



Hallie Essex Gregory

December 29, 1938 - September 17, 2017

The Life and Tribute

Hallie Essex Gregory was born December 29, 1938 in East St. Louis, Illinois to the late Mister Gregory, Selia Turner and Eudora Turner (predeceased). Doc or Coach, as he was called by family and friends, enjoyed family, people, church and eating good food. Hallie was a Christian and served God until he was called home. He graduated from West Rockford High School 1958. He served as a Mentor and Coach at the Boys Club of America in Rockford, Illinois and became the first African-American teacher at Guilford High School in Rockford, Illinois.

Dr. Gregory earned his Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from Indiana University. He also earned a Master's of Science in Physical Education and Recreation from Morehead State University in Minnesota, and a Bachelor of Arts in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from Dakota Wesleyan University in South Dakota.

Dr. Gregory was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. since 1989. In 1997, Hallie met then married Nydia Vega Davis. He and Nydia were married on September 4, 1999.

He served as Director of Athletics at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore

from 1989-2000 and Delaware State University from 2000-2005. While at Maryland Eastern Shore, Dr. Gregory assisted with the addition of women's bowling, soccer, and tennis programs at the school, while also overseeing championships in women's outdoor track and field (1992), men's cross country (1995), and men's indoor track and field (1996-97). Dr. Gregory and others were very instrumental in adding women's bowling as a championship sport in the MEAC. Furthermore, he hired Sharon Brummell to coach the Maryland Eastern Shore bowling team, which went on to win multiple MEAC and NCAA national championships. At Delaware State, Dr. Gregory implemented long-term strategies for each of the Hornets' 17 sports, placing special emphasis on affirming the university's commitment to providing equal opportunities for all student athletics. In 2002, he ushered in women's soccer. In the 2001-2002 season, Delaware State won the first women's indoor track & field championship since 1986, as well as winning MEAC regular-season divisional titles in baseball and softball. The Hornets won the MEAC regular-season divisional baseball title, while the women's basketball team advanced to the championship game of the conference tournament in his first year.

Dr. Hallie Gregory was the first African-American head coach at the United States Coast Guard Academy and a 2001 CGA Athletic Hall of Fame inductee. He served as a professor and coach at the Academy from 1971 to 1989. In 1980, Coast Guard Academy Athletic Director, Otto Graham, appointed Coach Gregory as the head track and basketball coach and the Academy's head track coach, making him the first African American head coach in the history of the Academy.

While at the Coast Guard Academy, Dr. Gregory founded the Genesis Council, which was created to join the cadets and the students of Connecticut College from a multitude of different backgrounds and walks of life together for positive discourse, intellectual stimulation, and personal growth. It provided them with opportunities to learn about and experience, first-hand, the history,

cultural nuances, and issues that characterize the African-American/Black diaspora today. Dr. Gregory then turned his sights and calling to a younger group of students at Holly Grove Christian School, where he led the Eagles from (2006-2014) until his medical challenges slowed him down. Dr. Gregory was a proponent of youth advocacy and mentorship.

Hallie E. Gregory will be missed dearly by: his devoted wife, Nydia Gregory. To cherish their memories of him and to celebrate his life, he leaves: 5 daughters—Holly, Paula, Billie Jean (Andrew), Naomi Vale (Kevin) and Michelle (Victor) and son Hayes; grandsons, DeShaun, Danté and Isaiah; granddaughters, Falonna, Sierra, Aleyse Hunteman (deceased) Charelle, DaLeesa and Jazmine; great-grandsons, Amariaun, AMontréal, Aquan, Brody, David, Emoni, Gavin, Josué, KaMir, Victor, Nazir and Zaire; great-granddaughters, Abigail, AjChelon, Elon, Emily, Kara, Monsiea, and Monshayah, as well as many others including deceased wife, Hazel Gregory, daughter, Hope Dawn and sister, Freida (James, Sr.).

Lovingly Submitted ~The Family

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Hallie Essex Gregory, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

KM

“ I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Hallie Gregory. My first memory of Hallie was when he attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD. He and several other African American young male students would travel to my parent's home in Sioux Falls, SD in order to join in on social gatherings because of the scarce population of African Americans in the state. We hosted these gatherings for college students and athletes. Oddly enough there were several that came from Rockford, IL. Hallie was often the life of the parties. After returning to Rockford when he became a teacher at Guilford High School, he recommended that my husband apply for his teaching & coaching position because he was going to be relocating. Therefore my husband followed in his path. Of course Lee Marks became the first African American Head Boys Track & Field Coach there. Lee taught Phys. Ed. there for 35 years, & coached the Boys Track program for 47 years. Hallie always kept in contact with him as a West High alum, friend, and mentor for most of those years. Lee was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis in the early 90's and recently died on June 17, 2017. I will keep your family in my thoughts and will pray for you during this time of bereavement. Please feel free to contact me at Marks1967@aol.com.
Sincerely,
Karen Vaughn Marks
Rockford, IL

Karen Vaughn Marks - January 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

H. Fields - September 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our belated condolences for the loss of your loved one. All of us have experienced the pain of death in some way sad to say. And, so, at difficult times like this we are confronted with the stark reality of how precious and fragile life can surely be (James 4:14). So, my wife and I send this condolence to you with the hope that we can in some small way comfort you as it has comforted us with what the Bible reveals to us about GOOD NEWS from Almighty God. Please be assured that we are in no way trying to impose our faith on you; but we sincerely just want to extend comfort to you during your grief (Proverbs 17:17).

As recorded in the Bible, God's only-begotten son, Jesus promises that one day he is personally going to bring back to life all those who have died, just as he did when he was on earth as a man (John 5:28,29; 11:43, 44). Just as death is an enemy to us, it is also an enemy to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). For that reason as well as others, He promises to remove FOREVER all the pain, suffering, wickedness, and DEATH that mankind has had to endure for thousands of years (Revelation 21:3-5; Psalm 37:10, 11, 29). What a glorious and almost unbelievable day that will be! It's a reality and a sure hope we can rely on because it is absolutely impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Isaiah 55:10, 11).

It is our hope that you NOT take our word for what has been written in this condolences; but that you please take a moment to read and meditate on all these referenced scriptures in your own Bible (1 Timothy 4:15, 16). My wife and I are confident you will be encouraged and comforted by the marvelous hope God has in store for us (Psalm 1:1-3; John 17:3). Our thoughts and prayers are sincerely with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - September 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Dr. Hallie Gregory was my college roommate at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell South Dakota in the 1960's. He became my mentor, friend, and fellow follower of Jesus Christ. We last got together at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in DC with our other roommate Dr. Donald Messer. Hallie was a hall of fame athlete at Dakota Wesleyan and an inspiration to all who knew him. We thank God for his life and his eternal life.

Dr. Kent Millard - September 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Kathi and I, and all of the Cieplik young men are saddened to hear about Hallie's passing. He was a great friend and colleague in the Coast Guard Academy Athletic Division, and his friendship extended to our families. He was down to earth, and someone who had great passion for his work. Most importantly, he was a true mentor to his students and athletes. As is typical in our profession, his impact on all those he encountered and mentored may not have been realized until many years later. He will be missed. Best wishes to the entire Gregory family.

Ray Cieplik - September 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ To the Gregory Family:
The Gary's, Ross's, and Henegans's and all of our extended family members are sorry to hear of the passing of a very special person in the name of Dr. Hallie E. Gregory. Hallie has left his footprint on all of us. We have been so fortunate to have him in our lives. Our memories of him will last each of us a "life time ".
Sincerely,
The Gary's, Ross's and Henegan's
Dr. Gary

Dr. Diane Ross Gary - September 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ I am so saddened to hear the passing of Doc!! I enjoyed working with him at Holly Grove so much! He was a wonderful man of God and showed his kindness and integrity to all he came in contact with. I know he is with our Lord now completely and freely whole! Blessings to your family!

Robin Donnelly - September 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ My wife Donna and I would like to offer our condolences to the Gregory family. Coach Gregory was such an awesome man, a mentor, a friend, and a leader. I met him at a time in my life when I needed the guidance and director he provided. As a 20 year old enlisted person stationed at the Coast Guard Academy, coach took me and others under his wing. We talked a lot of basketball but also a lot of life lessons and choices. He may not have ever known just how much of an impact he had on my life but he did. I am sure my experience was not alone and he helped many others develop into complete and quality young men and women. He will truly be missed by all.

Rich Barbee - September 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Along with you and your family will truly miss him, too. Jheri and Lauryn loved Dr. Gregory and are saddened of his passing. We have been and will continue to pray for you and your family during this time. We love you all.

Dicky & Becky Marshall - September 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Im so sorry for your loss. May your precious memories of your time together help you through this time of sorrow and you find strength in God's loving promise at Isaiah 41:10

JoyceA - September 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ I would like to offer my condolences for your loss. I hope you will find comfort in knowing that Jehovah, the God of all comfort, will soon eliminate all grief and provide permanent consolation when “all those in the memorial tombs will hear [Christ’s] voice and come out”! (John 5:28, 29) God promises that “he will do away with death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces.” (Isa. 25:8) Then, instead of having to “weep with those who weep,” all earth’s inhabitants will “rejoice with those who rejoice.”?—Rom. 12:15.

M Jones - September 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Doc was an extraordinary human being. He always had a vision beyond anything you could ever imagine yourself. His faith and passion for loving others showed in all the success and happiness he helped bring to everything and everyone whose lives he touched. Personally I will never forget a single second , lesson, prayer , laugh and good time he shared with me and my family. Doc is family, we will always carry his wisdom with us , and pass the love of our Lord on as did he . Miss Nydia , we love you , thank you for always being the rock , supporting all the many tasks and projects Doc took on . We are here to support and love you . Forever in our hearts , forever grateful for all the wonderful memories with our beloved Doc.

Elizabeth Hedding-Merritt - September 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM