



## John Edwin Harper Sr.

March 28, 1923 - September 15, 2005

John Edwin Harper, Sr. died Thursday, September 15, 2005 at home in Syracuse, New York.

John was born March 28, 1923, the son of J. Elmer and Harriet Nevel Harper. He graduated from North Syracuse High School in 1940 and CCBI in 1941. A WW II veteran, he served as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps in its 5th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron from December 1941 until his honorable discharge in May 1945. During his service he was stationed in England, North Africa, Tunisia, Italy and Sicily. As a mechanic working on P38 aircrafts, John participated in photographing the future route of the AL-CAN highway, which he revisited in 1983 with his wife, "to see if they did a good job." He pronounced it "Super."

John married Lillian Mae Webster on October 27, 1945 and they have enjoyed 60 years together in their home on the south side of Syracuse. After 37 years with the New York Telephone Company as a foreman in the assignment bureau and as a member of the Staff Department, John retired in 1982. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America. His hobbies included woodworking, particularly cabinetry and furniture making, and fishing on the St. Lawrence River. He was proud of his children and grandchildren and their successes in life.

John is survived by his wife, Lillian; his two daughters, Dr. Diane Harper of Chuluota, Florida and Sue Ann (Lee Edward) Okoniewski of Fulton, New York; one son, John E. Jr. (Merikay) Harper of LaFayette, New York; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Charles E. Harper and his sister, Helen Harper.

Services: Monday, September 19, 2005, 10:30 a.m. at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, Inc.

Burial: Onondaga Valley Cemetery, 2500 Valley Drive, Syracuse, New York.

Calling Hours: Sunday, September 18, 2005, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the funeral home, 4612 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York.

Contributions: American Cancer Society, 6725 Lyons Road, East Syracuse, New York 13057.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Edwin Harper Sr.*



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**Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home** - September 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *We love you grandpa, and we'll see you on the other side. Our thoughts and prayers are with you grandma!Christina & Caden*

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September 20, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *DadIt's a wonderful gift for a father to have a daughter!It's even a far more wonderful gift to be given his daughter!Let me renew my promise to you... I will continue to care for, and love her always.Peace often begins with an act of kindness... thank you for yours.Sincerely,Lee*

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September 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *May you know our prayers and love are with you. May John rest in eternal peace with the Lord.*

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September 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear John and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Your Dad is at peace and watching over you all.

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September 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Is it so small a thing to have enjoy'd the sun, to have lived light in the spring, to have loved, to have thought, to have done?" (Matthew Arnold, 1822-1888; British poet and critic)* My thoughts are with you all.

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September 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ MY "DAD" , MY MENTOR, MY BOSS.. YOU PLAYED SUCH A HUGE PART IN MY LIFE, I WILL NEVER , EVER FORGET YOU AND I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH YOU AND ALL YOU GAVE ME.

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September 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ John, We wish we could tell you how much we always enjoyed your company. A better "in-law" could not be found. You were fortunate to have been surrounded by a warm and caring family. We know that our "daughter" Sue worked hard to make your days more comfortable. And "Lil" demonstrated her real love for you with great strength and devotion. You will be missed by all...but your family will always recall the memories shared. May God bless you all.

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September 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle John-So many memories over the years, memories that we will never let go. We are so glad we stopped over those couple times over the last month or so. I know how proud you were of all the family, and how you could go on and on about the family tree. The pictures you showed us were a piece of our family we will have forever. Abby had a wonderful time getting to know you, and she so enjoyed that afternoon at your house. You may never know how wonderful those times were. Thank you for being the man, and the uncle, that you have been to us all, the finest example of both. Aunt Lil, Diane, Susie and Johnny,we all have you and you family deep in our thoughts and prayers. Be proud to have called John husband or father. God bless

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September 16, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ After seeing my grandfather two weeks ago I wouldn't have thought it possible that he could have left us so soon, however I suppose that is how cancer works. The three things I remember about him most are: His high levels of Patience. A love and pursuit for the highest levels of academic and real world education/training. His motivation/willpower and what I thought to be the best health of any elder I knew until our last visit two weeks ago. I'll really miss him, especially when we meet for dinners and the holidays.

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September 16, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Although we met but a few times, your absence will long be felt. It should give you great comfort to know that you will still touch the world with your strength through the good works from your loving family. Life on earth is short, but your love and inspiration shall bridge many generations. Your ring may have silenced, but your connection lives on!

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September 16, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Dad: Thank you for your unwavering belief in me, for your strength when I needed it, and for every unspoken moment of forgiveness you offered to me over the years. I will love you forever, Diane.

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September 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ John, we have walked a long, happy road for 60 years together. I've enjoyed every moment with you, especially our travels across the United States, and all the little stops in between. I will love you forever, Lillian.

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September 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle John~ I'm not sure what I'll miss the most, your dry wit, your common sense, your wisdom or your example of a life well lived. No matter how long you're gone or wherever life takes us, you will forever be that smiling face, under the straw hat, on the other side of the fence. God bless your soul. We love you.

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September 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Daddy, I love you for all we have shared; both the laughter and the tears, the joy and the pain. Remember, we will be together in the house of the Lord, forever. Susie

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September 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM