



Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr.

May 9, 1937 - January 26, 2026

Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr. was born on May 9, 1937, to the late Harry A. and Olive (King) Carey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. From an early age, Harry lived a life shaped by curiosity, service, faith, and adventure.

Harry devoted his professional career to education and service at The Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania, where he served as an Extension Educator in the College of Agriculture and later retired. He held a doctorate-equivalent level of education, reflecting his deep commitment to learning and scholarship. A gifted teacher, Harry was known for making complex ideas practical and engaging.

In addition to his academic work, he operated a farm, raising crops and livestock and living by the principles he shared with farmers and communities. His creativity and love of learning were evident in the educational materials he designed and the generosity with which he shared his knowledge. Harry also taught Sunday School at a local church, sharing his wisdom and passion for teaching beyond the classroom.

He honorably served his country in the United States Army, a commitment that reflected his lifelong sense of duty and service.

Harry's love of people and exploration extended far beyond Pennsylvania. He

completed two multi-year international assignments with Winrock International and USAID in Swaziland and Zimbabwe and participated in shorter projects in Lithuania and Italy. Africa held a special place in his heart, particularly Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, and Lesotho, where friendships and experiences became lifelong treasures.

Adventure was central to Harry's life, along with his deep love for Harley-Davidson motorcycles; he actively participated in Harley Owners Group (HOG) rallies. In 1995, he organized the Harley Owners Group Rally in State College, famously riding his Harley through the lobby of the Scanticon Hotel. He later completed a solo, month-long motorcycle journey to Alaska, traveling with little more than his bike, a hammock, and an independent spirit.

In retirement, Harry continued helping others, working part-time at Home Depot, where he delighted customers and coworkers alike with his practical "can-do, fix-it" knowledge.

On Monday, January 26, 2026, Harry peacefully departed this life while asleep at his home in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, joining his parents, his sister, Helen "Toosie" (Carey) Ritchey, and his infant brothers, Harry and Roy.

He leaves to honor and cherish his life his wife, Anna Carey; his children, Cynthia (Corey) Carey, Sandy (Mark) Shelow, and Thomas (Sabine) Carey of State College, Pennsylvania; Sally Carey of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Aijalaya McArthur-Carey of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; his grandchildren, Mattie, Lexy, Nick, and Tyler; his great-grandchildren, Blair and Roger; his brothers, Albert "Skip" Carey of Shippensburg and John A. Carey of Loganton; his stepdaughter, Cherrette McArthur; his step-grandchildren, Rashien Phillips, NyJah Phillips, Che'Rae Phillips, and Jayceon Irvin; and his step-great-grandchildren, Karter Pate, Meh'Lani Wright, and Amein Phillips, who brought great joy to his life.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

Flower delivery, 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 3, at WFD.

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 3. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.
106 Agnes St
Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 939-9950
wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com
<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com>

Service

FEB 3. 3:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Wallace Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr.



Wallace Funeral Directors - February 03 at 01:51 PM

TC

“Dad, as I look back, I realize that you taught me so many things.
You taught me the value and joy of hard work.
To have pride in the work I do, even if (as Pap Carey would joke)
“they’ll never see it from the highway”.
To appreciate nature and all that it provides.
We worked hard together on so many things.
Pruning fruit trees and planting crops in the spring
Making hay and tending the farm in the summer
Harvesting corn and apples in the fall
Clearing snow and fence rows in the winter just to get out of the
house
We would work at the sawmill at Uncle John’s
and extend our road into the mountain land whenever we had a day
You taught me that with creativity and effort we could repair, build or
make nearly anything
I learned how to troubleshoot motors and repair farm equipment
And how to remodel and build

But it wasn’t all just work, you always found a way to make time for
fun
We fished in nearly every nearby drop of water, creeks, rivers and
lakes
With special trips with the Uncles and Cousins, and even
occasionally Pap Carey
He also hunted nearly everything we could, birds and bunnies, deer
and the beloved squirrel camp

I recall stomping my feet as you and my uncles and cousins would
make music together
and an occasional afternoon of playing pool or working on puzzles
There were big corn boil gatherings, with cow patty softball and that
potato gun
We threw darts, Frisbees and footballs, and played “redneck golf”
Even occasional visits to the tennis court
And the days of ice skating on the pond

You always loved the dogs and cats more than you would admit, I think I got that too

I learned a love of adventure, especially on our long safaris in Africa

I absorbed much of your love of helping others

Be it plowing their snow, fixing their roof or pruning their trees, you were always ready to jump in

I remember you brought home that very first Apple computer, we played and played with that thing.

To this day manage computers for a living

You lived life full of hard work, fun, Family and adventure.

And much of what I have become started with you.

Thomas Carey - February 04 at 08:47 PM

MJ

“ *I first met Harry when I babysat his kids outside Centre Hall and then worked with him on Ag Hill. He was one of the nicest and friendliest persons one could ever know. My condolences to all of the Carey family.*



Mary Rockey Johnston - February 04 at 06:20 PM

BL

“ *Harry was an outstanding educator, a good coworker and a special friend.*

Bob Lewis

Bob Lewis - February 04 at 01:11 PM

TM

“ I remember Harry as an effective teacher of Extension Agents. He taught me how to make a poster that attracts attention, how to hand make a simple 2x2 slide, and how to get the FOG out of my writing. Use short and clear sentences. Use simple words. Same technique God uses when He has something important to say. Thank you Harry

Tom McCarty - February 04 at 11:04 AM

DS

“ Anna, I will always have a special place in my heart for Uncle Sonny. I just wish I was able to make the service. You made him so happy and for that I am eternally grateful. Please don't you and Aijalaya be strangers.

Dan and Kim Strittmatter - February 03 at 07:36 PM

TK

“ Anna and Family,
We are so sorry to hear about Harry. We always loved seeing him walking the neighborhood. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

Your 1013 Neighbors, Trish and Don

Trisha Knolles - February 03 at 02:17 PM

RM

“ Anna & Family,

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Harry truly was a Nice Person and will be missed.

Robin McKinney-Newman

Robin McKinney-Newman - February 03 at 11:02 AM

DS

“ Harry was a wonderful person who inspired all that worked with him. I offer my condolences to his wife and family. He is in Heaven with God.

Diane Savich - February 02 at 08:40 PM

QT

“ Meeting my dear cousin Anna’s husband Harry was a complete Joy and honor. The way he showed his true loving spirit towards me and the love he showed to the entire Family is immeasurable and with honor. Thank you Harry for being a superior man to all my family there and showing me how to play darts. I’m glad I didn’t attempt to learn to ride those beautiful bikes though. Rest now Harry your living was not in vain. Love and respect Queta Thompson (Desoto Texas)

Queta Thompson - February 02 at 08:21 PM

JW

“ Great Memories on working with Harry Carey as a young county agent in the late 1990's Such a great teacher!

J Craig williams - February 01 at 08:39 PM

MF

“ McFadden Family purchased the Gracious Laven der Basket for the family of Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr..



McFadden Family - February 01 at 06:55 PM

MF

“ McFadden Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr..

McFadden Family - February 01 at 06:55 PM

JF

“ John Carey Sr. And families purchased the Full of Love Bouquet for the family of Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr..



John Carey Sr. And families - February 01 at 04:12 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr..



February 01 at 01:02 PM

JB

“ Joshua & Jennifer Brock planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr..

Joshua & Jennifer Brock - February 01 at 01:02 PM

FF

“ *From the Shelow & Steyers families. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Harry Albert "Sonny" Carey Jr..*



From the Shelow & Steyers families. - February 01 at 11:54 AM

AR

“ *To Anna
My heartfelt condolences to you and the family. May thoughts are with you.*



Annette

Annette Roy - February 01 at 11:18 AM

JB

To Anna and Aijalaya,

Sending you healing prayers and comforting hugs. We are so sorry for your loss.

Joann and John

joann borsic - February 02 at 05:40 PM

BG

*Dear Anna and Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you on this day ! Wish we could be there!*

We have fond memories of Harry from our visits in the States years ago ! He will always be in our hearts !

Rest in peace dear friend !

Günter and Brigitte in Germany ! (Bines parents)

Brigitte and Günter - February 03 at 09:13 AM

KN

Anna and family, your Regal Red Hat Rascal Sisters extend their sympathy to you at the loss of your beloved husband.

Kathleen R Nuspl - February 03 at 04:15 PM