



Robert Andrew Harper

February 2, 1926 - June 9, 2017

Robert Andrew (Bob) Harper, Jr., of Rockdale, TX, passed away after a brief illness on June 9, 2017. A memorial service for family and friends is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at St. John's United Methodist Church, Rockdale, Texas. Final interment will be at a later date in the Palmerville Cemetery in Palmerville, North Carolina.

Bob was born on February 2, 1926 and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. He was the son of Robert Andrew Sr. and Florence Gass Harper. After high school, he attended Brevard College obtaining an Associate's Degree and then attended the University of Tennessee where he received his bachelor's degree in engineering. After graduation, Bob secured a position as a Mechanical Engineer with Alcoa Aluminum in Badin, North Carolina. He served in the U.S. Army, stateside, during the Korean War, returning to his work at Alcoa after discharge. While in Badin, he met and married Betty Lou Bivens on July 6, 1957. Together, they raised 3 sons. His longstanding career, almost 40 years, with Alcoa took him from North Carolina to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and then to Rockdale, Texas, Summerville, South Carolina, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Sao Luis, Brazil, before returning to Rockdale where he retired. A devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and uncle, Bob was an avid reader enjoying mystery novels. He also enjoyed visiting Civil War battle sites, solving crossword puzzles, woodworking, and gardening, or at least the idea of gardening, not so much the actual work of gardening. He

amused his kids and grandkids with the ability to wiggle his ears and his dry wit. He was a member of St. Johns United Methodist Church.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Betty, and their sons, Robert Andrew III (Andy) of Houston, James William (Jim) and wife Connie of Dallas, and John Charles and wife Susan of Atlanta, Georgia. He is also survived by 4 grandchildren, Libby, Wes, Will and Georgia. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Etha Harper Harrison and half-brother Louis Harper.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials be made to the Lucy Hill Patterson Memorial Library, 201 Ackerman Street, Rockdale, Texas 76567 or St. John's United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 168, Rockdale, Texas 76567. The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Stephani Galvan, Bob's caregiver, and the staff of Little River Healthcare – Rockdale Hospital for their outstanding and compassionate care.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's United Methodist Church
1700 Hillcrest Dr
Rockdale, TX 76567

Tribute Wall

DH

“ So sorry, we are out of state and will miss the service. Robert was a kind and interesting man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Dillie & Howard Harrison - June 14, 2017 at 12:07 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Andrew Harper.



June 13, 2017 at 03:26 PM

JC

“ We express our deepest condolences to Betty, Andy, Jim, and John for the loss of Bob. Bob was a kind, loving and generous man. We came to know Bob and Betty through our daughter Stephani who was Bob's caregiver. Words cannot describe the way Bob and Betty took in and cared for our daughter. We will dearly miss you Bob . May you Rest In Peace and the perpetual light shine on you. Love , Joe & Elizabeth Collette

joe collette - June 13, 2017 at 01:08 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Andrew Harper.



June 13, 2017 at 12:51 PM

RS

“ Rick Bond and Charles Santos purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Robert Andrew Harper.



Rick Bond and Charles Santos - June 13, 2017 at 12:40 PM



“ Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Robert Andrew Harper.



June 13, 2017 at 08:33 AM

GS

“ George and Cynthia Santos purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Robert Andrew Harper.



George and Cynthia Santos - June 13, 2017 at 12:26 AM

SG

“ I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to care for Bob. I not only got to be his caregiver, but was blessed to have a special friendship with such a kind and caring man. I will miss him telling me all of his interesting stories about his life, going out to lunch and our walks down the street. You will definitely be missed Bob, but never forgotten!!!! Rest In Peace!!!! Love, Stephani Galvan

Stephani Galvan - June 12, 2017 at 11:19 PM