



## Wallace W Gurden

August 2, 1934 - June 14, 2017

Wallace W. Gurden passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 in his Philadelphia home. He was 82.

Mr. Gurden was a highly decorated Army veteran who earned the prestigious Legion of Merit among numerous other medals and commendations during his 26-year career, retiring as a Command Sgt. Major in 1980. After his Army career, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service at Station C in Trenton as a mail carrier for 20 years.

Born and raised in Mount Holly, N.J. he was born August 2, 1934, to William and Leona (Schemelia) Gurden and graduated from Mount Holly High School in 1952 before enlisting in the Army. Mr. Gurden served two tours of combat duty in the Vietnam War and was awarded a Purple Heart in each tour. He was a platoon leader of a mortar unit and an infantry unit in his tours, and often said one of the things he was most proud of is that every member of his infantry platoon returned home safely despite heavy combat as part of the Bravo Company. He received the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Master Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and many other recognitions.

A longtime Westampton, N.J., resident, Mr. Gurden was an active member of VFW Post 2692 in Mount Holly, where he has served as past commander, and at American Legion Post 294 in Pemberton Township. He is fondly known for his outgoing personality and his penchant for telling jokes. He was an avid golfer, and played regularly for decades at Fountain Green Golf Course in Fort Dix. One of his pleasures later in life was to meet friends and family for breakfast at selected diners in South Jersey and Philadelphia.

Always proud of his roots, he often introduced himself as "Mount Holly Wally."

Mr. Gurden was preceded in death by wife Marie (Lamb) Gurden. He is survived by sister Wilma Zeller of Mount Laurel, son William (wife Antoinette) of Medford Lakes, and grandsons Alex, Josh, and Lucas; his wife of 10 years, Mary (Brown) Gurden, her children Albert, Joe, and Donna Dempsey, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held 9-11 a.m. Tuesday June 20 at Perinchief Chapels, 438 High St., Mount Holly. Interment will follow at Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in North Hanover Township. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to VFW Post 2692, 199 South Ave., Mount Holly, N.J. 08060 or American Legion Post 294, 39 Fort Dix Rd., Pemberton, N.J. 08068.



# Cemetery

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# Events

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**BGWCD Veteran's Memorial Cemetery JUN**

350 Provinceline Rd.,

Wrightstown, NJ,

**20**

**Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

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Perinchief Chapels

438 High Street, Mt. Holly, NJ, US, 08060

**JUN**

**20**

**Service** 11:00AM

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Perinchief Chapels

438 High Street, Mt. Holly, NJ, US, 08060

# Comments

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“ Wally was a student in my gym class during his high school years. He was enthusiastic ,

likeable, willing to help others in their attempt to master athletic skills , was the first to report to class and the last to leave-----a true leader -----who was highly respected by his

classmates [ teammates ] We have lost a brave man ---a true hero.

Ray Hoagland

**Ray Hoagland** - June 20, 2017 at 06:56 PM

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“ Bill, Antoinette, Mary and family,  
We share in your grief when we heard about the passing of Wally. He's been a part of our "family" forever too. My mother would share stories of babysitting Wally as a child in Mt. Holly, and the laughter would begin. We loved the jokes and stories he would tell about the escapades with my Uncle Jake and the rest of the Green Streeters. Wally loved each of you so much and kept us informed about you over the years at picnics at the Morris's and events at the VFW and American Legion. We would occasionally run into him at the diner in later years, where he would always have time to chat. John loved getting e-mails too, and would share some of them with me.

May you keep the fondest memories of your dad, husband, grandfather closest to your heart always. I know we will.

Sincerely,

Terri and John Linton Sackett

**Terri Sackett** - June 20, 2017 at 03:42 PM

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“ I was very sorry to hear that Wally passed away this week. Although I only knew him for a couple of years I really enjoyed his company and loved to hear his stories and jokes. He was a brave man and his life was filled interesting adventures that spoke volumes about the man and his bravery . He was a true patriot and sacrificed so much for his country. He will truly be missed! Sincerely Jim Dirvin PT

**James Dirvin** - June 17, 2017 at 05:26 PM