



Jack B. Harper

SEP 8, 1929 - MAR 14, 2007



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Jack B. Harper, founder and CEO of Gulf Industries, Inc., a highway safety engineering company, Jack B. Harper Contractor, Inc. and several subsidiary entities, died Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at the age of 77.

For over five decades, Jack B. Harper was a pioneer and leader in responding to public demand for greater transportation safety by representing and installing advanced products that have saved numerous lives and prevented injuries on our roadways.

Under Mr. Harper's leadership, Gulf Industries, Inc. has grown into one of the largest companies on the Northshore, with a number of offices throughout the Gulf South, and is recognized nationally as one of the industry leaders in highway safety.

Jack B. Harper began his career with Hurricane Steel Industries in Houston, where he was the leading salesman in the United States. He established Hurricane Fence Company of New Orleans in the late 50's, Gulf Industries, Inc. in 1963 and Jack B. Harper, Contractor in 1970. He and his companies were significant in developing highway safety procedures and products in Louisiana and other states.

Mr. Harper was born in 1929 in San Antonio, TX, attended Southern California Military Academy, graduated from Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, and graduated from the University of Houston where he was Commander of the Cullen Rifle Drill Team. At the age of 12, he had his first car and continued collecting antique cars throughout his life, with a particular fondness for the Ford Thunderbirds. Mr. Harper served his country as a CWO-4 in the United States Army Military Intelligence Corps. He was a Fourth Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus and an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

He served on the Board of Directors for Metairie Bank for nearly 30 years and was active in the Association of General Contractors (AGC), The Louisiana Asphalt Paving Association (LAPA), American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) and



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various other highway safety organizations. He was also active in the Central Catholic High School Alumni.

While Mr. Harper is well known and respected for his successes in the business world, those who knew him best say his love for his family meant more to him than any professional accolade he received. He was an inspiration to all who lived and worked around him and he possessed the kind of charisma that is seldom found today. Jack Harper loved the camaraderie of his friends, grandchildren and employees, while deer hunting. He owned two ranches in South Texas and one in Louisiana where he hunted and spent many nights playing poker, telling stories and jokes with his family and friends. Mr. Harper was an unforgettable man of character, who touched the lives of everyone he met.

He is preceded in death by a daughter, Alona Harper Hicks and his parents, Otto "Jack" and Lois Speer Harper.

He is survived by his wife of more than 55 years, Mary Wade Harper, a daughter, Lisa Harper-Cairns, 12 grandchildren, Shannon Hicks, Brandon Hicks, Jason Hicks, Jack Ramirez, Luke Ramirez, Hollie Power, Kate Kelley, Blake Cairns, Joel Cairns, Virginia Cairns, Madeline Cairns, Lara-Elise Cairns, seven great-grandchildren, a brother, Richard Harper and four sisters; Barbara Lightfoot, Virginia Hoosier, Patricia Gochnour and Mary Jackson and his Gulf Industries, Inc. family.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Monday March 19, 2007 at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 312 Lafitte Street, Mandeville, LA 70448.

Visitation will be on Sunday March 18, 2007 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Street, Covington, LA 70433 and on Monday March 19, 2007 from 10:00 AM to service time AT THE CHURCH.

Interment will follow mass in Garden of Memories Cemetery, 4800 Airline Drive, Metairie, LA 70001.



Tribute Wall

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SP

Stan Polivick posted:

I am so sorry to learn of Jack's death. I sure enjoyed working with him and the Gulf Industries staff while I served as City Engineer in Slidell. My sympathy to the family.

March 19 at 7:00 PM

DG

Darrin Gordon July 10 at 4:01 PM

I don't know, my father worked for the man his entire life from the fence to actually driving the striping machine at Gulf industries and could not afford to build his own home after making Jack Harper a multi million aire. Darrin Gordon .

JW

John Ward posted:

My deepest sympathies to the family and employees of Jack Harper.

March 19 at 7:00 PM

SS

Sonny & Arnell Schwing posted:

Dear Mrs. Harper, Lisa and Family- As you know, we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Jack and his "Round Table" of executives on an almost daily basis. His magnetic personality made us feel as though we had known him forever. We will surely miss him. May God be as happy to have Mr. Jack with him as we were to have him with us Most sincerely, Sonny & Arnell Schwing

March 19 at 7:00 PM

LR

Lourdes Reynafarje posted:

Dear Lisa, My prayers are for you and your family. Please take care, and call me when you are in town. I would love to visit with you. Please receive a big hug and kiss from me. I wish I could be of help. Love, Lourdes.

March 19 at 7:00 PM

MR

Morris And Tommie Reinhardt posted:

Our sincere sympathy to the whole Harper family. Morris worked with Jack in the seventies in Baton Rouge. We were neighbors of Dick Harper at Holly Lake Ranch. We were so sorry to hear of Jack's death.

March 18 at 7:00 PM



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CT

Charles(Tuna)Thompson posted:

mr jack was a good friend. you will be missed. friends, TUNA

March 18 at 7:00 PM

GS

George Schneider posted:

I had the good fortune of meeting Jack Harper through Cindy Sutton this past year .He was a dynamic individual with a caring ,loving and generous personality. Cindy has relayed many acts of kindness about her Boss and Friend !!! know he will be missed by his Family and Family of Employees

March 18 at 7:00 PM

RO

Robin Walsdorf Onstead posted:

My sincerest sympathies to all at Gulf Industry and especially to Mary and Lisa. Mr. Harper will truly be missed. You are all in my prayers. Robin

March 18 at 7:00 PM

DI

Don Harper, Snyder Drilling Services, Inc. posted:

Our deepest sympathies are with the family.

March 18 at 7:00 PM

DF

David A. Favaloro posted:

Mary and Lisa, I was sorry to learn of Jack's demise. I'll always remember him when we were at St. Mary Magdalen. The Halloween party for the whole class, and the pool parties. Jack and all his foolishness, kicking our butts. He was a man's man and I know that he'll be missed terribly. He and the rest of the family are in my prayers. Love, David

March 18 at 7:00 PM



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BS

Belinda Salas posted:

My condolences to your family. I met Mr Harper at Southwest Airlines when we first opened our station in N.O. and he would send his grandkids unaccompanied on our flts...I am sorry for your loss he was a very nice gentleman and he will be missed at our tkt counter.

March 18 at 7:00 PM

KM

Kenny Martin posted:

Our condolences to the family and co-workers.

March 18 at 7:00 PM

SC

Susan, Ken & Gabi Champion posted:

Our Deepest Condolences

March 18 at 7:00 PM

CP

Carol Putfark posted:

I waited on Mr. Harper many times at Mande's Restaurant, and he was always very pleasant, and friendly. I'm sorry for your loss.

March 18 at 7:00 PM

GB

Greta Schwing Bourgeois posted:

Jack was a very kind man. I had the pleasure of getting to know him on a daily basis from our family owned restaurant (Schwing's). I will miss him dearly.

March 17 at 7:00 PM

RP

Richard Alan Cappel And Rachel Pflug posted:

aunt mary, so sorry to hear about uncle jack. our thoughts and prayers are with you. love, richard and rachel

March 17 at 7:00 PM



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BJ

Butch And Cathy Jones posted:

Dear Mrs.Harper,Lisa,Luke and family, Please accept our condolences on the loss of your beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Our son Brian is a close friend of Luke and was always treated as part of the family. Mr. Jack will be missed by all who were fortunate to have known him.

March 17 at 7:00 PM

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March 17 at 7:00 PM

CM

Charles R "Rusty" Mabry posted:

Danna and I offer our deepest sympathies in your loss. I first met Mr. Jack over 20 years ago as a young "intern" in the highway bid letting procedure. He was always an inspiration with his quick wit, ever-present smile, and an encouraging word. I truly will treasure memories of those encounters with Jack Harper.

March 16 at 7:00 PM

LN

Laurie And Dean Nociar posted:

I wanted you to know that, though Dean and I are far away, our thoughts and prayers are with all of your family. It was always a highlight of my trips back home to stop by Gulf Industries and get my hug from Mr. Jack and catch up on news from the rest of the crew. I know the rest of Crow family will be there to show our support, but I really wish I could be there, as well.

March 16 at 7:00 PM

JD

Jacqueline Ann Drott posted:

I want to send my deepest sympathy to Mary, Lisa, Hollie and all the rest of your family for your loss. Jack Harper was one of the kindest, gentlest people I have ever met. His love of his family was so obvious to everyone who knew him. The world has lost one of the really good people. But remember the good times, and I am sure there were many, and just know that he is in a better place. I am so sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy, Jackie

March 16 at 7:00 PM



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GB

Gina Sins Burdett posted:

Walter and I send all of you our deepest condolences. Our prayers and thoughts will be with you during this difficult time. Love, Walter J. Burdett & Gina Sins Burdett

March 16 at 7:00 PM

SP

Sandra Patterson posted:

I am deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Jack. He was an inspiration to me in my life. I thank him for all the help he gave my family. I will always remember and love him.

March 16 at 7:00 PM

GS

Glen Sins posted:

I am sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Jack was a great man and it was a pleasure knowing him and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this sad time. Glen Sins and Family

March 16 at 7:00 PM

NF

Norman P Fonseca posted:

Our family: Norman & Holly, Kitt & Stacey, Lauren & Cory, and Raven send our sincere condolences. Lisa, we're sorry for your loss. God Bless his soul.

March 16 at 7:00 PM

HS

Holly Speight posted:

Dear Mrs Harper, Lisa and family members, It was my great pleasure to finally meet Mr. Harper last year and stay overnight in his guest home. He was such an interesting and smart man. I too immediately picked up on how he loved his family more than anything. I recall Brad visiting with him early on Saturday morning as Mr Harper rode around on his golf cart checking on things. He told Brad how much he loved Mandeville, and LA and was so proud of how everyone was working so hard to recover from Katrina. I really enjoyed the time we spent with he and Mrs Harper. Our love and thoughts are with you during this time of great loss. With much love, Holly Speight

March 16 at 7:00 PM



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DP

Daniel Sr., Teresa, Tyler And Daniel Jr. Puffer posted:

Our Deepest Condolences.

March 16 at 7:00 PM

ET

Edwina Thomas & T Jae Tarpley posted:

Our deepest sympathy and condolences.

March 15 at 7:00 PM

LC

Lucas H. Ehrensing, P.E., Thigpen Construction Co. posted:

Our deepest sympathy and condolences from Lucas H. Ehrensing, P.E. and Thigpen Construction Co., Inc.

March 15 at 7:00 PM

MP

Marty Pinkley posted:

Although I never met Jack, my father, John Pinkley, worked with Jack for many years and spoke very highly of him. Please accept my deepest sympathies. Sincerely, Marty Pinkley Pinkley Sales Co.

March 15 at 7:00 PM

JP

Jim Poe posted:

Our deepest sympathy from the Kiewit Companies.

March 14 at 7:00 PM

OD

Obie And Barbara Dowell posted:

Our deepest sympathy in the loss of a legend from owners and employees of STRIPE FORCE 1, INC.

March 14 at 7:00 PM



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Tommy Folk, T. L. James & Company, Inc. posted:

A strong, respected member of the construction industry who will be sorely missed.

March 14 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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