



## Harry E. Rediger

October 11, 1937 - September 22, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that the family of Harry Rediger, beloved former mayor of Cape Girardeau, announces his passing. Harry passed away peacefully Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, at the age of 86. Harry will be remembered as a loving husband, parent, grandparent and great-grandparent, a dedicated public servant and active community member.

He was born in 1937 and grew up in Seward, Nebraska, the devoted son of Harry E. and Dorothy M. Rediger, who owned a local hardware store. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1959. Following his education, Harry served in the Naval Reserve, demonstrating his commitment to serving his country.

Harry was an avid golfer, a charter member of the 40-year “goats” morning coffee club, a member of the Tower Club and a lifelong Nebraska Cornhusker fan.

Harry enjoyed a successful 38-year career with JC Penney, spending the last 20 years as the store manager in Cape Girardeau. His dedication and leadership were evident in his work and the relationships he built within the community.

From 2010 to 2018, Harry served as the mayor of Cape Girardeau, where his leadership and vision greatly impacted the city's development and growth. His tenure was marked by numerous accomplishments, including the revitalization of the downtown area, the expansion of parks and recreational facilities and significant improvements in local infrastructure. Harry's efforts left a lasting

legacy on the community. Prior to becoming mayor, he served on the Cape Planning and Zoning Commission from 1989 to 2009 and the Cape Girardeau School Board from 1995 to 1997.

Harry was deeply committed to community service. He was a member of Centenary Global Methodist Church – formerly Centenary United Methodist Church, where he held various leadership roles, including past council chair, finance chair, staff-parish chair and treasurer. He was an active supporter of Southeast Missouri State University, where he served as chairman of the Southeast Missouri State University Foundation, and was an active member of the Southeast University Booster Club, serving as president from 2005 to 2007.

He served on the Red Cross Board of Directors from 1979 to 1990, including a term as chairman from 1983 to 1984. Additionally, Harry was a member and past president (1981) of the Cape West Rotary; served on the Saint Francis Medical Center Board of Directors, including as chairman from 1997 to 2007, and was a long-time board member of USBank from 1997 to 2018. His dedication extended to the United Way Board of Directors, where he served for 19 years and was a three-time campaign chair.

Throughout his life, Harry received numerous awards recognizing his service and contributions, including the Rush H. Limbaugh Community Service Award (1992), the United Way Spirit of Giving Award (2001), the Missouri Hospital Association Excellence in Governance Award (2000), the Distinguished Service Award from Southeast Missouri State (2006), the Spirit of America Award from the Southeast Missourian (2009) and the Friend of the University Award from Southeast Missouri State University (2014).

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Frances Kay "Fran" Rediger, who died in February 2015.

Harry is survived by his children, Cindy (Randy) Propst, Kathy (Bill) Sedlacek, Dr. Doug Rediger (Gary Kluesner) and Michelle (Mark) Burris; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brothers-in law, Dennis Markle and Dick (Ruth) Markle; and loving friend, Debbie Coalter.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at Centenary Global Methodist Church, 300 N. Ellis St. in Cape Girardeau.

A funeral service to honor Harry's life and legacy will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, at the church. Interment will follow at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Centenary Global Methodist Church will be live streaming service at [centenarycape.org](http://centenarycape.org)

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Centenary Global Methodist Church in Harry's name.

As we say goodbye to a remarkable man, we remember Harry Rediger with fondness and gratitude for his unwavering dedication to his family, to Cape Girardeau and its residents. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum

2315 Highway 61 N  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **25**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Centenary Global Methodist Church  
300 N. Ellis  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Funeral Service

SEP **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Centenary Global Methodist Church  
300 N. Ellis  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

NI

“ *He would always credit his family for his success. I admired his love for family and community.* ”



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**Nicolette** - December 06, 2024 at 10:12 AM

Julie  
Clark

“ *We praise and thank the Lord for the life of Harry Rediger. Harry was a great friend to our dad, Moe. He spoke often and fondly of the times they spent together, whether it was on the golf course, Thursday morning coffee, or on trips taken with their spouses; Harry was a force to be around. Our mother, Patti, sends her condolences and her regret that she will not be able to travel to Cape for his memorial service. Please know that your family is in all of our thoughts and prayers as you celebrate the life of your wonderful father. With love, Julie Clark on behalf of Patricia Sandfort and the entire Sandfort family* ”



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**Julie Clark** - September 26, 2024 at 09:03 AM

SS

“ Harry was a wonderful person and a great Penney Partner. He had an excellent JCPenney career and was active in the H.C.S.C. Alumni Club in retirement. He will be missed. Rest in Peace, Harry!

Steve Strom  
President  
JCPenney National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club

Steven Strom - September 25, 2024 at 09:28 AM

RF

“ Rock Dental Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry E. Rediger.

Rock Dental Family - September 25, 2024 at 07:37 AM

RF

“ Rock Dental Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Harry E. Rediger.



Rock Dental Family - September 25, 2024 at 07:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry E. Rediger.



September 24, 2024 at 05:05 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Harry E. Rediger.*



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September 24, 2024 at 04:37 PM



“ *From Bill Graham & David Patrick purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Harry E. Rediger.*



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**From Bill Graham & David Patrick** - September 24, 2024 at 04:04 PM



“ *I knew him thru St. Francis when he was board chair. He was always an enthusiastic supporter of what we tried to do to help our patients. He was and is the gold standard for how to establish and maintain a winning team. I felt fortunate to have known Harry for that brief period of time.*

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**Edward Bender** - September 24, 2024 at 01:15 PM

AF

“ When I think of Mr. Reviser I think of words like Gentleman..Service..Fairness..Customer Service. Thank you Sir for the treasured memories years passed and for the many smiles along the way. Happy Trails Sir .  
You inspired alot of us ol JCPenney Loafers.  
Annie and Robert Fisher..

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**Annie B Fisher** - September 24, 2024 at 12:12 PM

WA

“ Westrock Orthodontics - Arnold planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry E. Rediger.

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**Westrock Orthodontics - Arnold** - September 24, 2024 at 12:04 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Harry E. Rediger.



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September 24, 2024 at 12:04 PM

LO

“ Harry was our loyal and dedicated Friend for over 58 years. I could write a book of memories but will give only one memory. Harry loved golf and he was impossible to beat. Extremely competitive and after hundreds of rounds of golf with him, he has a lot of my money.  
Harry, Rest in Peace and you will be missed Dearly. We love you Man, Larry and Martha Orth

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**Larry and Martha Orth** - September 24, 2024 at 09:44 AM

JD

*I worked for Mr. Rediger for only two years, but he remained my mentor and friend for more than 40. He was a visionary person who had his priorities in order. He lived as an example of "one who truly loves God and neighbor!" May his life and love live on in the memories of all who knew him. I know they will in me.*

Jack Dickson - September 25, 2024 at 01:09 PM

DC

“ David & Stacey Cantrell purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Harry E. Rediger.



David & Stacey Cantrell - September 24, 2024 at 07:53 AM

DC

“ David & Stacey Cantrell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry E. Rediger.

David & Stacey Cantrell - September 24, 2024 at 07:53 AM

J-

“ Harry was such a great man as many will say. He and Fran were great friends of the father in law of my son. He and Fran were such active members of Centenary . She and I cooked in kitchen for sometime. I will miss his hugs as he sat in front of me at church. May the family feel Gods loving arms at this time. 🙏🕊️🙏

Jackie Clark -Otto - September 23, 2024 at 03:24 PM

DN

“ Mr. Rediger was my boss at JCPenney. He instilled high standards and work ethics and expected them from all. I had deep admiration for this man. Rest easy Boss.

Dena Nelson - September 23, 2024 at 03:01 PM