



Thomas William Harper

August 14, 1949 - May 16, 2021

Thomas William Harper, born August 14, 1949, in Blount County, Tennessee, passed away at home on Sunday, May 16, 2021 of Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Tom grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School. He returned to East Tennessee to attend the University of Tennessee where he studied industrial engineering and was a proud member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

In Oct. 1979 Tom began dating Janet McCampbell, whom he swore he had been in love with since spotting her at the Fountain City Ballpark in 1961. After a whirlwind courtship, he convinced her to marry him, and did so on March 1, 1980 before she could change her mind. Shortly thereafter, Tom established Harper Porsche Audi Jaguar. Tom loved cars all of his life, and channeled that passion into the creation of Harper Auto Square, which encompasses 7 dealerships, 13 franchises, a body shop, and more classic cars than Tom would likely admit to. Tom proudly served as president of the Porsche and Audi Dealer Councils throughout the 1980's and 90's.

Silent in his constant generosity, Tom loved to help people, especially those in recovery, and was so forgiving of failures. He created a culture at the dealerships that honored relationships above all else, and treated his employees as he did his family, with love and respect. His daughter, Samma Bromley, and son, Shannon Harper, are carrying on the traditions of respect and integrity that Tom created at work and in life.

Tom will be remembered for his mastery of April Fools jokes, his love of Eric Clapton, his love for his family, his friendship with Bill W., and his great big smile that lit up the room.

Tom was preceded in death by his mother, Samma McCrary Harper, father, John Dickson Harper Sr., and brother, Rodgers McCrary Harper.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Janet, his daughter Samma Harper Bromley (Morgan), son Shannon McCrary Harper (Emily), and his five favorite people in the world, Dell

Harper (9), Deeds (7) and Tommy Bromley (4), Charlotte (7) and Reynie Harper (5); his brother, John Dickson Harper, II (Caddy); sisters-in-law, Mary M. Bell (John), Trish M. Thompson, Bruce McCampbell (Elaine), Rebecca M. Fenn (Mark) and Rachael McCampbell (Curtis Stewart); many beloved nieces and nephews, as well as his much loved dogs, Dixie and Honey. We are grateful to UT Hospice and to Mary Sowell for making his final days more comfortable.

A memorial service led by Dr. Bill Barron and Rev. Mark Lampley will be held at Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church at 3:00 PM, on Sunday, May 30th (masks are not required), with reception to follow in Barron Hall. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the UT Medical Center Maternal Fetal Research Fund. Online memorials may be made by visiting utmedicalcenter.org/give-now/. Arrangements by Rose Funeral and Cremation - Mann. Online condolences may be made at <http://www.rosefuneraltn.com>.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Rose Mortuary - May 28 at 01:09 PM



“ 89 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - May 28 at 11:24 AM



“ There were pranks around every corner, but he always had my back. He always called me "family", and I knew he meant it. His and Janet's greatest gift to me was letting me help raise those rascally kids. I love you, Tom. Goodbye, my friend.

Danyell Schoene - May 28 at 08:56 AM



“ I have known Tom Harper since 1985 and continued my relationship with his firm till this day. My consistent comment to inquiring customers and those countless surveys is Harpers business model is based on integrity. I trust them, a unique comment in this day and time. As a young teacher I was treated with the same respect as the guy buying a six figure car. I became convinced early on that the dealership had a genuine interest in my welfare. That attitude and integrity came from the top. My sincere condolences to the family and thank you Tom. You will be missed.

Elliott Stroupe - May 25 at 09:48 PM



“ Shannon and Team,

We remember and thank Tom and your team for your dedication to Jaguar for over 40 years. As the leader of Harper Jaguar, Tom provided a brand experience that delighted customers and was a top performing Jaguar Pride retailer many years over. His passion for people and the car business could be seen in everything that he did. Our thoughts are with your family and the Harper Jaguar team.

Your team at Jaguar North America,

Karen Hamade
James Crowley
Laura Garbarini
Dave Stein

Karen Hamade - May 21 at 08:26 AM



“ Few people have left such an indelible mark on my life as Tom. If it is possible for a straight guy to fall in love with another then I confess. From the moment I walked into his dealership for the first time - with all the fear and loathing that is possible when contemplating the purchase of a new vehicle and expecting to be fleeced at any moment - to walking out hours later having made a new friend, discovering that we shared the same hometown (Mount Lebanon. PA) and love of cars and car stories, then I was sold. His love of his fellow man was irrepressible. His basic goodness, undeniable. His warmth and good nature unforgettable. His legacy of course is in the beautiful children he raised along with his amazing wife Jan. But also in the businesses he created and the atmosphere he fostered: putting the customer first and foremost both in sales and service. He is gone from us way too soon and another like him will be a long time coming. Rest in peace Tom, and save a place at the table. Sarkis

Sarkis Chobanian - May 20 at 11:11 AM



“ I did business with Tom for over 30 years and it was always a pleasure to be around him. He will be missed. Steve Tatum

Steve Tatum - May 20 at 07:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas William Harper.



May 19 at 08:46 AM



“ Shannon and family,
We lost a True Gentleman this past Sunday. Tom was a very special person and a very true friend. I have allows cherish his friendship. He will be dearly missed. May God bless each of you! Phi Alpha Henny

Henny Weissinger - May 19 at 06:07 AM