



George Matthew Harkinson, Jr.

July 17, 1923 - September 20, 2019

George Matthew Harkinson, Jr., 96, of Wilmington, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on September 20, 2019 at Liberty Commons Nursing Home. George was a Navy Veteran of World War II and a railroad conductor. He was a loving husband and proud father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

George was born July 17, 1923 in New York City, the youngest of six children.

He served in the Navy, from January, 1940 until July, 1946, in both the Atlantic and the Pacific on several ships, including the USS Ludlow during World War II. On July 14, 1945 George married Anna Avallone. After the war he returned to New York City to raise a large family with Anna, including many foster children, while living on a houseboat on the East River. George was a conductor on the New York-New Haven and Hartford railroad line, where he was known as "Red."

In 1961, George moved his family to East Haven, Connecticut where they lived until 1985 when George retired and he and Anna moved to Washington, Maine. There George built his own house. George loved living in Maine where he could work on projects big and small. When he wasn't building his house, he could be found splitting, cutting and stacking wood, volunteering in local soup kitchens, making noodles, shopping at Reny's, building a chicken coop, or putting up food for winter. In 1997, George and Anna began spending winters in Wilmington, and in 2005 they moved to Wilmington permanently. George loved to take road trips, especially to visit family, and he could give directions from any two points on the east coast by way of Dunkin' Donuts and

the best value gas stations, while avoiding all tolls. His grandchildren share many memories of travelling between Connecticut and Maine in the middle of the night in the back of a capped red pickup with an egg carton mattress in the back on which they slept.

George had an incredible memory and loved to tell stories from his days in the Navy, his adventures as a child, fishing trips to Canada, and living in New York City. George especially loved to fish and be out on the water, in both Maine and Wilmington. He also appreciated good homemade food, making things by hand, and the Boston Red Sox.

George is survived by his wife of 74 years, Anna Avallone Harkinson; his sister-in-law Adeline Johnson; his sons, George Matthew Harkinson III and Michael Ramos, his daughters, Christine Harkinson, Elizabeth Vickerman, Anne Riggs and husband Chuck Riggs, Roberta Rayford and Cindy Rayford. He is also survived by his grandchildren Wendy, Inga, Margaret, Frank, Jon, Sara, Matthew, Ashley, Brandon, Sam, Emily, Richard, Claire, Charlie, Fredrick, Elaine, Loliet, and Maxime. He was loved by his great grandchildren Juliana, Kai, Nova, Wyatt, Alex, Ashley, Brock, Ana, Maeve, Finn, Madeline, Leo, Quinn, Linus, Noa and Darwin.

He is predeceased by his parents, George Harkinson and Ida Wallis, his siblings, Edith, Viola, Lillian, Robert, and Edward, his son, John Harkinson, and grandson, George Matthew Harkinson IV.

Tribute Wall

PR

“ For George-every time I wear my favorite beanie I think of your dad and mom. He took this hat off of his head and gave it to me when I told him I liked it, your mom knitted it! Didn't know how to get in touch so I googled your name and found this old obituary. Miss you! From your old hygienist Pam❤️

Pam Riggan - February 05, 2022 at 02:23 PM

NH

“ Our thoughts, prayers and our love are with you.
Your Florida family.

Nancy Harkinson - November 03, 2019 at 01:39 PM

TM

“ Love to you George and your family.

Terri Mann - September 28, 2019 at 04:22 PM

KS

“ George you and your family are in our prayers during this difficult time. Your dad was a super nice man. May you find comfort in knowing that you did not lose your dad for you know where he is. Your friends always Kevin, Mary,& Travis Samulik

Kevin and Mary Samulik - September 28, 2019 at 10:04 AM

EL

“ RIP MY FRIEND

Edward Lake - September 28, 2019 at 09:53 AM

WG

“ Sorry I never met him, but from what my good friend George as told me he was top self. I send my prayers to all of his family and friends.

Wilson Godwin - September 27, 2019 at 11:21 PM

LC

“ Condolences to the Harkinson family and friends of George. He lived a good long life and I know one of his children (Elizabeth) who is one awesome human being. Which is a legacy any man should be proud of. May you rest in peace. May your family continue telling your stories.

Linda Callison - September 27, 2019 at 09:56 PM

PD

“ i recall many fishing trips and crabbing trips when we all lived in clason point. spearing ells at night near whitestone. drinking coffee together and telling sea stories

paul matthew davus - September 25, 2019 at 11:11 PM

DS

“ My prayers are with you on your journey. You will truly be missed
Love Dave

Dave Sitowitz - September 25, 2019 at 12:14 PM