



## Harvey Wesley Riley

October 16, 1936 - February 28, 2019

Harvey Wesley Riley, known to most as Harv, was born October 16, 1936, to the late Conrad F. Riley, Sr. and Pricilla Pauline Carney Riley in Smyrna, Delaware.

He received his formal education at the Thomas D. Clayton School in Smyrna, Booker T. Washington School and William Henry High School, both in Dover, Delaware. At William Henry High School he played football, basketball, and baseball. During his senior year, he was the captain of all three teams.

He matriculated to Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, on a football scholarship and graduated in 1959, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Building Construction and Engineering. At that time, he was also commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant (Ordnance Corp) which led to a military career. While at Hampton, he played football, baseball, and wrestled. He served as the captain of the baseball team.

His service in the United States Army began at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Maryland. His military career included two tours of duty in Germany, two tours in Viet Nam, one tour in Korea, as well as Fort Lewis, in Tacoma, Washington, and the National Guard in Jefferson City, Missouri, ending back at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Harvey served for 20 years and retired as a Major in 1980. After retirement, he took several courses at

Delaware State College, now Delaware State University, to earn a teaching certificate, but was called back to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Ordnance Center and Schools to serve as an Education and Training Specialist. There, he developed lesson plans and field manuals for the Army to train its soldiers. Due to his expertise, he was often sent TDY to various Army installations to insure his plans were followed. He was also on the team that designed the HUMMER, which replaced the old Army Jeep.

He married his high school sweetheart, Shirley Elizabeth "Libby" Hicks of Milford, Delaware, on June 22, 1958. In addition to high school, they also attended Hampton University together. Harvey paid his way through college by working at the campus farm, cleaning the football stadium, delivering mail during the Christmas holidays, and doing construction work during the summer months. Advanced ROTC also provided a stipend. When Harvey and Shirley returned to Hampton for their 25th reunion, the love for the school and the campus became greater. They became staunch supporters of the institution and very active with the alumni association. They also encouraged several family members to attend Hampton.

Harvey and Libby loved traveling. They loved it so much, they camped throughout Italy, Austria, and Switzerland and dined on "C" Rations. Their travels have carried them to Africa, several Asian countries, and approximately 30 European countries including Russia, Poland, and Estonia. Two highlights were visiting Vatican City, which included a private audience with the Pope, and entering East Germany through "Check Point Charlie" in route to Berlin.

Harvey was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Reverend Conrad Riley, Jr.

Harvey is survived by his wife; three sons, Harvey Jr., Darryl, and Bruce; siblings, Barbara Williams, and James Douglas Riley and his wife Vivian; five

grand-children, Nicole Thompson, Alicia, Jasmine, Jade and Aaron Riley; four great-grandchildren: Naudia and Cadence Willow, Collin and Logan Harris, and Dillon Harris is expected in March; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Harvey was a member of several organizations and was very active in the church and the community. Some of his involvements were:

Whatcoat United Methodist Church

Trustee Board

Stewardship Committee

Usher Board

Auditor

Board Member of the Whatcoat Apartments

Church Photographer

Wesley Foundation Listening Post at Delaware State University

Boy Scouts of America

Dover Chapter of the National Hampton Alumni Association, Inc.

(Parliamentarian)

Psi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Treasurer)

Co-Founder of the Delaware Afro-American Sports Hall of Fame serving as a past president for four years and was an inductee in 1999

Masonic Affiliations:

Hattie S. Blackwell Chapter #16, Order of the Eastern Star (Past Patron)

Dover AFB Military Lodge #28 (Past Master)

Suakim Temple #60 (The Small Wonder Clown Club)

33rd Degree Mason

# Tribute Wall

MW

*“ I am so sorry for your loss. We are near the time when God promise to change their mourning into exultation, and I will comfort them and make them rejoice away from their grief. Jeremiah 31:13-17. The Bible, gives us true hope for the dead and consolation for the living. Ms Woodson*

**Ms Woodson** - March 27, 2019 at 10:45 AM

JO

*“ I would like to offer my sincere condolences for your loss. In such difficult time, many families appreciate the comfort offered by the Bible of the time when no one will lose a loved one in death and we will be able to enjoy life again with Harley Wesley Riley our loved one. (Isaiah 41: 10). I hope these thoughts comfort you also.*

**JoyceA** - March 15, 2019 at 05:29 PM

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** - March 11, 2019 at 07:45 PM

IR

*“ Sorry for your loss of a loved one. Read Isaiah 61:1,2 for words of comfort and peace.*

**Irene** - March 07, 2019 at 03:32 PM

SS

“ Harvey.... a man who would do whatever he could to help someone else... After the death of Vernon... he still kept in contact to see how I was doing...during Vernon\u2019s illness he would come and visit... sit for many hours... would tell me to\u201cGo out for awhile\u201d... Harvey was a GREAT FRIEND to us. He searched high and low to find someone to build Vernon a ramp to be able to leave the house .... there is so much I could say about Harvey..Another member of The Small Wonder Clown Club... is entertaining the kids up in Heaven... Hello to Gruckles (hubby) and Bunco... Well Done..

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**Sandra Steele** - March 05, 2019 at 08:30 AM

TA

“ Please accept my deepest and sympathy. May the God who binds up the broken-hearted comforts all who mourn, sustain your family during this challenging time.(Isaiah 61: 1,2.)

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**TA** - March 04, 2019 at 10:58 PM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss Jesus Christ Loves Me We Love You

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**Thomas Widgeon** - March 03, 2019 at 06:12 PM

AR

“ Dear Family, I like to express my sincere condolences for your loss during this most painful time. But in time there is only one who can solve all our problems and do away with sickness and death, it is our heavenly Father. So please find comfort from His word.  
2Corinthians 1:3, 4; Isaiah 25:8a; Hosea 13:14

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**Artina** - March 03, 2019 at 02:18 PM

PW

“ To the family, My sincere condolences in the passing of Harvey. Please find comfort in the words of Revelation 21:4, "And he (God) will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

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**Phyllis W.** - March 03, 2019 at 08:38 AM

SU

“ During this most difficult time the scriptures serve as a comfort zone. 2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 Helping us to see that our pain and suffering will be a thing of the past, and we can cry tears of joy as we welcome back the ones that we love so much. John 5:28, 29; Revelation 21:4 I hope you find comfort in these promises. My deepest sympathy goes out to all the family.

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**Suzette** - March 02, 2019 at 04:13 PM

MC

“ The passing of a dear loved one, is a difficult experience for family members. Sorry for your loss. Thankfully, death does not end it all. Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised, that "the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs (graves) will hear his voice and come out." This is a sure hope that millions now dead will come back to life through the resurrection, to live on the soon to be restored earthly paradise. When God's will is being done on earth as it is in heaven. May this wonderful promise of seeing your dead loved one again, give you peace and comfort. John 5:28, 29; Matthew 6:10; Psalms 37:11.

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**Milton Campbell** - March 01, 2019 at 10:43 AM