



## James Marklin "Mark" Harper

January 3, 1961 - May 21, 2021

James 'Mark' Harper, born January 3, 1961, in Clarksville, TN, aged 60, was tragically lost to us on May 21, 2021, as a result of a mechanical failure during a private plane flight over Myrtle Beach, SC. While he did not survive the crash, he was hailed a hero for avoiding homes and power lines by guiding the plane to the only open land for miles around.

Mark started his lifelong 'affair' with aviation with a 1979 Seminole High School graduation present from his parents of a private pilot's lesson. This was followed by a bachelor's degree in Aeronautics and Aviation from Embry-Riddle University in 1983.

During his early career he built up his flight hours by flying commercial freight for AmeriJet based in Ft. Lauderdale. This led to a 30-year career with US Air and American. Mark finished his career as Captain "Mark" flying American A321 commercial jets with over 35,000 accumulated flight hours.

During his off-hours, Mark was known for his entrepreneurial spirit by building Imperial Homes and Imperial Aviation of Mooresville from the ground up.

Mark was known for his unbridled energy, his love of all things that go on land, sea, or air. But most importantly, Mark was known for his love of family and his selfless attitude. He was always willing to lend a hand, teach a skill or offer

support anyway he could.

Mark is survived by his children Bradley and Olivia Harper of Statesville, NC, his parents Kaye and Sidney Harper of Largo, FL and his brother Todd Harper of Belleair Beach, FL.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 4:00pm on June 4, 2021, at Heritage House of Cavin-Cook Funeral Home located at 494 E Plaza Dr Mooresville NC 28115. For those who are unable to attend the Celebration of Life service, you may go to the following link for the live stream <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC864hAs96dTRLVVL1la0Qlw/videos?view=2&flow=list>

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the family of Mr. Harper. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 4. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Heritage House at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory  
494 East Plaza Drive  
Hwy 150  
 Mooresville, NC 28115

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ *Mark Harper  
RIP*



Melissa Hoots - June 04, 2021 at 05:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
James Marklin "Mark" Harper.*



June 04, 2021 at 03:08 PM

EA

“ *Ed, Candace and Alexa purchased the Simply El  
egant Spathiphyllum for the family of James  
Marklin "Mark" Harper.*



Ed, Candace and Alexa - June 04, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Marklin "Mark" Harper.



---

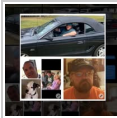
June 04, 2021 at 09:29 AM



“ We are sure going to miss you Captain Mark!  
It's been hard to comprehend circumstances and we know you are in heaven!  
Until we meet again! You will always be in our hearts! Love you forever! RIP. Melissa H

---

**Melissa Hoots** - June 03, 2021 at 09:23 PM



*I love you and miss you I still can't believe this this is been so hard on me  
Until we meet again I midd you Rest In Peace*

---

**Jared Dresner** - June 04, 2021 at 03:37 PM



*I love you and I miss you I still can't believe this happened you are more than just a friend you are a mentor and one of the greatest people I could ever know like a father to me  
Until we meet again Rest In Peace*

---

**Jared Dresner** - June 04, 2021 at 03:38 PM



*Mark was a great neighbor and friend . I'm thankful GOD allowed him to cross our path in this life. I'm grateful for his friendship especially to my son who held Mark in high esteem.  
We will surly miss you*

---

**tammie** - June 04, 2021 at 03:55 PM

SF

“ *The days of bradley and Jacob racing will forever be in my heart. You were a wonderful father and man! Rest easy Mark, till we meet again!*



---

**shane fields** - June 03, 2021 at 08:32 PM

LK

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



---

**Linda Knouse** - June 03, 2021 at 07:19 PM

KA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



---

**Kristi Aderhold** - June 03, 2021 at 05:27 PM

KA

*Mark was such a dear friend and caring person. He was a great help during the loss of my spouse, and always encouraged me in my darkest hours. I shall miss running into him at the airport, always a smile on his face and talking about what he and Melissa had been doing in their travels. He loved to fly and was an awesome Captain. May peace and comfort be with his family, he shall be missed. Kristi Aderhold Charlotte Flight Attendant*

---

**Kristi Aderhold** - June 03, 2021 at 05:34 PM

LK

*Tomorrow will be two weeks and it's still hard to believe that Mark is no longer with us!! For the past several years we have spent so much time as couple friends down in Myrtle Beach with both Mark and Melissa. At least once a month we were either having breakfast, dinner, listening to a concert, going to a show and enjoying our happy place!! Mark was an amazing captain and has taken us for short flights from North Myrtle down to Charleston just for lunch and a fun day. The four of us always celebrated each and every holiday including our birthdays outings together. Myrtle beach will be different without our vibrant outgoing fun loving friend. Our sincere condolences to both of his children and of course Melissa. You will be missed for a long long time Mark Harper!*

Linda Knouse - June 03, 2021 at 07:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Marklin "Mark" Harper.



June 03, 2021 at 04:21 PM

BJ

“ Mark was always very dear to us. Kind & thoughtful...just a very special guy. He will be missed by everyone...especially Melissa who he adored. RIP my friend!



Bob & Judy - June 03, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ You always be in our hearts. Rest In Peace my dearest friend. 🙏🙏



Rosemary Hurtado-Pimentel - June 02, 2021 at 04:54 PM

KK

“ You will always be a special part of our family, Mark. In God's love, may you Rest In Peace.

*Kurt, Kathy, Carly & Reese*



---

**Katherine Karnatz** - June 02, 2021 at 09:27 AM

KA

*Sending love & prayers to the Harper family, especially his children Bradley & Olivia. And comfort and healing to Melissa.*

---

**Karnatz** - June 02, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James Marklin "Mark" Harper.



---

June 02, 2021 at 09:08 AM

GD

“ Ginger Davis lit a candle in memory of James Marklin "Mark" Harper



---

**Ginger Davis** - June 01, 2021 at 10:40 PM

GD

*RIP Mark. You will be missed. Keeping Melissa and your family in our prayers*

**Ginger Davis** - June 01, 2021 at 10:42 PM

KH

“ *Karla Turner And Andy Haugh lit a candle in memory of James Marklin "Mark" Harper*



**Karla Turner and Andy Haugh** - June 01, 2021 at 09:09 PM

MH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



**Melissa Hoots** - June 01, 2021 at 08:53 PM

MH

“ *Melissa Dawn Hoots lit a candle in memory of James Marklin "Mark" Harper*



**Melissa Dawn Hoots** - June 01, 2021 at 08:38 PM