



Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr.

July 16, 1937 - October 13, 2025

NORFOLK – Celebration of life service for Charles H. “Chet” Harper Sr., 88, of Norfolk, formerly of Auburn, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 19, 2025 at the Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. Marshal Hardy will be officiating the service. Public graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the Sheridan Cemetery, Auburn, Nebraska. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Brownville Village Theatre in Brownville, NE or the Norfolk Community Theatre in Norfolk. Chet passed away on Monday, October 13, 2025 at the Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Chet was born on July 16, 1937, in Little Rock, Arkansas to James Burl and Faye Marie (Parkhurst) Harper. He graduated from Superior High School, Nebraska in 1955 and attended Tarkio College in Missouri earning his bachelor’s degree. He then attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln earning his Masters and PH.D. Chet was a professor and taught at Northeast High School in Lincoln, Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Northern Michigan College in Marquette, Michigan, and Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska. He married Judith “Judy” Wilhite on August 11, 1963 at the United Methodist Church in Nebraska City, Nebraska. They were blessed with three children: Tracy Elizabeth, Charles Harold Jr., and James Brian.

Chet enjoyed watching Husker football with his family and friends and

attending tailgates in Lincoln for gameday. Chet liked to travel with Judy and other family as well. Mostly though, Chet loved spending time with his family and enjoying his grandkids. After living for many years in Auburn, Chet and Judy moved to Norfolk, Nebraska. He was involved with the Brownville Village Theatre for many years, being the director for 15 years. He was locally involved with the Norfolk Community College Theatre, the Norfolk Arts Council, and was a member of the HOA Mach 1-36 organization, Norfolk. Chet was known as the “grandpa” in his Norfolk neighborhood. Also known as the “hoods” grandpa.

Chet is survived by his children Tracy (Eric) McFall of College Station, Texas, Charles Jr. (Camille) Harper of Norfolk, Brian (Jennifer) Harper of League City, TX; grandchildren Garrett (Lena), Ellie, and Maggie McFall; Hailey (Adam) Hagedorn, Evan, Chloe, and Kendall Harper; Ethan and Carleigh Harper; 2 great-grandchildren Atlas and Malakia; sister Barbara (John) Parks of Clovis, CA. and numerous nieces, nephews, and Rusty (his four-legged constant companion for 16 years), and other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Judy Harper on May 21, 2019, parents James (Faye) Harper, and brother Jerry Harper.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

OCT **19**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk

1200 N.13th St.

Norfolk, NE 68701

(402) 371-7676

info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com

<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

Tribute Wall

BF

“ I first met Judy and Chet in 1963 when they moved into the same small apartment complex in Wahoo, Nebraska. Judy was working at the public school in Wahoo. I don't remember if Chet was at Wesleyan or at Lincoln Northeast high school. They later moved to Lincoln and were in an apartment near the apartment complex where we lived. I helped Chet move to the house they bought on 70th street in Lincoln. My wife Melinda and I moved to Kansas City, Mo. in 1966 but stayed in touch with Judy and Chet. Visited them in Peru, Ne. a couple of times. When I first met Chet, he was a progressive Democrat, which I still am. He seems to have become a right wing Republican somewhere along the line. When we found each other on Facebook we used to argue a lot, but agreed to disagree and still be good friends. RIP, Chet

Buzz and Melinda Flittner

Buzz Flittner - October 21, 2025 at 11:22 AM

NB

“ Norfolk Community Theatre Board purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..



Norfolk Community Theatre Board - October 17, 2025 at 12:35 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..



October 16, 2025 at 11:01 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..



October 16, 2025 at 09:23 AM



“ I was on the BVT Board during part of Chet's reign. He was a wonderful kind man. He had BVT in his blood; he loved it and did a great job while there. My sincere condolences to all his family. May he rest in peace. 🙏 ~ Judy Murphy, Falls City, NE

Judy Murphy - October 16, 2025 at 01:21 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing, Brian. May all your memories of him bring you comfort at this time. -Valerie Marzullo

Valerie Marzullo - October 15, 2025 at 11:24 PM

JP

“ Love his daughters! He was a great teacher at PSC. Love to my little sis and her sister! May you find comfort. We send our prayers!

Jenna Kleine Perales

Jennifer Perales - October 15, 2025 at 06:38 PM

RB

“ To all who enjoy live theatre, Charles leaves a legacy in the students who followed his counsel and advice. Rest in peace, Doc.
RFB

Robert Bartle - October 15, 2025 at 05:35 PM

WS

“ Wes & Stephanie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..

Wes & Stephanie - October 15, 2025 at 02:26 PM

WS

“ Wes & Stephanie purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..



Wes & Stephanie - October 15, 2025 at 02:26 PM

RA

“ Renee' A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..

Renee' A. - October 15, 2025 at 11:08 AM

NJ

“ Nancy J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..

Nancy J. - October 15, 2025 at 11:06 AM

DF

“ Our sympathy to the entire family.
It is very sad to lose a loved one.
We know Dr Charles Harper who is such an outstanding person and doctor. Know Mr Harper raised a great family.
May fond memories help you in this difficult time. God's blessings to all.

Dr Herbert & Sondra Feidler - October 14, 2025 at 10:38 PM

CH

“ Charles H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..

Charles H. - October 14, 2025 at 10:01 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..



October 14, 2025 at 10:01 PM



“ Michael Y. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chet" H. Harper Sr..

Michael Y. - October 14, 2025 at 08:26 PM