



## Charles "Chuck" Wesley Harden

November 11, 1969 - October 3, 2023

Charles "Chuck" Wesley Harden, age 53 of Sopchoppy, Florida, left this world on the morning of October 3, 2023, in Vero Beach, Florida. Chuck was born on November 11, 1969, in Tallahassee, Florida to his parents, Larry and Teresa Harden, and lived in Wakulla County most of his life.

In 1987, Chuck graduated from Wakulla High School and Enlisted in the United States Navy, continuing his father's (U.S. Army veteran) military service tradition. His six years of honorable service during the Gulf war included qualifying as a Navy Electrician's Mate (EM), achieving the rank of Petty Officer Second Class, and earning the coveted title of "Fighting Seabee." He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Southeast Asia Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and National Defense Service Medal.

From 1992 to 1996, Chuck served as a Sopchoppy Volunteer Firefighter. His invaluable roles included Structure Firefighter and Medical First Responder. The life-saving impact of his countless contributions with that team can never be fully measured.

His strong sense of community service took a broader path when he joined the Florida Forest Service (1996-2004). His State Forest Service

accomplishments included serving on the Tate's Hell State Forest and in Franklin County as a Senior Forest Ranger, State Certified Burn Manger since 1998, and playing a key role in training all new firefighters in the district.

Chuck's continuing love of working outdoors and respect of nature led him to join the U.S. Forest Service in 2004. For the past 19 years, his professionalism and sense of humor helped the Apalachicola National Forest team thrive. Some of his most notable accomplishments there include serving as Engineering Equipment Operator (Fire Tractor/Plow); Lead Presenter, Prescribed Fire Training Center Field Day; Region 8 Heavy Equipment Committee Member; Region 8 Heavy Equipment Academy Instructor; and Semiroon Historical Society Certificate of Achievement for Prospect Bluff Development.

However, the sum of a man's life is not determined by job titles, training records or tours of duty. It's measured by the intangible impressions that a person leaves on others around them. The value of Chuck Harden's legacy is woven within the people who knew him, whether for five minutes or fifty years.... In those who witnessed his strength of character and core values.

Chuck was also known for his easy smile, sense of humor, enjoyment of hunting and fishing, and above all - love for his family and friends. He was married to Anne Eldridge Harden for nearly 30 years (October 10, 1993 to May 5, 2023) and together they had three children.

Chuck is preceded in death by his father Larry Whaley Harden, and his younger sister, Cheryl Ann Harden Andrews. He is survived by his mother Teresa Curles Harden, his former spouse Anne Eldridge Harden; his daughter Valerie Suzanne Harden and Sarah Joyce Harden; his son William Chance Harden, and his nieces Natalie and Audrey Andrews.

His family appreciates your thoughts, prayers and support during this difficult time. Condolences and flowers may be sent to his children at 18 Thrasher Lane Crawfordville, Florida or his mother at 7727 Smith Creek Road Sopchoppy, Florida.

A Memorial Service celebrating Chuck Harden's life is planned for Sunday October 22, 2023 at 3:00PM at the Sopchoppy United Methodist Church 10 Faith Ave, where he was a member. Visitation will be held from 2:00 - 3:00PM at the church, with burial taking place following the service at West Sopchoppy Cemetery.

Dayne Parker of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Sopchoppy United Methodist Church  
10 Faith Avenue  
Sopchoppy, FL 32358

## Celebration of Life

OCT **22**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Sopchoppy United Methodist Church  
10 Faith Avenue  
Sopchoppy, FL 32358

## Burial

OCT **22**. 4:00 PM (ET)

West Sopchoppy Cemetery  
Sopchoppy, FL

# Tribute Wall



“ Judy P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chuck" Wesley Harden.

Judy P. - October 19, 2023 at 04:36 PM



“ Gina R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chuck" Wesley Harden.

Gina R. - October 18, 2023 at 02:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles "Chuck" Wesley Harden.



October 17, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles "Chuck" Wesley Harden.

October 17, 2023 at 09:04 AM