



Jay James Harper

November 8, 1941 - July 21, 2025

Jay James Harper, 83, of Defiance, Ohio passed away at Fairlawn Retirement Community following an extensive battle with heart disease on July 21, 2025. He was born in Napoleon, Ohio on November 8, 1941 to the late James and Berneta (Eberle) Harper. On May 26, 1962, he married Rufina Anne Lecklider, who preceded him in death in 2004.

Jay worked for Fulton Tubing for over 30 years and was a lifelong farmer. He enjoyed his gardens and bird watching. Jay liked to winter in Florida, but especially enjoyed the family cottage at the lake where he could fish and spend time with friends and family.

He is survived by his children, Jodie Harper, Kevin Harper, Eric Harper, Tammie (Richard) Sharp, and Tonia Harper; 7 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia (Mac) Osborne.

Services will be private for the family. He will be interred at Riverview Memory Gardens, Defiance, Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made in his honor to Fairlawn Retirement Community. Online condolences and messages may shared with the family at rodenbergergray.com.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Our sympathies to the entire Harper family. Many fond memories of growing up down the road together and the Henry County Fair.
Randy and Angie Basselman

Randy Basselman - July 25, 2025 at 06:30 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jay James Harper.



July 24, 2025 at 04:13 PM



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

July 24, 2025 at 04:13 PM

AT

“ Jay was a friendly, outgoing person. He was loving and kind to everyone he met. He cared for others and was very positive. Jay ate with us at the assisted living dining room at Fairlawn Retirement Community in Archbold. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. God Bless Jay and his family!
Love,
Alice Tedrow

Alice Tedrow - July 24, 2025 at 10:43 AM

AL

“ Austin and Ashly Lecklider purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jay James Harper.



Austin and Ashly Lecklider - July 23, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ Rest in peace my Country cousin.
Love, your City cousin., Barbara

Barbara Tucker - July 22, 2025 at 09:34 PM

WH

“ Jay was always at the Henry County and will be missed. It was like a reunion every time we saw him. Great memories. Prayers go out to the family that he was so proud of!
Walt & Linda Helmke

Walt and Linda Helmke - July 22, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Jay James Harper.



July 22, 2025 at 04:59 PM



“ *My Sympathies to the family!*”