



Dr. Jerry D. Harrah

December 23, 1936 - April 11, 2015

On the morning of April 11, 2015, the Reverend Dr. Jerry David Harrah, 78, of Hurricane, left this life and went to meet his Maker. He was preceded in death by his parents Lemon E. and Virgie Lowe Harrah, infant daughter Rebecca Lynn, infant grandson Bryant Gregory and brother Danny.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 59 years and 10 months, Marlene Ashworth Harrah, children, Dr. Gregory Harrah (Mary), Nancy Salkeld (David), Dr. Jason Harrah (Lauren); grandchildren Patrick Salked (Helen), Benjamin Salked, Badyn Nettles and Sophia Harrah; brother Charles Harrah (Peggy), sister in-law Dianne Harrah, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Before accepting the call to the ministry of our Lord, he was employed by Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. Co. and United Airlines. After graduating from Union Theological Seminary he became an Associate Minister at First Presbyterian Church for 18 months and then answered a call from Teays Valley Presbyterian Church where he remained for 30 years. During this time he earned his D-Min from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and along with the membership of the church, Teays Valley Manor was built for the elderly and disabled. For most of his ministry he remained a member of the Committee on Aging for the Presbytery of WV. Six months after his retirement he became Supply Pastor of Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church in Barboursville, WV where he remained for 10 years. While there he was instrumental in restoring their original chapel and installing beautiful stained glass windows in the main sanctuary.

He will be missed and remembered by many. Two of the things he loved most, were the Christmas season and his interaction with children during the 'children's sermonette' during morning worship.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations in Jerry's name to St. Jude's Children's Hospital PO Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis TN 38148-0142, Shriners Hospital for Children, Office of Development 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa FL 33607 or WVU Children's Hospital Development Office PO Box 8200 (ROC 117) Morgantown WV 26505. Funeral service for Dr. Harrah will be 2:00pm Tuesday at Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church, 955 Main Street, Barboursville WV 25504 with Rev. Kevin Channell and Rev. Patrick Ryan officiating. Burial will follow in Tyler Mountain Memory Gardens, Cross

Lanes.

The family will receive friends on Monday from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane.

Anyone wishing to leave an online condolence or memory may do so at: www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com

Chapman Funeral Home, 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane WV 25526 is honored to handle Rev. Dr. J. D. Harrah's arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Tyler Mountain Memory Gardens

5233 Rocky Fork Road
Cross Lanes, WV 25313

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane
3941 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526
(304) 757-7531
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral Service

APR 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church
955 Main Street
Barboursville, WV 25540

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Jerry D. Harrah*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM

MH

“ *Our sincere thanks to all of you for your memories of Jerry and kind thoughts for us. We are comforted in knowing that he touched your lives in so many ways.*
Marlene

Marlene Harrah - May 07, 2015 at 05:32 PM

AD

“ *Greg so sorry for you and your family during this time - it's been a long time but I remember your dad. May the Spirit give each of you peach with the Lord's promise that we will all be together again! Your friend always, Art Dolin & family*

Arthur Dolin - April 25, 2015 at 10:58 AM

LN

“ *Greg and Family. We are so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers at this time.*

The Neeleys - Joe, Libby, Barrett and Brandon

Libby Neeley - April 16, 2015 at 06:59 PM

BM

“ *Jerry was a great person and a good friend of my brother Dan P. Breece. WE have know him for many years and are sad to hear of his passing. He was also funny and humorous and kept us laughing.*
My deepest sympathies to the family.
Barbara McVay

Barbarbara Breece McVay - April 16, 2015 at 10:53 AM

BN

“ *Jerry touched many lives. We were fortunate to have him at Kuhn MPC as the Lord's ambassador. He was truly a servant of God. We will always have fond memories of Jerry. May the Lord bless and comfort the Harrah family.*
Berman & Helen Noe

Berman Noe - April 15, 2015 at 01:15 PM

JL

“ Jerry was a great pastor and a wonderful human being. Our many moves sent us to other places and other churches but I have special memories of the years at TVP. I will always be thankful to Jerry for helping our daughter through a rough time. Condolences to the family.

Jean M. Life

Jean M. Life - April 14, 2015 at 04:39 PM

JD

“ Greg and family,
We were so sorry to hear of you dad's passing. I have many fold memories of him back in the day when we were younger. He was a man of God and will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.
Jack and Sheila Van Dykr

Jack Van Dyke - April 14, 2015 at 01:42 PM

DF

“ Greg & Family,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Your father was a great man. I remember the times spent at Charleston Charlies baseball games at Watt Powell Park. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

Darrell Ferguson, Greensboro, NC

Darrell Ferguson - April 14, 2015 at 09:21 AM

CC

“ Jerry Harrah was a wonderful influence on me and my peers during our formative years, and he played an important role in some key moments of my life. I'm grateful to have benefited from his strength, gentleness, wisdom, and playfulness, and I'll always remember him fondly. My thoughts are with the family today.
Christina Craigo, Boulder, CO

Christina Craigo - April 14, 2015 at 07:33 AM

DS

“ Our thoughts & prayers are with you all. I am sure many of us have countless fond memories of this "great servant of God". May God Bless you all.
Rev. David Shaffer & Family

David Shaffer - April 13, 2015 at 06:18 PM

JL

“ I find it difficult to accept that Jerry Harrah is gone. My deepest sympathies to Marlene and the rest of the Harrah family. It seems like just last week we came to the Teays Valley Church and met the Pope (actually it was 1985). Children's baptisms, Christmas stories, and wonderful memories followed, and it seems like yesterday TVPC was packed to the rafters on Jerry's retirement. God Bless the Harrah family and God Bless Jerry Harrah. Heaven suddenly seems like a much more joyful place today.

Jim Lees

JIM LEES - April 13, 2015 at 04:54 PM

GH

“ We send our sincere sympathy to Marlene and the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jerry was an amazing man.
Gerald and Sharon Hager

Gerald & Sharon Hager - April 13, 2015 at 03:39 PM

AC

“ Dear Marlene and Family,

Please accept my deepest sympathy on Jerry's death. I knew him at Charleston High School. We renewed our acquaintance at Cedar Lakes when the northern [me] and southern [Jerry] presbyterian churches in West Virginia were in dialogue many years ago.

You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers as you deal with your loss.

Anne Ten Eyck Carroll

Anne Ten Eyck Carroll - April 13, 2015 at 03:19 PM

JF

“ My heart goes out to you all on the passing of your wonderful husband and father. I was blessed to land at TVPC before he retired, and able to listen to his inspiring messages. Due to his sense of humor and creativity, I will never forget his sermon "Nobody wears hats anymore". Donna, in her joint sense of silliness, had the choir put on a hat at the end of the sermon as Francis started the final hymn. The congregation started laughing, and Jerry just stood there "bumfuzzled" (as my Dad always said) until he turned around and saw us.

My prayers of comfort go out to you all.

Julia Myers Fluharty

Julia Myers Fluharty - April 13, 2015 at 02:45 PM

DF

“ Dear Marlene and family:

Jerry is the only person I know who loved Christmas more than Sue and I. After one of the foster children Christmas parties, I jokingly asked Jerry if one had to go through heaven to get to the North Pole. His response (and I'm not sure he was totally joking): "I think the North Pole is IN heaven."

To me and my family he was pastor, friend, mentor and counselor. We share with you in your sorrow -- and joy.

Dan and Sue Fields; Megan, Erin and Michael Fields

Dan Fields - April 13, 2015 at 02:31 PM

LM

“ A wonderful man who impacted the lives of so many families. I am grateful for the positive influence he had on me. I have great memories of my years as a member of TVPC. He left a legacy with his family, friends and congregation. My sympathy to Marlene, Greg, Nancy, Jason and families.

Lori Jett Matthews - April 13, 2015 at 01:27 PM

JC

“ Marlene, so sorry, you are in my thoughts and prayers, I am in Florida full time now but have so many wonderful memories of Jerry. Love June Cooper

June Cooper - April 13, 2015 at 01:25 PM

ML

“ Goodnight to a good friend, and also Good Morning, in the respect that I will see you again. I always enjoyed listening to your stories and our hours of conversation at presbytery meeting. Have a wonderful afterlife, my friend. See you up yonder! Michael Lykens

Michael Lykens - April 13, 2015 at 12:48 PM

KC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Marlene, Nancy, Greg and all the family. Jerry was such a huge part of our family growing up in the church. He was a counsellor and confidant and very important figure in my personal and spiritual life. I'm a better man because of him.

Kevin Conaway

Kevin Conaway - April 13, 2015 at 11:43 AM

CL

“ There's not sufficient space here to share all the wonderful memories I have of Jerry. My family and I were honored to know him, and to be members of his congregation at TVPC. His humanity and his humility served him well as he in turn served all of us.

Perhaps a most fond, though not truly "sacred" memory, was the time my children realized that we lived next-door to God (on Hillsdale Circle). But that was really correct, in a sense, as Jerry made God real for all of us. And now, he is truly with his God.

Our condolences to the family. You will always carry him in your heart, as he still carries you in his. May God bless you all and give you comfort and peace.

Ron and Chris Leichliter and family

Chris Leichliter - April 13, 2015 at 11:12 AM

JG

“ I am so saddened at the loss of "The Bible School Man" his impact was so great and his wisdom and wit will be missed. My best wishes to the Harrah family.

Jennifer Chapman Garrigan - April 13, 2015 at 09:41 AM

WE

“ Jerry was a great influence and friend to me. I enjoyed my time serving as an elder and Sunday school supt with Jerry's support. He was always there for me. He will be missed here on earth but the good Lord will enjoy his sense of humor and great jokes. Rest in Peace Jerry

Will Edwards - April 13, 2015 at 08:36 AM

DA

“ As a child he played games with me and took my sis away from me, as a teen he counseled me, he gave me a ride as I left for the military, as a parent he gave the same care and love to my children. He made us laugh until we cried and made us think we he had a serious side. His humor and love will be missed.

David Ashworth

DAvid Ashworth - April 13, 2015 at 07:19 AM

JS

“ My sincere sympathy and much love to Marlene and all the family.

Judie Smith - April 13, 2015 at 07:01 AM

DB

“ It is with a sad heart that I write this memory of an awesome pastor who influenced my life and the life of my children. My children , Pam, Mark and David Strickland's formative years were spent at Teays Valley Presbyterian Church. Jerry not only baptized my children, he also performed the wedding ceremony for all three. Not only was he there for me during the happy times but he was also there for me during the sad times. He was there during the death of my granddaughter, Bethany Rose Dolin and counseled me during my divorce from Steve. Thanks to Jerry and the influence of Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, my three children grew up as Christian parents for their children and all children and grandchildren are actively participating in their church. God has many crowns to be placed in his crown. My condolences go out to Marlene and the children especially my little "pumpkin boy" I love you Jerry and someday I and my children will see you again.

Dr. Mary Lou Strickland Baker

Dr. Mary Lou Strickland Baker - April 13, 2015 at 06:52 AM

AB

“ *Dear Marlene and Family,
What a truly amazing man that touched so many...including me. You will be in my
thoughts and prayers.
With love and caring,
Anne Baldwin Loudermilk
Lake Gaston (Bracey), VA*

anne baldwin - April 12, 2015 at 09:49 PM