



Joseph H. Harper Jr.

March 23, 1948 - May 20, 2018

Joseph H. Harper, Jr., 70, of Berlin, former New Britain State Senator and longtime New Britain resident, passed away Sunday (May 20, 2018) at his home. Son of the late Joseph Harper, Sr. and Ann (Muccino) Harper, he graduated from New Britain High School, Class of 1967, received his Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of CT, and received a Master's Degrees in Public Administration from UConn and later a Master's Degree in International Studies from Central CT State University. During his 16-years in the state legislature, Senator Joseph H. Harper, Jr. amassed a reputation as one of Connecticut's most powerful and effective leaders. As the longtime chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee, Senator Harper was instrumental in building state budgets, and bringing millions of dollars back to his hometown of New Britain. A former Alderman and mayoral aide in New Britain, Harper served two terms in the State House of Representatives before being elected and re-elected six times to the State Senate. After retiring from the Senate, he worked as a Deputy State Treasurer, as a Vice President at Central Connecticut State University and most recently as the Vice President of Government Relations at The Hospital for Special Care (HSC). He retired from HSC in 2010, at which point he dedicated his efforts full-time to weight loss. In 2006, Gov. M. Jodi Rell and the Connecticut legislature named the state office building in Downtown New Britain after Senator Harper.

Surviving is his sister, Mary Ellen Jimenez of New Britain; a nephew, Rory Breau; a godson, Raymond Pasco, a grand niece Kayleigh Jimenez and her two sons, Damien Rodriguez and Nicholas Ruberto. Besides his parents, Joe was predeceased by his sister, Carole Ann Santos, two nieces, Robin and Myra Yuskis and a nephew, Fernando Jimenez.

Funeral services are Friday 9 AM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial 10 AM at St. Joseph Church of the Divine Providence Parish, 195 South Main Street, New Britain. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery. Calling hours are Thursday 4 to 8 PM at Carlson Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Harper Center for Autism at the Hospital for Special Care, 2150 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053 or to the Prudence Crandall Center, 594 Burritt Street, New Britain, CT 06053. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

120 Smalley Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAY **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Calling Hours

MAY **25**. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 25. 10:00 AM (ET)

Divine Providence Parish at St. Joseph Church
195 South Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Tribute Wall

AR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Joe's family. Joe served on the CCARC Foundation Board of Directors and was so generous with his time and knowledge. On a personal note I truly loved our conversations over the past 24 years that we had about local and State politics. He served in the Legislature with my father Joe Ruwet and like my Dad, Joe had believed in public service and his community and lived each day to do good for others. I am so grateful to have had those conversations with Joe. He will surely be missed but remembered fondly by many of us.*



Anne Ruwet - May 29, 2018 at 02:02 PM

RG

“ *I was so sad to hear of Joe's passing. I worked for a short time as an assistant to Joe when he was running the Second Injury Fund at the State Treasurer's Office. I remember Joe as very bright and hard-working, but more importantly he was incredibly kind. He was patient and caring to those around him. He noticed I had talents beyond memo-taking and referred me to the executive team, propelling me on an eight year career as part of the executive team. His unselfishness, kindness and great sense of humor will be remembered by all who knew him.*

Robyn Gottesdiener - May 26, 2018 at 11:11 AM

BK

“ *My condolences to the Harper Family. It seems like yesterday when we would meet on Saturdays at the Roma Restaurant and strategize on how our group of 8 would change politics in New Britain . We did and Joe was one of the great minds putting our plan together . May you Rest In Peace my friend. Brendan.*

Brendan Kennedy - May 24, 2018 at 09:29 PM

SP

“ *So sorry to read of Joe's passing. I first met Joe at New Britain City Hall, where I was Director of Urban Planning. Joe was a fascinating, easy to converse with man. I enjoyed talking with him about New Britain and its history. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. God bless ! RIP, Joe.*

Sebastian R Papa - May 24, 2018 at 05:55 AM

LN

“ *Joe, I will miss you much you very much, our lunch together a couple of years back was just what I needed, I know I wasn't much of a talker but you spoke and I listened when there was trouble in the department, if I had to do it over again I would have more lunches with you and your family.*

Love and miss your Joe rest

Lydia Neals - May 23, 2018 at 09:01 AM

JK

“ *The Maloney and Kelly families send their deepest sympathy to the Harper family.*

Joe was a true friend to us and so many countless others. His love for the City of New Britain can be shown in improvements to the Hospital of Special Care, The Museum of American Art, The Public Library and so many more. Rest in Peace Joe.

Joan Kelly-Coyle

Joan Kelly-Coyle - May 22, 2018 at 06:26 PM

MP

“ *Rest in His Peace Joe. Joe was very good to my children and a good friend. He will be missed, but he left an exemplary legacy that is a permanent memorial to all he did for so many. God Bless you Joe Harper.*

Maryrose Mistieri Pasco - May 22, 2018 at 10:32 AM

MD

“ *Sincerest condolences to your entire family; Joe was always helpful to me during his time in the State Senate, guiding me through those tough budget times so that I could explain things to the television audience. But the best part was being near and observing the interplay between Joe and John Larson. Things got done and there were plenty of laughs!*

Mark Davis, WTNH TV

Mark Davis - May 22, 2018 at 09:51 AM