

RONALD "RON" ROBERT HARPER



Los Angeles, California — Ron Harper, 91, entered into eternal rest Thursday, March 21, 2024. He passed from natural causes and was surrounded by family the day before.

Born Ronald Robert Harper, to Mabel and George Harper of Turtle Creek, PA. Ron was one of three children and loved to reminisce of his childhood growing up with his sister, Marion, and brother, George.



Upon graduating from Turtle Creek High School, Ron received a full scholarship to Princeton University. He was honored to be the first in his family to graduate from college. Even though, he was offered a fellowship to Harvard Law School, it was a significant conversation with the one and only, Albert Einstein, who helped him decide

acting was his true passion. He served in the U.S. Navy, where he met his best friend, John Aniston.

After moving to California, Ron continued to pursue acting. He starred in soap operas and daytime television shows, such as: Planet of the Apes, Garrison's Gorillas, Land of the Lost, 87th Precinct, Wendy and Me, and The Jean Arthur Show. His résumé also included appearances in the movies: The Wild Season, The Odd Couple II, and Pearl Harbor. He appeared on such shows as Tales of Wells Fargo, Thriller, Wagon Train, and The Tall Man, with TV guest roles on The Big Valley, Remington Steele, Beverly Hills, 90210, Melrose Place, Walker, Texas Ranger, The West Wing, and Cold Case. He performed on Broadway in 6 Rms Riv Vu, studied with Lee Strasberg, and was Paul Newman's understudy in Tennessee Williams' Sweet Bird of Youth. He also dabbled in several soap operas, such as: Another World, Loving, Capitol, Generations, Where the Heart Is, and Love of Life. Ron enjoyed working as an actor all the days of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Mabel Harper, along with both his siblings, George Harper and Marion (Harper) Nist.

Ron is survived by his only child, Nicole, her husband, Daniel, and their two daughters, Veronica Violet, whom they lovingly call "little Roni" and Harper Hazel. In addition, he leaves behind his ex-wife, Shirley (Harper) Ruse; sister-in-law Mary (Harper) Early; two nephews, and four nieces, plus their children and grandchildren, respectively.

Many of us will miss him reciting Shakespeare any time the opportunity presented itself or hearing countless stories about his many beloved performances with co-stars across the decades, and especially reminiscing about the good old days of growing up in Turtle Creek.

There will be a church service and a Celebration of Ron's Life on Friday, March 19, 2024 in Los Angeles, California. He will be dearly missed.

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