



## Walter John Harmsen

May 7, 1920 - September 7, 2013

Walter John Harmsen, a retired dairy equipment dealer and Masonic leader, died at The Masonic Home in Cockeysville, MD, on September 7, 2013. He was 93.

Born in Cordova, MD, May 7, 1920, he was the son of the late, Hans C.P. and Bertha Behrens Harmsen. He attended public school until reaching the age of 16 when he left school to help run the family farming operation. Later in life, at the age of 87, he earned his GED, one of the oldest persons in the state to accomplish this. As a young man, he was also very active in 4-H work, earning a scholarship and a trip to Camp Minawanca in Wisconsin, which was quite an adventure for him.

In 1942, he married the former Betty Kerr and they began their married life with him managing a neighbor's farm, then managing Oliver Duke's farm "Asbury" in Deep Neck, Royal Oak, where he supervised German Prisoners of War. There are currently six letters in the Talbot Historical Society from former prisoners testifying to the good treatment they received from Mr. Harmsen. He later moved to Solitude Farm near St. Michaels as a herdsman for six years before moving in 1954 to Lands End in Queen Anne's County. In 1956, he moved to Easton where he worked as a fertilizer salesman, then milk inspector. In the late 1950's, he formed his own business, Harmsen Dairy Equipment, a Surge Dairy Equipment dealership, in which he remained active

until retiring in 1983. He then drove a U.S. Mail truck for ten years.

A lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cordova, he had served as President of the Church Council and many other offices as well as teaching Sunday School. Extremely dedicated to the Masonic Fraternity, he was a member of Coats Lodge # 102, A.F. & A.M., Easton, where he had served for six years as Worshipful Master. A York Rite Mason, he was also a member of Boumi Shrine Temple in Baltimore. He had served for six years as Deputy Grand Inspector and one year as Deputy Grand Lecturer for the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Mr. Harmsen is survived by his daughters, Patricia H. Mayer (Lee) of Denton, Shirley H. Hennessy (Paul) of Manassas, VA, and Meg E. Harmsen (Judith) of Hillsborough, NJ; three grandchildren, Tricia Walston, Tara Werner and Brooke Hennessy; two great-grandchildren, Christopher Walston and Elizabeth Walston.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; his sister, Louise Lindeman; and two brothers, Ernest Harmsen and Richard Harmsen.

Funeral services will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cordova on Friday, September 13, 2013, at 11 a.m. Burial will be in St. Paul's Church Cemetery, Cordova. Friends may call at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A., in Easton on Thursday, September 12, 2013, from 6-8 p.m. and at the church one hour prior to service.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 368, Cordova, MD, 21625.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Paul's Church Cemetery

12095 Blades Road  
Cordova, MD 21625

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **12**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Easton Location  
200 S Harrison St  
Easton, MD 21601  
(410) 822-3131  
[info@fhfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhfuneralhome.com)

## Service

SEP **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
12095 Blades Rd.  
Cordova, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Walter John Harmsen*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Walter John Harmsen*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Walter John Harmsen*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Riding along in the Surge truck as you made your rounds to your dairy customers. Sharing Eastern Shore history, especially Easton, with this Westerner. Sharing family stories. Spending time with you and Aunt Betty. Precious memories. Rest in Peace, Uncle Walter.*

*Sue (Harmsen) Edwards*

**Sue Edwards** - September 13, 2013 at 12:37 PM



*God's peace be with you and your family*

**Chick Lovell** - December 06, 2019 at 12:55 PM

M(

“ *Marilyn Barton (Jenkins) lit a candle in memory of Walter John Harmsen*



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**Marilyn Barton (Jenkins)** - September 13, 2013 at 11:44 AM

EF

“ *Ed Frampton lit a candle in memory of Walter John Harmsen*



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**Ed Frampton** - September 12, 2013 at 01:21 PM

BB

“ *Thoughts and prayers rest in peace Bro Harmsen*

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**Bro. Michael Bauman** - September 12, 2013 at 01:34 AM

PL

“ *Pam LeGates lit a candle in memory of Walter John Harmsen*



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**Pam LeGates** - September 11, 2013 at 07:20 AM