



## Jean Lipscomb Harper

September 7, 1925 - September 2, 2017

Jean Harper passed away on September 2, 2017, at the age of 91. She was born Jean Lillian Lipscomb on September 7, 1925, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Milton and Wilma Lipscomb. Jean entered the world of work as a teenager, drawing illustrations for fashion advertisements in the Birmingham News. By the age of 20, she had her own business creating newspaper ads for Birmingham's major department stores.

Jean suspended her illustrating career when she married William Harold (Harry) Harper in 1947. During his military career, he and Jean lived in a variety of places, including Austria during the occupation after WWII. While in post-war Salzburg, Jean worked for the Counter Intelligence Corps, where she had a front-row seat to the cloak-and-dagger intrigue that accompanied the start of the Cold War. Later, Harry was posted as a White House pilot, and Jean was forever charmed when she met President John F. Kennedy at a White House reception.

Jean and Harry settled in Tallahassee in 1975, after Harry retired from the Army. As an avid animal lover and a great believer in helping others, Jean served the community in several voluntary capacities. She was, at various times, President and board member for the Leon County Humane Society. She also served on the Leon County Animal Shelter advisory board. In recent years, she has been both a board member and a wildlife rehabilitator for Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Just a few days before she died, she finished raising a litter of infant raccoons, her third batch of the summer. She rescued

countless animals during her life and rehabilitated a variety of animal species. You never knew what animals you might find at her house or in her yard. Jean was known for her big heart, her love of all creatures (even spiders), her sense of humor, her generosity of spirit, her selflessness, and her kindness to others. By all accounts, she was the sweetest person anyone had ever known.

Her husband of 67 years passed away in 2014. Jean is survived by her beloved cat, Pearl, and by three children and two sons-in-law: Gail (Frank Flynn) of Ft. Lauderdale, Harry of Panama City, and Tina (Don Swenholt) of Washington, DC.

There will be a memorial service on what would have been Jean's 92nd birthday, Thursday, September 7, at 2 p.m., at the Church of the Advent, 815 Piedmont Drive. If you would like to make a charitable donation in her memory, please consider Treats (to help cats) at P.O. Box 14806, Tallahassee, FL 32317, or Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary at 3400 Williams Road, Tallahassee, FL 32311.

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Tina, Gail, Harry and the entire family in the passing of Jean. She was a wonderful, loving, caring, compassionate woman. I loved the many hours I spent visiting with Jean and Harry whether it be 'happy hour' talks and laughter or playing with the 'baby racoons', or listening to the 'wrath' of Harry while helping them around the house. I gained a wealth of knowledge talking to them both, Many fascinating and historical stories about the military, piloting for Presidents, secret and humerous missions. And I loved Jean's love and compassion for taking in abandoned, homeless, and injured animals of all kinds. (and I dug my share of graves for her many deceased cats...with their own grave markers in the back yard).... and endured my share of 'baby racoon bites'... One hellarious memory I'll always carry with me...One day Harry was late getting home, Jean and I were talking and she said "Harry's gonna be late to is own funeral".... Well, he was !!! (by about an hour, the funeral home misplaced his body...). I came to love the Harper's very much like members of my family and I Will miss them dearly.... Thoughts and prayers to you all. Sincerely, David W Barr

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David Barr - September 06, 2017 at 09:04 PM

RU

“ Gail, please accept my deepest condolences on your mother's passing. I remember your parents as such warm and welcoming people. I'm sorry we lost touch during my years out of the country. I wish I could make your mother's memorial service but please get in touch if you stay in town for a few days. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers as you mourn. Warmest regards, Ruth Godfrey-Sigler

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Ruth - September 05, 2017 at 10:10 PM

BF

“ *Billie & Todd and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jean Lipscomb Harper.*



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**Billie & Todd and Family** - September 05, 2017 at 05:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jean Lipscomb Harper.*



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September 05, 2017 at 01:58 PM