



Donald R. Harrower

May 10, 1929 - July 12, 2017

On July 12, 2017, Donald Roy Harrower, age 88, passed away at the longtime Harrower residence on Mackey Road in Holly, Michigan. Don was born in 1929 in Detroit, to Alex and Esther (Rossiter) Harrower. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara, and missed her greatly these last couple years as his health declined. Don and Barb met at the neighborhood skating rink when she was just sixteen and he fourteen, and they both graduated from Cooley High School in Detroit. Don was a track star in high school, winning City championships in high and low hurdles, both indoor and outdoor. He also ran the anchor leg on Cooley's sprint relay and captained the city-champions Cardinal track team as a Senior in 1947. Don was President of Cooley's Senior class that year, and was a running back on the Cooley football team that won the City Championship, defeating St. Anthony in the Goodfellows Game before 35,000 fans in Brigg's Stadium (later known as Tiger Stadium). Don would go on to college at Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University), where he would continue to run track (hurdles, pole vault and sprints) for four more years, eventually attaining a Bachelors Degree in Physical Education with minors in Natural Science and Mathematics from MSNC on June 16, 1951.

Three days later Barbara Scott and Donald Harrower were married. They would spend the next 64 years together, until Barb's death in April of 2015. Barb and Don had three children—Jo, Scott and Delores (Lori). During the 1950s Barb was at home raising the children while Don was teaching and

finishing his Masters Degree in education from the University of Michigan. He soon became Principal at Mabel D. Bensett Junior High School in Holly. In those days teaching was not a well-paid profession, and in addition to his Administrative duties, Don coached athletics and drove the school bus for a few extra bucks to make ends meet.

In the summer of 1960 the family moved to Germany, where Don had been hired to teach in the US Army school system. They would live there for the next five years, with Barb working in the Army libraries and Don getting booted upstairs from the classroom to Vice Principal to the Office of the Superintendent of the Army schools. Barb was always an adventurer, and loved planning each summer's vacation travels. As a result, the Harrowers traveled extensively throughout Europe, Scandinavia, the British Isles, and the Middle East and Holy Land. The five years abroad were a seminal and formative period for the family, filled with exciting and unforgettable experiences.

Upon returning to Holly in 1965, Don, tired of Administration, moved back into the classroom ("where I always belonged", as he would put it). He would spend the next 20 years teaching in the Pontiac school system, while Barb worked in the Holly Area Schools as a teacher and librarian. Barb and Don loved skiing and were members of the Ski Patrol at Mt. Holly for many years, with Don serving as First Aid Instructor for the patrol and finally earning his National patch for his decades of service. He also served as the first President of the Oakland County Human Relations Council following its inception after the 1967 riots in Detroit. He was concerned with mental health issues, and was President of the Pontiac State Hospital Volunteer Group. Don and Barb loved spending their summers at the cottage they built on Lake Huron, near Goderich, Ontario, swimming, sailing, windsurfing and watching the sunsets. Don and Barb both retired from their teaching careers in 1984. They found a place in Florida near Don's brother John, and soon bought the catamaran sailboat, Straycat. They spent years wintering on their boat, exploring the Bahamas, the inland waterways of Florida, and the Florida Keys. Their

children and grandchildren enjoyed many cruises on Straycat over the years. Don and Barb had many lifelong friends from their youth, life in Holly, time overseas, the beach in Canada, and from their experiences cruising on their sailboat. They enjoyed traveling to visit friends, family, children and grandchildren, and were always ready for an adventure, especially if it involved "roughing it" or trying something they'd never done before, or better yet, introducing someone else to a new experience, preferably in an exotic and exciting place. Barb's enduring interest in genealogy led to their visiting cemeteries in many states to photograph and take rubbings of the graves of ancestors.

Don and Barb's children all went on to careers in Education. Their loving marriage serves as a shining example of long-term commitment for all of us. Don is survived by his three children: Jo (Alan) Ingman of Fenton, Michigan, Scott (Sarah Seidman) Harrower of Middlesex, Vermont, and Lori (Bob Leahy) Harrower of Holly, Michigan; four grandchildren: Mariah (Andrew Buehler) Carlsen of Victoria, Canada, Corey (Kathryn Enright) Harrower, of London, England, Tara Ingman, of Istanbul, Turkey, and Devon (Jasmyn Lee) Ingman of Fenton, Michigan; five great grandchildren: Bella, Aliyah, Lucia and Ivy of Victoria, Canada and Hazel of London, England; nieces Jay Crane of Florida and Carol Burnham of Colorado and 4 nephews: Ian and Don Harrower of Florida, Gary Scott of California and Jeffrey Scott of North Carolina. Don was preceded in death by his brother, John Harrower.

Donations in Don's honor may be made to:

Hartland Hospice

6211 Taylor Drive

Flint, MI 48507

(or your local hospice)

or to: Alzheimer's Association,

25200 Telegraph Rd., Suite100
Southfield, MI 48033

Cemetery Details

Olive Branch

Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 21. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Visitation

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

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Service

JUL 22. 1:00 PM (ET)

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(248) 634-8291

Tribute Wall

MG

“ *Don, barb. And I skied ice skated played together a lot. since we both lived in holly. Mi. God bless. Don Barb. and family. Forever, Michael. Grajcar, friend.*

michael. grajcar - February 11, 2022 at 09:37 PM

YF

“ *Your Victoria Beach Friends. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Donald R. Harrower.*



Your Victoria Beach Friends. - July 19, 2017 at 09:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald R. Harrower.*



July 18, 2017 at 09:08 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donald R. Harrower.*



July 18, 2017 at 08:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald R. Harrower.*



July 17, 2017 at 08:18 PM



“ *I'll never forget my very first skiing adventure at Mt. Holly, it was a first date too. I took a very nasty spill and Mr. Harrower was on ski patrol that night. I begged him to not call my mom to tell her of my injury, (because she didn't want be out on that fool hill, where I could get hurt). Your Dad not only splinted my leg, but he took me home, and ran great interference for me with my mom!*

Jinx Kincaid - July 17, 2017 at 08:05 PM

J

Thanks for sharing that story, Jinx! I don't remember hearing about it. What a way to get introduced to skiing, huh?

Jo Ingman - August 01, 2017 at 07:22 PM

BB


“ *When Don and his brother first came to Holly, I was a 6th grade student of John's at Davisburg El. and "a while later" subbed at the Middle School where he was principal in Holly. Don was my homeroom teacher when I first went to Holly High School, and he was my future husband's track coach. He was much beloved by ALL his students and the 'kids' he knew. He was a good man and a good teacher/ which means something to me as I was one for 50 years too. [We graduated 60 years ago from Holly, and still talked about Don. We miss him and love him as well. Barb Bethune Brown and Walt Brown]*

Barbara Brown - July 15, 2017 at 06:14 AM

Jl

Thank you, Barb and Walt, for sharing your thoughts with us! It always meant a lot to him that his three children were also teachers, so I know he was proud of you, too.

Jo Ingman - August 01, 2017 at 07:28 PM

 Kerri
Braddock
McCuaig

“ *I am so glad I got to know your family and spend the last few years with your father. I will always treasure the memories I have. Thinking of you all.
Love, Kerri McCuaig*

Kerri Braddock McCuaig - July 13, 2017 at 08:06 PM

Jl

Kerri, I don't know what we would have done without you! Your loving care of both our parents went above and beyond our expectations. You are amazing!!

Jo Ingman - August 01, 2017 at 07:30 PM