



Arnold "Arnie" Harper

October 30, 1937 - March 14, 2024

ADRIAN- Arnold "Arnie" Harper, 86, of Adrian, Michigan died late Thursday evening, March 14, 2024 at the Hospice of Lenawee Home.

Arnie was born in Hamilton, AL on October 30, 1937 along with his twin sister, Arnetia, the children of Carl James and Agnes Godsey) Harper. Arnie attended Adrian Public Schools while growing up and was active playing sports; his height was a great attribute when playing basketball. He graduated in 1957 and went on to attend Adrian College.

On September 11, 1996 Arnie married Sherry Rae (Averill) Gamble in Toledo, OH and they have enjoyed 27 years together.

Arnie was the owner of A-1 Sewing Machine where he worked on commercial and residential sewing machines for over 50 years. He had loyal customers who appreciated how he made house calls and could fix any issue with their sewing machine. Arnie loved the world of politics and worked for Madison Township for 25 years, with 17 of those years in the role of Madison Twp. Clerk. Arnie and Sherry were involved in local political engagements over the years and had many friends. He retired in 2015 from Brazeway after 10 years of working on the line and filling the role of union representative. Arnie and Sherry are long time members of Madison Church of the Nazarene. For relaxation, Arnie would watch his favorite football team, the University of Alabama and cheer on the Crimson Tide. Fall season also meant additional yardwork, where no leaf was safe when it fell to the ground in Arnie's yard. It was not uncommon for Arnie to pick up leaves and sticks in his yard and go

inside the house to reassess the yard. If there were new leaves on the lawn, Arnie would head back out and take care of them. Arnie took great care of his antique red Farmall tractor that he used for many years.

In addition to his wife, Sherry, Arnie is survived by his children, Lana (Mike) Stripling, Arnold Harper, Jr., Charlene Cline (Troy Finholm) and Susan McGuire; grandchildren, Adam Stripling, Savannah Stripling, Jacob McGuire, Tristan Wilkerson and Jake Harper; 5 great-grandchildren; and his twin sister, Arnetia Brion. Arnie was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Matt McGuire and siblings, Lawrence Harper, Mary Raper, Evelyn Elliott, and Roxanne Figy. Visitation for Arnie will be held on Friday, March 22, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Anna Good and Pastor Dave Hershberger officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Neighbors of Hope in Adrian, Michigan. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 22. 1:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Tribute Wall

NK

“ *Sherry, I just came across Arnie's obit in a search. I am so sorry for your loss. He was such a good person. Nevie*

Nevie O Korte - December 03, 2025 at 12:35 PM

AL

“ *I am so sad to just now be finding out about Arnie's passing. I only had the pleasure to meet him after 2020 when I found him through a Google search for sewing machine repair. I drove 45 minutes one way to have my 4 machines serviced by him because he was kind, helpful and honest. My condolences to his wife who always took the calls to set up the appts for service and was always so sweet and helpful and all his loved ones that grieve his absence in their lives.*

Alicia - October 20, 2024 at 11:26 AM

DW

“ *So sorry for your loss Sherry. Arnie was a kind man and always willing to help anyone in need. May he rest in peace. Dick and Carolyn Ward.*

Dick and Carolyn Ward. - March 22, 2024 at 09:07 AM

NP

Arnie, you are definitely missed, you were a good friend, my wife and I first met you about some advice of our property across the road some, your advice helped us alot, that was around 25 years ago, and we became friends, you and your wife were always so kind to us, I miss seeing you, we will see each other again, thanks for being so kind,

Nate and Robin Perez - April 01, 2024 at 07:14 PM

CF

“ Chad & Jessica Fowler purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Arnold "Arnie" Harper.



Chad & Jessica Fowler - March 21, 2024 at 02:38 PM

SB

“ Sue and Mike Bess purchased the Fiery Lily and
Rose for the family of Arnold "Arnie" Harper.



Sue and Mike Bess - March 21, 2024 at 10:46 AM

TV

“ The VanDorp's purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Arnold "Arnie"
Harper.



The VanDorp's - March 20, 2024 at 01:55 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for
the family of Arnold "Arnie" Harper.



March 20, 2024 at 09:29 AM

JS

“ Sherry and family, so sorry for your loss. It is a loss for our community as well. Prayers that your memories are a comfort at this time

Jill Shaffer - March 19, 2024 at 09:45 PM

DC

“ He was a Great man loved to talk with him when I took my Sewing machine over to him you guys are in my prayers 🙏❤️

Darlene Carson - March 19, 2024 at 12:18 PM

CS

“ He was a GOOD Man I had many great conversation with him. My prayers to the family.

Cletus B Smith - March 19, 2024 at 11:23 AM

MA

“ He will always be remembered by me for the wonderful kindness and respect he showed to my son with special needs. May he rest in peace.

Mary - March 18, 2024 at 06:54 PM

CH

When my dad died Ivan Shafer I didn't have any money to buy a outfit for the funeral so Arnold gave me money to buy an outfit and shoes and a purse. He was a good person. Rest in peace

Charlene - March 19, 2024 at 01:32 PM

CL

“ Arnie always had a smile and was quite the jokester when he visited Dr Dawson’s office.
He also kept my sewing machine going for many years.
Prayers to his family during this difficult time.



Claudia LaBarr - March 18, 2024 at 04:15 PM

NB

“ Nadine Buzzeo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arnold "Arnie" Harper.

Nadine Buzzeo - March 16, 2024 at 06:59 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Arnold "Arnie" Harper.



March 16, 2024 at 06:59 PM

SB

“ Sending my love to Arnie's family. He was such a kind man. I enjoyed contributing toward his love for chocolate covered cherries any time I had a chance. Secret's out now my dear friend, your daughter Susie contributed most of them. Wink wink! May you find your loved ones in Heaven, Arnie.

Sue Bess - March 16, 2024 at 06:11 PM