'd stop what he was doing and meet me with the truck at Springdale Memorial or other donors and we'd load the supplies and equipment. I've enjoyed float trips, fishing at Gaston's, playing softball, and trips to District or National Rotary events in the company of Gerald and you. He was a GREAT human being, always very humble, and always with his wonderful smile. We love you Vicki and know how difficult it is as you grieve the love of your life. You're in our prayers.

Pam Bohannan - October 26, 2020 at 08:47 AM

HL

“ Vicki, I was so sorry to read about Gerald. I never knew him but I cherished the times you and I had in committee meetings. I’m still stuck here in Louisville but hoping to move back home when Covid goes away. You will be in my prayers as you go thru your loss. God’s peace be with you.

Helen Lewis - October 25, 2020 at 10:24 PM

VS

“ 😊 I first met Gerald thru the Springdale chamber of commerce. I worked with the chamber when Gerald was president of the board his winning smile and personality made him very easy to work with. He was one of my favorites.

virginia stone - October 25, 2020 at 03:47 PM

MT

“ Vicki, I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you & your family.

Marcia Thompson

Marcia Thompson - October 22, 2020 at 05:50 PM

KC

“ Kelly Cochran lit a candle in memory of Gerald L. Harp



kelly cochran - October 22, 2020 at 03:01 PM

VW

“ Always sad, losing those we love. Gerald's pain has ended but yours is great right now, Vicki. I am sorry for your loss and the pain it brings.

Virginia Walker - October 22, 2020 at 01:22 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gerald L. Harp.



October 22, 2020 at 01:10 PM

SF

“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Our sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you the peace that you seek. May you take comfort in knowing that you have an angel to watch over you now.

Love

Sherry Thompson Fitzgerald

Randy. Cole, and Alexa Fitzgerald



Sherry Thompson Fitzgerald - October 22, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald L. Harp.



October 21, 2020 at 08:24 PM

CB

“ I worked for Harp's in Fort Smith in the early 80's. While I was working there, my daughter was born prematurely. The Harp family was so kind to me during her 3 year illness. They allowed me the time off I needed to be with her during frequent hospital stays. They welcomed me back to work during her better times.

When Barbie passed away, the family was so very kind. I will never forget the Harp family and employees.

I pray for the family members to have peace and feel God's comfort today and always.

Sincerely,

Cindy Barker

Cindy Barker - October 21, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of Gerald L. Harp.



October 21, 2020 at 01:42 PM

RP

“ Louise and I were saddened to hear of Gerald's passing. His willingness to serve and give back will be missed by many. He was a great Rotarian and a great Governor of District 6110. His gifts to the Rotary Foundation will live on and continue his legacy of helping people worldwide. Rest In Peace my friend. The Harp family will be in our prayers..may God comfort you at this time of loss.

Ron & Louise Petersen - October 21, 2020 at 01:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald L. Harp.*



October 21, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ *Timi and Jackie, I am so sorry to hear about Uncle Gerald. Love to you both,*

Tina Harp-Clouse

Tina Harp- Clouse - October 20, 2020 at 10:37 PM



“ *Elmer Mckenzie sent a virtual gift in memory of Gerald L. Harp*



elmer mckenzie - October 20, 2020 at 05:35 PM

LL

“ Gerald was a truly remarkable man. He gave willingly of himself and his considerable resources for the betterment of those around him and for humankind throughout the world. The Rotary International theme in 2004-2005, the year Gerald was District 6110 Governor, was "Celebrate Rotary" (see banner below). We are honored now to celebrate Gerald's life of giving. Larry Long



Larry Long - October 20, 2020 at 04:44 PM

BH

“ What a loss to everyone that knew Gerald.
I always enjoyed our visits.
Deepest Sympathy,
Bobby Hopper

Bobby Hopper - October 20, 2020 at 02:03 PM

TD

“ Gerald always treated every one fairly in his business circles. We all know Gerald's sense of humor, picture 20 people at Gaston's White River Trout Resort. Gerald says it is too quiet in here, let's call the Hogs, so all 20 of us stood up and led the whole place in a loud cheer calling the Razorbacks! Heaven has a good man to add to it's members!
Ted Dick
Carnation Company

Ted Dick - October 20, 2020 at 12:38 PM

MH

“ Oh my, we love you so much Vicki and Gerald. Father God Bless Gerald's sweet, SWEET family as they adjust to life missing such an inspirational Dad, Husband, Friend and Child of God. Milton and I are remembering fun Gerald stories. One time when Gerald was well into his long recovery we were visiting and playing a board game. We were not sure if Gerald would play and it was the first time he had been introduced to this particular game. Who won? Yes, it was Gerald Harp. Vicki, Milton & Kathy enjoyed the laughter and so did Gerald. We love you Vicki and will be right here in Shreveport when you are ready for a chat or a visit. Peace, Protection and Safety for all the Harp family and friends. Cousin Milton & Kathy Hostetler

Milton & Kathy Hostetler - October 20, 2020 at 10:37 AM

HH

“ My sincerest condolences to the family of Gerald. He truly had the heart of a servant to his fellow man. Dwight and I held him in the highest esteem

helen heathman - October 20, 2020 at 10:03 AM

WW

“ Vicki and the rest of the family 🤔🤔 our heart and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Please know that God is all wise and powerful and he will see you through this time. Anne and I have fond memories of you and Gerald, you guys will always be in our hearts 💕💕.

We remember being in Osaka with Gerald. I will never forget my fishing trip when I served as Governor. It was so much fun. We have been inspired by both of you. We are here if you need us. Wallace & Anne Williams
DG 2010-2011

Wallace A. Williams - October 20, 2020 at 08:38 AM

AF

“ R.I.P Gerald Harp. Sending my condolences to the Harp family.

Aftin - October 19, 2020 at 10:30 PM

GP

“ To the Loving Family members of Gerald:
I was extremely saddened to learn of Gerald's death Friday evening. He was an extra special man who had a wonderful heart of a true servant and was a caring friend to so many. Gerald "fought the good fight" for many years after his horrible car wreck and he faithfully "finished his life's course" gallantly and with unbelievable courage.

Vicki, please know that you are in our thoughts and we are praying for you that God's peace and presence will overshadow and comfort you in your time of grief. All of us greave with you tonight. We loved Gerald very much. His death is such very sad news!!

Sincerely,
George M. Paden
Sand Springs, OK

George M. Paden - October 19, 2020 at 08:55 PM

AS

“ Precious memories of Mr. Harp will always be a part of Harp Elementary School. Mr. Harp and the Harp family are treasured members of our school community and our community at large. May his family find peace and comfort in his passing.

Allison Strange, Principal
Harp Elementary School

Allison Strange - October 19, 2020 at 05:41 PM

GP

“ My mom, Louise Plumlee, worked for Gerald's dad at the original store on East Emma. She graduated SHS in 1936. She retired from Harps IGA on S. Thompson in 1977. She was the mother hen to Gerald back in the 60's and 70's. She loved Gerald. She treated him as one of her own kids. I, too, have always admired Gerald and his brother Don. They started a legacy in this community that continues to this day. I graduated SHS in 1971 (worked at Harps North) one summer and we used to say that all the guys graduated from SHS through Harps! Our family has always admired and loved the Harp family. Gerald and Vicki have always been very generous people and I am so glad I got to know them.

Glen Plumlee

Glen Plumlee - October 19, 2020 at 04:51 PM

RB

“ I am so sad to hear of Gerald's passing but I know that Jesus received a wonderful man into the heavenly gates. Gerald was such an amazing man. He always made me feel like I was doing a good job for Rotary and the community and he always had a smile for me. When I met Gerald, the Springdale Rotary Club asked me to help them develop a budget. I was brand new to the club and didn't really know a lot about our financial structure yet. Gerald agreed to meet with me and teach me as much as he could about the finances. He came to my office and spent time sharing his knowledge. I will never forget that day. I'm sure that is a very small example of so many other stories and life legacies that Gerald left, but it had an impact on me. Gerald, you will be missed. Vicki and family, my deepest condolences.

Robyn Breshears

Robyn Breshears - October 19, 2020 at 02:49 PM

TR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.*

Tom Reed - October 19, 2020 at 02:30 PM

CB

“ *When I heard the news I immediately remember the times I shared with him the seven years we worked together. My most vivid memory was a group of trainees(me included) were taking a break while trying to open the store at crossover in Fayetteville, AR. He walked in and everyone but me jumped to attention, he shook his head and said "there was one smart one in the group(me), all the rest of you guys don't ever jump up when I show up, if you are taking a break, take a break, if your goofing off you won't be for long". His sense of humor was refreshing and his business sense impacted my life to shape me into the person I am today, he will be dearly missed. My condolences to the Harps family as he will be missed dearly.*

clarence ballard - October 19, 2020 at 02:20 PM

LJ

“ I am very saddened by the passing of Gerald. I worked with Gerald for 38 years from 1963 to his retirement in 2001. Gerald was always a mentor to me and I always held him in the highest esteem. He was always very generous to me and my family as well as the community. He and Vicki have always been an inspiration to me and my family and a very important part of our lives.

I always enjoyed the fishing trips, hunting trips and just being around Gerald. He always brightened my day and I will always treasure his memory. Gerald was not just my employer and supervisor, but a great friend. He will be sorely missed and someday I will meet him again.

Lonnie, Betty, Dereck and Brian Johnson

Lonnie Johnson - October 19, 2020 at 01:17 PM

BD

“ I worked for Gerald Harp in 1967 Harps North. I enjoyed my time there. Gerald will be missed by all that knew him. Bill Dewberry

Bill Dewberry - October 19, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald L. Harp.



October 19, 2020 at 11:53 AM

RH

“ It is very sad to hear of Gerald’s passing. I had the honor of counting him as mentor and friend for over forty years of employment with Harps. I count it a privilege in this life to have been associated with his legacy. I will share in grief with the family but also celebrate the joy of a life well spent.

Russell and Kathy Hutchens - October 19, 2020 at 11:23 AM

SD

“ Another fallen classmate, Gerald always had time to be friendly and kind to everyone. Condolences to his wife and family.

shirley Denney - October 19, 2020 at 07:36 AM

LS

“ Gerald was my boss for 5 years right out of high school. He was always nice to me and I thought the world him. Prayers goes to family.

Loretta Stamps-Easton

loretta Stamps/Easton - October 18, 2020 at 11:14 PM

KS

“ We were so sorry to hear of the passing of Gerald. He was a great man of vision and a mentor for me and so many. I would always smile at all the fine work he was doing in Rotary and the Kiwanian in me was secretly jealous and competitive! It made me want to do more with my projects to bring them up to the high level he had set for his club and himself. We should never forget what Gerald did for Springdale and the surrounding area. He was a class act. Vicky and he were quite the team and a force to be reckoned with! They complemented each other and I'm glad they found each other and were happy together. Gerald, job well done and Rest In Peace now brother. ❤️🙏❤️🙏

Kellye Smith - October 18, 2020 at 10:06 PM

MF

“ My condolence to the family.
I had 21 enjoyable year working at 198 in Rector.

Mary Featherston

Mary Featherston - October 18, 2020 at 10:03 PM

CS

“ Gerald was one of Springdale's finest. Rest in Peace my friend, you will be missed.
Cindy(Poling)Strawser
SHS 1963

Cindy (Poling) Strawser - October 18, 2020 at 09:12 PM

DB

Praying for the family!! I will always remember when I worked at price cutter in poteau Oklahoma. Gerald came in for inspection , it was my birthday. He sang happy birthday to me in front of all the customers! A really good man!

Darlene Beason - October 18, 2020 at 10:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald L. Harp.*



October 18, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ *I'm very sad of the passing of Gerald. I worked for Gerald and Don for 25 years and enjoyed working for Gerald. Gerald was a mentor to me. I loved working for him. Gerald lived his employees and the grocery business. Gerald was truly a leader of Springdale. May he Rest In Peace.*
Bob Downum

Bob Downum - October 18, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ *Gerald was one of the first Harp brothers I met 1966 moving to Springdale. His smile and friendly spirit was obvious welcoming all who he met. We last visited at breakfast at the Fayetteville Village Inn a couple years back. Sad loosing a truly great friend and ambassador from and for Springdale, Arkansas. Prayers for his wife Vicki and extended families who all loved him.*

RON HARRISON - October 18, 2020 at 05:20 PM