



Harry W. Curless

July 13, 1922 - January 21, 2016

Harry W. Curless, 93, of Havana, passed away at 11:02 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at Mason District Hospital in Havana. He was born July 13, 1922 in Astoria, IL to Roy and Bessie (Grove) Curless. He married Wanda Colleen Watkins on January 4, 1949. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife and is survived by his daughters, Debra Sharpe (husband Neil) and Ellen Gex and his two grandsons, Nicholas Gex and Alexander Gex. Harry was a veteran of WWII. He served with distinction in the US Air Force, receiving the Air Medal, with three clusters for Distinguished Service, four Presidential Citations and the Air Medal with four Bronze Stars. He was in the 20th Air Force as part of the original B-29 Hellbirds. His service included India, China, Burma, the Mariana Islands (Tinian and Saipan) and Africa, serving from 1942 – 1946.

Harry enjoyed trapshooting. He had competed over the years at local, state and the Grand American International Handicap shoots, winning many honors and trophies, finishing in the top ten many times.

Harry was a lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge, the Illinois Trapshooting Association and the Air Force Association. He retired after 42 years at Illinois Power Company.

The love of his life was his family. He cared deeply for all children. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children or the Illinois Masonic Children's Homes.

Funeral services will be held at Hurley Funeral Home in Havana on Monday,

January 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. with visitation one hour prior to the services.
Burial will follow the services at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Havana. Wayne
Curless will officiate.
Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **25**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana
217 North Plum Street
P.O. Box #648
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2244
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral

JAN **25**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Harry W. Curlless*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Harry and Colleen Curlless's daughter, Ellen, was my best friend thru high school (and beyond), and we would hang out at her home so much it sometimes seemed like it was my own. During those visits I remember Harry as a quiet man, but underneath that quiet one sensed he was not someone to "mess" with. My sister, Joan, beat me to sharing the memory of Harry heading to the basement to clean his trapshooting guns whenever boys would stop by. Ellen and I would laugh at how this unspoken message to behave themselves would make the boys cringe. Also, I can't forget Harry's tenderness and sadness when their beloved beagle, Boofer, was in a terrible dog fight. Harry found the badly injured Boofer, and stayed with his body after he died, finally giving in to the need to bury him. I'm sorry it's been more than a year that he's passed, but take comfort in knowing he's with Colleen. All my prayers are with the family. Barbara Lindburg Schor*

Barbara Lindburg Schor - March 03, 2017 at 09:19 PM



“ *The New England Air Museum, home of the 58th Bomb Wing Memorial, sends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of this true American patriot and hero.*

May he rest in peace.

Al Schutte - February 08, 2016 at 09:12 AM

JL

“ Here's how much Harry Curless cared for his girls. Ellen and my sister Barb were best friends in high school. I remember stories being told of whenever Ellen had a date, Harry made it a point to be cleaning his guns when the date arrived. I always knew he was the trapshooting champion but I had no idea of his accomplishments in the military until I read his obituary. A lot of those "boys" never talked about WWII. He was one of them, I guess. And, of course, his wife was one of a kind, also, being the first woman mayor of Havana and, before that, becoming a Physician Assistant. What a great family. I'm sorry to hear of your loss, Ellen. You had a great father - and mother. Much love coming your way. Joan Lindburg

joan lindburg - January 30, 2016 at 06:29 PM

BB

“ Ellen...I was sorry to hear of the passing of your dad. I hope you and your family are doing well during this very difficult time.

Brad Burgett - January 25, 2016 at 04:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Harry W. Curless.



January 25, 2016 at 11:16 AM

SB

“ Harry & Colleen were the best neighbors you could have. From the time we moved in next door, they were our friends. I was always amazed at the things Harry did outdoors. He was one of those who couldn't just sit around and grow old. And he certainly didn't, staying in his home alone and driving til the very end. It was a life we would all like to emulate and God willing, we'll try, He will be missed by us and many others I'm sure. It just won't be the same in the neighborhood without him! And we will surely miss seeing his daughters come to visit...they raised two of the nicest girls who truly loved their parents. We will keep them in our prayers daily.

Steve & Mary Pat Bares

Steve & Mary Pat Bares - January 24, 2016 at 08:13 PM