



Howard E. Harjar

NOV 17, 1940 - MAR 16, 2025



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FUNERAL & CREMATION CENTER

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H oward Harjar Obituary

Howard E. Harjar, 84, of Elyria, passed away peacefully Sunday, March 16, 2025. He was born November 17, 1940 in Elyria, Ohio, where he lived the majority of his life. He graduated in 1957 from Elyria High School and then served with the USAF. Upon his honorable discharge, he attended Bowling Green State University, where he completed his BA in Elementary Education and an MS in Education, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He worked his entire 30 year career teaching 6th grade at Allen Elementary, and later at Crestwood Elementary, Elyria.

During his career, Howard devoted extra time and attention to create a positive and meaningful educational experience for his students. Every year he took all the 6th grade classes for a week-long stay at Camp Iss See Kes, where students were exposed to all forms of plant life, and nature experiences. Many of his students will also remember their formal dining experience at Morton's Steakhouse, in Downtown Cleveland, after he taught them proper dining etiquette. Howard was an avid baker, historian, and lifelong learner. His love of science fiction, particularly Star Trek and Star Wars, created sci-fi nerds of all his nieces and nephews. He was also a dedicated son, who cared for his parents his entire life.

Howard was the cherished uncle of Marla Ritter (Scott), Natalie DiSalvo (Samuel), Martin John Harjar (Debra) and Alaina McCrave (James, deceased). For the last 25 years he was also the beloved grandfather figure to his 12 great nieces and nephews, and 5 great-great nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Martin; brother, Martin John and his beloved mother, Suzanna (née Andrejcik);

Friends will be received Sunday, March 30, 2025 from 12:00 pm until the time of a 2:00 pm Christian Funeral at Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 323 Middle Avenue, Elyria. Pastor Christopher Cahill of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lodi will officiate.



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To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Howard E. Harjar, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



Tribute Wall

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AH

A Memorial Tree Was Planted For Howard E. Harjar posted:

A Memorial Tree was planted for Howard E. Harjar We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation Service Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

January 29 at 9:43 AM

HU

Humanetics posted:

Medium basket garden was purchased for the family of Howard E. Harjar by Humanetics. Send Flowers With our deepest sympathy, Humanetics

January 29 at 9:43 AM

TT

The Utah Andrejciks: Debra Andrejcik Ley, Janet And Scott Strong, Kirk And Bonney Andrejcik, Tamara posted:

Deepest devotion was purchased for the family of Howard E. Harjar by The Utah Andrejciks: Debra Andrejcik Ley, Janet and Scott Strong, Kirk and Bonney Andrejcik, Tamara and Russell Mitchell . Send Flowers With loving memories of our cousin Howard. The Utah Andrejciks: Debra Andrejcik Ley, Janet and Scott Strong, Kirk and Bonney Andrejcik, Tamara and Russell Mitchell

January 29 at 9:43 AM

SS

Shelley Di Salvo posted:

A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Howard E. Harjar by Shelley Di Salvo. Plant a Tree Natalie, Marla, Marty, and Alaina - May your happy memories of Uncle and the lives he influenced lighten your grief. Love, Shelley Shelley Di Salvo

January 29 at 9:43 AM



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JM

Jean Marvin posted:

To Howard's Family ~ Please know he will be missed by those of us who were lucky enough to form a friendship with him while he was a resident at Medina Meadows where my mother also resides. One of my favorite memories of Howard was while we were in the "gym" for Physical Therapy two Christmas seasons ago, and he showed us all how to make a 3-D snowflake by cutting intricate patterns in folded paper. While I had done this many times before, none of them were anything like Howard's. I'll miss his smile and sense of humor. I was able to share a moment with him the week before he passed as he was returning to his room from PT, and we were in the activity area playing a group Jeopardy-type game. I encouraged him to join us as he knew so much about so many things....he smiled, said thanks, but no... smiled again and went back to his room assisted by one of the OT techs. I loved his stories and his positive outlook. He is already missed. Rest in heavenly Peace, Howard. ~ I'm glad I got to know you. Jean

March 31 at 11:19 AM

TH

Tamra Harrison posted:

Mr. Harjar was my 6th grade teacher at Crestwood Elementary. I often tell people of the wonderful impact he had on me. As someone else has already said, he was larger than life. How tall was he anyway??? He seemed like a giant. I remember how loud his sneezes were, and how his laughter boomed with joy. And yet, he would fold his large body into his rocking chair and read to us as he rocked. Banner in the Sky. Snow Treasure. I read those same books to my own children because I remembered. We watched the movie Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH in his class, and I was so enamored with it that I went to our school library and asked for the book. It became a favorite, and I read that to my kids as well. He also had a personal library in his room that he allowed us to borrow from. Coming from a single mother home, I lacked a strong male authority figure, and sometimes acted like it. Mr. Harjar had us answer him, "Yes, Sir," and "No, Sir." He provided structure that I did not have. He demanded our respect and gave us no reason not to respect him. He spent his summers folding and gluing those magnificent paper models that were displayed in his classroom: The Empire State Building, London Bridge, The Taj Majal. He took us on nature walks and taught us how to identify Ohio wildflowers. I vividly recall seeing a Jack-in-the-Pulpit while hiking with my kids decades later, and knowing SOMEHOW what it was all those years later. Because of Mr. Harjar. My kids were also taught to identify plants on our hikes. And there was the Camp Out. Singing the Johnny Appleseed song before meals, and the Doxology after. This was all new to me... and I still sing those songs in my 50's. So many beautiful memories. I am happy to say that I found Mr. Harjar after he had retired, and sent him a letter telling him how he had influenced my life. He wrote back! Of course he would. I am so thankful for that opportunity, and that I was blessed to have him as my teacher.

March 22 at 1:28 PM



Tribute Wall

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DB

Denise Brock posted:

Mr Harjar was my 6th grade teacher. He was one of my favorite teachers due to his ability and foresight to make us think ahead, telling us there would be watch telephones someday where we could see who we were talking to. Taught us civic duty.. He saw the best in me and put me in high academic class work. He was a humanitarian. Once when I injured my knee and couldn't walk. and we had a class nature hike , he carried me in his shoulders so I could go....he meant a lot to me.

March 28 at 3:51 PM

DW

Dawn Walther posted:

I am saddened to see that Mr. Harjar passed away. I went to Allen Elementary and I remember him as being larger than life. He did everything with a passion and a purpose. His kindness to me has never been forgotten. Rest well, Mr. Harjar. I will forever be thankful for you.

March 27 at 4:26 AM

LN

Lois Nicklas posted:

Howard was such a pleasure to know during the time that we were neighbors at The Echelon. We had so many interesting conversations. In Howard's usual joking fashion, we decided one day that we were going to open a lemonade stand that included tables & umbrellas right by our door. Howard joked that with a location near the elevator, it would be very convenient for customers, and he predicted "we would get rich." Howard always had a special laugh, and his eyes would glisten whether he was laughing or crying. No matter what form of aggravation befell Howard, he kept on laughing, smiling, and trucking along. Howard was a very learned man, and often shared that knowledge with others. I am so thankful that we had the opportunity to meet again at Medina Meadows last month, when he and I were both there at the same time. There was no one quite like Howard, and my life is better for having known him. Howard, you are already missed!

March 22 at 1:28 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Howard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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