



## Mr. L. D. "Sonny" Hardy Jr.

August 24, 1933 - June 24, 2020

Mr. L.D. "Sonny" Hardy, 86, of Henderson, passed from this life on June 24, 2020, at UT Health East Texas in Tyler. He was born August 24, 1933, in Henderson, the fifth child, and first son, of eight children born to the late Lawrence D. Hardy Sr. and Nellie Pearl (Williams) Hardy. Sonny grew up on a farm without electricity or running water where he did the work of a man day in and day out from the age of 7. He was never without a job until the day he retired. Mr. Hardy graduated from Gaston High School in 1951 and attended Tyler Junior College. December 1953 marked two milestones in Sonny's life, his marriage to Clara Taylor, and his entry into the United States Army during the Korean Conflict where he rose to the rank of Sergeant in 18 months. He served, attached to the Air Force at March Air Force Base, in radar communication. After military service, Mr. Hardy worked for SWEPCO for 10 years before working 30 years with American National Insurance Company retiring in 1992. Sonny married Jenny Marwil on December 31, 1988.

Mr. Hardy was an avid gardener and took great pride in his vegetables, especially his tomatoes. He also loved fishing and was a true fan of Arp football, not missing a game in 45 years. Sonny also served as President of the Henderson Jaycees, was a charter member and Past President of the Henderson Optimist Club, and he served as President of the Henderson Little League Association. He was an excellent cook and enjoyed using that gift for his family. However, his most enjoyable endeavor was teaching his

grandchildren to fish, and he loved watching them participate in athletics. Above all, Mr. Hardy was a caring husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather; a true protector of his family. He was a good man!

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Clara Hardy, the mother of his children; siblings, Judy Kern, Shirley Hearn, Janie Mullican, Lois Wesson, JoAnn Kern, and Lenard Hardy; as well as a grandson, Grey Medlin.

Survivors include his wife, Jenny Hardy; son, David Hardy and wife Valerie; daughter, Lori Padgett; step-daughters, Jeana VanDyke and husband Jody, and Beth Medlin; sister, Yvonne Sutton and husband John; grandchildren, Nick Hardy and wife Kim, Breanna Padgett, Bailey VanDyke, Nate VanDyke and wife Bailey, Price Medlin, Rowe Medlin; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ *A Wonderful cousin, we were very close till I moved off, we grew up together, and he was a very caring person. Will miss him forever til we meet again.*  
*your cousin*  
*Sue*

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**Martha Sue Woosley, Sistrunk** - October 05, 2022 at 03:56 PM

YS

*My only living brother. I loved you so very much! You will be greatly missed. We had some great times together. You are with all of the family except me.*  
*I didn't get to say goodbye and I don't know why, but you will always be in my heart. Till we see each other again. I love you!*  
*Your only living sister,*  
*Yvonne*

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**Yvonne Hardy Sutton** - September 30, 2023 at 01:57 PM

GH

*I met him through my mother and sister Matha and Maryland Hopkins. He was their insurance agent. He was indeed a good person with that smile on his face everytime I saw him. His son David was just as nice as he was. Rest in Peace Hardy.*

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**Gloria Horton** - July 06, 2024 at 04:19 PM

DA

“ *Donna J Aaron lit a candle in memory of Mr. L. D. "Sonny" Hardy Jr.*



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**Donna J Aaron** - July 04, 2020 at 09:35 PM

ET

“ *Emilie J Thane lit a candle in memory of Mr. L. D. "Sonny" Hardy Jr.*



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**Emilie J Thane** - July 02, 2020 at 04:58 PM

JC

“ *Johnny Carnett lit a candle in memory of Mr. L. D. "Sonny" Hardy Jr.*



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**Johnny Carnett** - June 30, 2020 at 09:40 PM

NK

“ *I was always the littlest one when we visited Uncle Lawrence and Aunt Pearl, but had so much fun with Sonny Boy, Leonard, JoAnn, and Yvonne!!  
Wonderful memories of wonderful cousins!  
Nancy Purdy Kissinger*

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**Nancy Kissinger** - June 30, 2020 at 06:10 PM

RG

“ *So sorry about Sonny. He was such a good fisherman, cook, gardener and a good man. I have fond memories of he and Jenny feeding everyone.*

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**Ruby L Greenville** - June 30, 2020 at 05:56 PM

HW

“ Have known Sonny many years through my classmate Jenny Marwil Hardy. He attended many HHS '58 events and was always entertaining. He was well liked and loved to many all over East Texas and will be greatly missed. He always had some story or a jar of his fig preserves to share with me. My prayers are going out to Jenny and to Sonny's kin in this time of mourning, grief and loss.  
Hal Watson

Hal Watson - June 30, 2020 at 01:07 PM



“ Sonny was truly a good man. Talked to him many times about gardening and fishing. Always a great treat to see and visit with him. He will be greatly missed!!!!  
Larry Morgan

Larry Morgan - June 30, 2020 at 10:05 AM

PP

“ Pud Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. L. D. "Sonny" Hardy Jr.



pud patterson - June 30, 2020 at 10:02 AM

RS

“ Sonny used to come by to visit my parents in Henderson in the late 60's and early 70's. Always a super nice man and always willing to talk football. RIP sir.

Robert E Stephens - June 30, 2020 at 08:44 AM

MA

“ *Merlene Ainsworth lit a candle in memory of Mr. L. D. "Sonny" Hardy Jr.*



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**Merlene Ainsworth** - June 30, 2020 at 08:41 AM

SO

“ *Our most sincere sympathy and prayers for your family The Gaston Museum Board and Volunteers*

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**stephanie osteen** - June 29, 2020 at 10:09 PM

NL

“ *To David and Valarie, Nick and Kim and the grandchildren: So sorry for the loss of your father and grandfather and great-grandfather. I know he was precious to all of you! You have our prayers. Love in Christ Nettie & James Lanham.*

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**Nettie Lanham** - June 29, 2020 at 09:27 PM

AG

“ *Alvin & Ann Green lit a candle in memory of Mr. L. D. "Sonny" Hardy Jr.*



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**Alvin & Ann Green** - June 29, 2020 at 08:51 PM

LA

“ *Sonny was my first cousin, my dad, George Hardy and his father, Lawrence Hardy. I remember spending the night with Yvonne, Sonny's sister many times in their home. My cousins were more like my brothers and sisters. Both my sister, Barbara Hardy Barton, and myself loved our cousins and enjoyed spending time with them. Sonny will be missed, his sweet gentle spirit endeared him to many.*

*Linda Hardy Abbott*

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**Linda Hardy Abbott** - June 29, 2020 at 07:48 PM

DH

“ *Omgoodness Sonny was such a sweet man, sorry for your loss Jenny.*

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**Denise Harris** - June 29, 2020 at 02:17 PM