



Kathleen Harper

March 12, 1949 - May 11, 2026

Celebrating the Life of
Kathleen "Kathy" Harper
March 12, 1949 – May 11, 2026

With heavy hearts, but endless love and gratitude for the beautiful life she lived, we celebrate the life of Kathleen “Kathy” Harper, who passed away peacefully on May 11, 2026, at the age of 77, in the comfort of her home with her loving husband by her side. Kathy and John have been married for 48 beautiful years.

Born on March 12, 1949, in Mobile, Alabama, Kathy lived a life filled with laughter, strength, compassion, and unconditional love. To know Kathy was to know warmth, kindness, and unwavering support. She had a gift for making people feel at home, cared for, and truly loved.

Kathy’s life was built around family. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, proud sister, cherished Nana and Great Nana, trusted friend, confidant, and hero to so many. Her greatest happiness came from the people she loved, and she spent her life creating memories, traditions, and moments that will continue to live on through her family for generations to come.

She shared a beautiful life with her loving husband and best friend, John Harper. Together they built a family filled with love, laughter, and strength.

Kathy leaves behind her husband, John Harper; sister, Evelyn Gayhart; her sons, Paul (Julie) Rugenski, Eugene Rugenski, and Johnny Jr. "J.J." (Nicole) Harper; and her daughters, Elizabeth "Lisa" (Shaun) Fogarty, and Wendy (Steve) McKervey.

She was an incredibly proud Nana to Nicholas Szymanski, Emily Rugenski, Chase McKervey, P.J. Morang, Jessica Rugenski, Isabel Fogarty, Ethan Harper, Avery Harper, Abigail Fogarty, and Thatcher Harper. Her love also extended to her precious great-grandchildren, Claire Szymanski and Kinna McKervey, who brought her so much joy.

Kathy was preceded in death by her loving parents, Bernice and Burnham Gayhart; her beloved granddaughter, Trisha McKervey; and her siblings, Robert "Butch" Patton, Diana Lamb, Linda Vermiglio, Donald "Bubby" Gayhart, Margaret Widick, Geraldine "Gerry" Pascua, Gene Gayhart, and Frank Gayhart.

One of Kathy's happiest places was Caseville during Cheeseburger Weekend — a tradition she absolutely loved. Whether surrounded by family, friends, laughter, music, or simply making memories together, those moments reflected exactly who Kathy was: someone who loved deeply and lived fully.

Though our hearts are broken, we celebrate a life beautifully lived and a woman who gave so much of herself to everyone around her. Her love will continue to guide her family, her laughter will echo into treasured memories, and her spirit will remain present in every gathering, every story shared, and every moment of togetherness.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Kathy's life at:

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons
36900 Schoenherr Rd.
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., with Family and Friends remembrance comments beginning at 7:00 p.m.

In honoring Kathy, we remember a life filled with love, devotion, laughter, and family — the very things she treasured most.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Sharing of Memories

MAY 15. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathleen Harper.

May 15 at 03:55 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Kathleen Harper.



May 15 at 11:44 AM



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



May 15 at 07:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathleen Harper.

May 15 at 07:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen Harper.



May 14 at 02:10 PM



“ Rest In peace Aunt Kathy. Much Love to the Family.
Andrea Patton Conder (Kentucky) ,daughter of Bobby Patton SR.



Andrea Conder - May 14 at 09:56 AM



“ Kathy D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Harper.

Kathy D. - May 14 at 01:01 AM



“ Jo-Jo Hughes & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Harper.

Jo-Jo Hughes & Family - May 13 at 09:38 PM

JF

“ *Jo-Jo Hughes & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Kathleen Harper.*



Jo-Jo Hughes & Family - May 13 at 09:38 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen Harper.*



May 13 at 09:32 PM

MF

“ *John, Lisa, Shaun and the whole Harper Family,*

It was a blessing to have known Kathy and the family for the 25+ years we have been Caseville neighbors. Always the first to offer help and friendship, you gave real meaning to what it is to be good neighbors.

We will certainly miss Kathy's joyful (and award winning!) Cheeseburger Festival decor. Her celebration was something we all looked forward to every year.

We will miss her.

With deepest sympathy, Mark and Mary Rastigue and family

m rastigue family - May 13 at 07:37 PM

MK

“Michelle & Tom Kennedy purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Kathleen Harper.



Michelle & Tom Kennedy - May 13 at 07:33 PM

MK

“Michelle & Tom Kennedy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Harper.

Michelle & Tom Kennedy - May 13 at 07:33 PM

FG

“frances G. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Kathleen Harper.



frances G. - May 13 at 07:06 PM

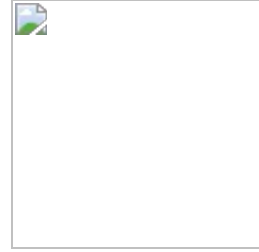


“A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathleen Harper.

May 13 at 06:08 PM



“ *Sending so much love and comfort to Lisa and family. Love from your Beauty Society family.*



Chrissy Penk Burkett - May 13 at 02:53 PM



💕😊💕 Thank you 💕😊💕

Lisa - May 13 at 05:57 PM



“ *You are the light that we must keep shining 🙏
You will be missed💔 Love you, ❤️🙏*

steve Mckervey - May 13 at 02:45 PM