



Edgar Harrell

October 10, 1924 - May 8, 2021

Edgar Alvin Harrell, age 96 of Clarksville, Tennessee, died Saturday, May 8, 2021 at the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Clarksville.

Funeral services will be conducted at Calvary Bible Church, 5245 Clarksville Highway, Joelton, TN 37080 at 10:30AM on Saturday, May 15th, with his son, Dr. David Harrell, and Chaplain Kenneth Kerr (retired Colonel United States Army) officiating.

Burial will follow at 2:30PM in Murray Memorial Gardens, Murray, Kentucky with his grandsons serving as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends at the Calvary Bible Church on Friday, May 14th from 4:00PM until 7:00PM and again on Saturday from 9:30AM until the hour of service at 10:30AM.

Mr. Harrell was born on October 10th, 1924 in Trigg County, Kentucky to the late Alvin H. and Myra Belle Atwood Harrell. He was a retired Distributor with Pella Window Company and was a member of Calvary Bible Church.

He was a decorated World War II Marine who fought in the Pacific theater aboard the USS INDIANAPOLIS and was the last surviving Marine of her sinking (the greatest naval catastrophe at sea in the history of the Navy), a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, and received an honorary promotion to the rank of Sergeant in 2018. More importantly, he was a godly man with a deep love for Christ and a longing for His return.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Ola Mae Harrell; daughter, Cathey Tierney; 4 brothers; and 2 sisters.

Survivors include his son, Dr. David (Nancy) Harrell; son-in-law, Dr. Joe (Alice) Tierney; brothers, Bob (Nancy) Harrell and Bill (Norma) Harrell; and grandchildren, Joseph (Dana) Harrell, Jana (Andrew) Zulewski, Joshua (Lara) Harrell, Joseph (Sarah) Tierney, Colin

Tierney, Ben Tierney, Ross Tierny, and Celeste Tierney; 14 great-grandchildren.

If so desired memorial contributions may be made to Shepherd's Fire at <http://www.shepherdsfire.org>

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME in Pleasant View is in charge of these arrangements. 6316 Highway 41A, Pleasant View, Tennessee 37146 (615) 746-4433 <http://www.austinandbell.com>

Cemetery

Murray Memorial Gardens
3223 US-641
Murray, KY, 42071

Events

MAY 14 Visitation 04:00PM - 07:00PM
Calvary Bible Church
5245 Clarksville Highway, Joelton, TN, US, 37080

MAY 15 Visitation 09:30AM - 10:30AM
Calvary Bible Church
5245 Clarksville Highway, Joelton, TN, US, 37080

MAY 15 Funeral Service 10:30AM
Calvary Bible Church
5245 Clarksville Highway, Joelton, TN, US, 37080

MAY 15 Interment 02:30PM
Murray Memorial Gardens
3223 US-641, Murray, KY, US, 42071

Comments



“ My thoughts to the family as I just learned of Mr. Harrell's passing. My mother, Aliese James Paschall, and her sister Lorraine James Miles (who is still living in Midland, TX), were dear childhood friends of Ola Mae in Kirksey, and my father, Ralph Paschall (of Lynn Grove), used to tell the story of the time he babysat for David and Cathey, with one of them hiding from him and dad thinking he'd lost someone else's child. Aliese and Lorraine's brothers were Joe Pat and Cordis James, also friends from Kirksey. Ola Mae and Edgar were names recalled fondly throughout all their lives. I met them a few years ago at Joe Pat and Lola James's 50th anniversary celebration (as I recall) in Murray and was so delighted to have had the opportunity.

Joyce Paschall
Palatine, IL

Joyce Paschall - June 01 at 01:27 PM



“ Edgar: I'll never forget our first meeting at my first Indy reunion in 2005. I met you and your lovely wife Ola, and you signed your book for me. You'r Indy presentations were captivating! (I wish I had your booming voice.) One of my favorite quotes from your presentations was from the time you were out in the water waiting for rescue. You said: "There is a time to pray, and then their is a time to PRAY!!!" Today you're being laid to rest. God bless you Edgar and your family. It's not "goodbye", it is just: "I will see you later." Please say hello to my Uncle Bill for me.

Michael William Emery
Nephew and Namesake
William Friend Emery
S1/Quartermaster Striker
USS Indianapolis CA-35
MIA/Lost At Sea
Gone But Never Forgotten

Michael Emery - May 15 at 07:03 PM



“ Edgar Harrell my good friend I will miss you till we meet again. I will always remember our wonderful chats and cards and letters and meeting you and Ola at 2 of the Reunions I went to. Rest Well with your crew and Family . Semper Fi.

Rory Latimer - June 02 at 08:24 AM



“ RIP Sgt Ed-

In the brief time we got to know you, your wife and family, your kind spirited heart touched us both so deeply. Our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the entire Harrell family.

We will truly miss you and we will always cherish your memory and we know you are now at peace with your faithful wife, daughter, shipmates and family that went on before you. We will never forget you and we will make sure we never forget to keep the memory of you and all the brave men of the USS Indianapolis alive.

Our Christian love

David and Diana Pallante

david pallante - May 15 at 08:44 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edgar Harrell.



May 14 at 12:09 AM



“ The USS Indianapolis Student Legacy Members would like to send our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Edgar. Mr. Edgar will be missed and our thoughts and prayers are will all of you.

Julie Haas - May 13 at 02:35 PM



“ USS Indianapolis Student Legacy Organization purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Edgar Harrell.



USS Indianapolis Student Legacy Organization - May 13 at 02:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edgar Harrell.



May 12 at 09:00 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Gene Meenach - May 11 at 03:50 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Edgar Harrell.



May 11 at 12:12 PM



“ Edgar my Sergeant was so on mission. So dedicated to never allow anyone to forget the men he served and sacrificed with and were lost so long ago. While on mission I witnessed the many lives he touched, it was as though all human walls were cleared away and souls were exchanging life's energy. Energy of love, faith, and everything good. I heard his story of survival so many times and each time he would express it a little different. One of the toughest parts after the passing of his dear wife Ola Mae, was when he would tell of her waiting for him to return from the war and how it kept him alive while in the water. He loved, honored and cherished her with all his heart. Once again she has had to wait for him to come home. While telling his story, each time he would get emotional at a different point and afterwards the ever professional would critique himself. He would say “I did it again, I got emotional” Then he would say, “but I just can't help it, sometimes when I'm telling the story I feel like I'm still in the water”. Edgar was still healing his wounds from long ago and while doing that, he was healing others by sharing his faith and goodness. What was one of the greatest human tragedies of loss during the war, he worked to heal not only himself but others. Traveling on mission with Sgt. Harrell was an honor and a duty to all those who have served our nation and paid the ultimate sacrifice of life or the wounds of war. All Marines know that one day we will knock at the pearly gates of heaven and say “Another Marine Reporting in as Ordered” Edgar surely has and that is why we are laid to rest in uniform.

Semper Fidelis Sergeant

Captain Scott Montefusco USMC



Scott Montefusco - May 11 at 10:43 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael McGrew - May 11 at 10:33 AM



“ Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni. Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever. Thank you Edgar for your service to this nation. U.S. marine Corps, WWII. Survivor of the U.S.S. Indianapolis sinking.



Harry Simpson - May 11 at 12:14 AM



“ Love, Mark and Babe Smith and family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Edgar Harrell.



Love, Mark and Babe Smith and family - May 11 at 12:10 AM



“ One of the greatest blessings from owning Sweet P's was meeting and getting to know Mr. Harrell and Mrs. Ola. They always made us smile and we loved to see their faces. He was a true hero and we were privileged to listen to his story of courage and heroism. He deserves to be celebrated.....such a life well lived. Thoughts and prayers for the family.



Ken and Pat Williams - May 11 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the golden opportunity to set down and have lunch with this amazing man and his wife. I was so amazed by him every time we talked. He was a true hero and so proud of his history. We had breakfast at McDonalds on several occasions, every time I learned something new about being a person. I was there when they named part of 41A in his honor and when he was promoted after so long without it. So many memories of him I will never forget him. I know you talked mainly times about missing the His wife and one day he would be with her again. Goodbye my friend, you will not be forgotten.

Ken Williams

Ken Williams - May 10 at 11:52 PM



“ Mr. Edgar was a true ambassador for Jesus Christ. He was a true American Patriot and Hero of the highest order. I am so glad to have known him and heard him tell his life story. I know he is overwhelmed with joy at all he is seeing right now. See you son brother.

Derek - May 10 at 09:58 PM



“ I was privileged to have a chance meeting with this "young man" at McDonalds in Clarksville one Saturday morning. I have met 3 real heros in my life.. he was one.

Rick Shaner - May 10 at 08:01 PM



“ I never got to met you but we did share emails about my father who was on the ship with you and also a survivor Salvador V Maldonado and the rest of the crew members that were on board and we all look at the crew of the Indy as our heroes and now it's time you follow your crew where they have open arms to greet you in our heavenly fathers kingdom smooth sailing

Maria Maldonado Rodarte - May 10 at 07:36 PM



“ Several years ago, I had the privilege of Meeting Mr. Harrell when he came to speak at Sango Elementary where my son was a student. He is now 22 and every once and a while I would see him at Walmart. Always, so polite and just a kind, compassionate man. This world is a better place having him in it. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Gid Bless.



Diana Massey Moore - May 10 at 05:14 PM



“ You were a comrade of my great step uncle who was aboard the Indy and did not survive. Your legacy will not be forgotten. RIP HERO!

Lauren Stauffer - May 10 at 04:21 PM



“ I had the privilege of meeting Mr and Mrs Harrell , while working home health. They where amazing people, who touched my life greatly. I know they both are at the throne of Jesus.

Donna Brides - May 10 at 03:26 PM



“ R.I.P Hero May Gods Mercy comfort your family as you bask in the glory of our Lord and Savior

Leslie A Felton - May 10 at 03:11 PM



“ A hero, a faith-filled servant of the Lord, an educator to so many, and my friend I can't even begin to imagine the countless miles he traveled to share his story of the USS Indianapolis! Always such a pleasure to speak to him, whether it be by phone, email or in person. A gem of a man, and so full of love & encouragement. My life was blessed to have him in it. Your job is done, my friend - enjoy the reward of your lifetime of service in Paradise.

I'll remember you always, until we meet again!

And my deepest condolences to the entire family - you were his pride and joy!

Sincerely,

Maria Eck Bullard

Daughter of USS Indianapolis Survivor Harold Eck

USS Indianapolis CA35 Second Watch

Maria Eck Bullard - May 10 at 03:02 PM



“ Met the Corporal when he made a presentation to the Lebanon EAA, A real hero but above all a great MARINE. Semper Fi. Michael McGrew USMC

Michael - May 11 at 10:27 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edgar Harrell.



May 10 at 02:50 PM