



Dale Eugene Harger

November 23, 1928 - September 5, 2022

The journey began on November 23, 1928, in Sidney, Ohio. Dale Eugene was the fifth of six children born to Ernest and Edna Booth Harger. Dale matriculated through the Sidney Public School system and graduated from Sidney High School in 1946. At the tender age of 17, Dale joined the U.S. Army. Because of his academic success, Dale reached the rank of Sergeant serving with the 24th Infantry Regiment with the Occupation Forces in the Philippines and Japan. In 1947, after proudly serving the United States for 18 months, Dale was honorably discharged from the Army. Dale worked for a short time at Wright-Patterson Airforce Base until illness struck and he was hospitalized from 1948 - 1949 at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Hospital.

In 1949 Dale enrolled in "The" Ohio State University (OSU), where he majored in Social Administration. Dale considered himself blessed to be one of 5,000 admitted to the freshman class at OSU. Known for his sharp attire and "white bucks," Dale was often found giving school supplies to students in need. He kept it a secret that the government was paying for his education, supplies, as well as giving him an allowance. Dale was active with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Youth Council, the YMCA, and the Beta Sigma Tau fraternity. While at OSU, Dale became interested in the Catholic Church and eventually became a Christian, which began his life of service for the Lord.

After his matriculation through OSU, Dale attended Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. from 1956- 1958, where he majored in Philosophy and entertained the idea of becoming a missionary priest. In 1958, Dale studied Philosophy in Latin at St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati. Mid-first year of theology, Dale decided not to take the first of the vows, which would lead towards being ordained as a Catholic priest. Dale returned to the University of Dayton and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960.

After graduating from the University of Dayton, Dale returned home to Sidney and taught from 1960 - 1962 at Holy Angels Junior High School (now Lehman High School). Being a teacher granted Dale the opportunity to have summers off. One of the highlights of his life was spending the summer abroad and visiting France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and the Vatican where he saw the Pope at his summer residence.

In 1962 Dale was accepted as a Peace Corps volunteer. After eight weeks of intensive training at Georgetown University, Dale began his two-year teaching assignment in Ethiopia. Dale was recognized by the local Ethiopian newspaper for his efforts beyond his Peace Corps assignment. He assisted local Ethiopians with securing employment at the U.S. Military Base, aided local residents in setting up small businesses, and taught English in church related schools and orphanages.

During Dale's Peace Corps assignment, he served as the representative for Peace Corps volunteers assigned to the Province of Eritrea. He traveled throughout the Empire of Ethiopia, East Africa, West Africa, and the Holy Land. One of Dale's fondest memories was having audience with the emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie. Dale's time in the Peace Corps gained him lifelong friends and family.

1965 was the year Dale became a Washingtonian. Upon moving to

Washington, D.C. Dale was employed with the U.S. Department of Labor as a Manpower Administration Liaison Officer until his retirement in 1980. One of Dale's many accolades was receiving an award for his development of a Model Employment Service Program for ex-offenders.

After retirement, Dale's love for youth led him to be employed by the District of Columbia Public School System, serving as a temporary and substitute teacher.

Community involvement was Dale's passion. He sacrificed so much to help others. Dale's home was open to all including strangers. For five years he served as the President of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Boys and Girls Club, receiving the Bronze Keystone award from the Boys Clubs of America for 15 years of devoted service. Dale was known around D.C. for his service with the Meals-on-Wheels program. Dale was a proud member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church for many years. Everyone knew him as the camera man, recording many events around the city.

Dale LOVED God, and he LOVED his family. Along with his nephew Douglas, Dale was the Harger family historian. Dale was the glue that kept the Harger-Swaney reunions going. He used his talents to produce creative family history documents for each of his grandparents, grandchildren's family lines. Dale LOVED pictures and it was pictures that connected him to his family and friends.

The last living of the 29 of his generation in the Harger family, Dale peacefully took his final rest early in the morning Monday, September 5, 2022, at the Washington, D.C. Veterans Affairs Hospital. Dale was preceded in death by his brothers: Jason, Booth, Don, and Phillip Harger; and sister Mary Harger Jackson. He leaves behind those who were proud and happy to call him their

uncle, cousin, adopted family, neighbor, and friend.

"For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

Hebrews 10:37 So we say, Even so come Lord Jesus!

Services will be held Saturday, September 17, 2022, at Pope Funeral Home Chapel, Forestville, Maryland. Viewing will begin at 2:00, with reflections from 2:45 - 4:00. Burial will take place, Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at Pearl Cemetery, Swanders, Ohio. Services in Ohio will be entrusted to Cromes-Edwards Funeral Home, Sidney, Ohio.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP 17. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Pope Funeral Home Forestville Chapel
5538 MARLBORO PIKE
FORESTVILLE, MD 20747

Funeral Service

SEP 17. 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pope Funeral Home Forestville Chapel
5538 MARLBORO PIKE
FORESTVILLE, MD 20747

Interment

SEP 21.

Pearl Cemetery
Swanders, OH

Tribute Wall



“ Dale Eugene Harger

January 28, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ Dale Eugene Harger

January 28, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ Service Live Stream



Miranda Pope - September 19, 2022 at 08:14 PM



“ So Grateful to be able to view Mr. Harger's service. Mr. Dale was a smart, kind, giving man and I was honored to have briefly known him. Prayers to His Family and Friends. Rest In Heaven Mr. Dale. You can now celebrate again with you family.



Natalie Ogletree - September 17, 2022 at 03:26 PM

BH

“ When my sons were children my family would frequently visit DC. We would usually stay with Dale. We would equate the unexpected adventures of just being at Dale's house with the excitement of visiting other DC adventures. He had somewhat unconventional ways to show that he cared. But, we always knew that he loved us. Dale was a an interesting man who freely expressed unique opinions about the world around him. Just being in his presence was an adventure. I always smile when I remember times spent with Dale. Although I'll miss him, my heart is filled with joy. He is reunited with our family in heaven. And the heavens sang with joy at their reunion.

Rev. Dr. Brenda Harger

BRENDA HARGER - September 17, 2022 at 01:19 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *Precious Memories*



Courtney Brathwaite - September 17, 2022 at 03:27 AM

DW

“ I will , truly , miss my cousin/uncle Dale , but the memories will keep him alive in my heart .

Deborah E Waters - September 16, 2022 at 06:24 PM

RP

“ You could recall so much family history, in detail. I will miss those conversations. I wish your final days were spent physically closer to family. Rest well.

Rod Powell - September 16, 2022 at 04:32 PM

BS

“ Courtney and Ma, I'm so sorry for the loss of Uncle Dale. He was such a big part of our junior high and high school years. Uncle Dale was always willing to drive us around and he always shared a laugh. I'm so glad my daughter was able to experience Uncle Dale too. I know the loss of him leaves a void in your life and your heart. Just know you brought so much joy to his life, and that he loved and appreciated you for it all. Keeping you all in my prayers. Love you !

- Bre(ona) and Zoë

Breona Samuel - September 15, 2022 at 09:11 PM

NO

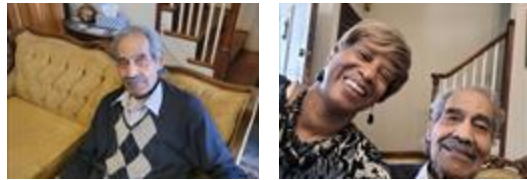
“ I met Mr. Dale in October 2019 - He shared his wonderful life story through the few visits we had over the past few years. He was a caring and compassionate man, who loved his Family, was devoted to His Faith and Proud of his Family History. I will never forget you Mr. Dale and am grateful to God for our connection. Rest In Heaven, you have earned your Wings. Natalie Ogletree and Family



Natalie Ogletree - September 15, 2022 at 04:39 PM

NO

“ 2 files added to the album Dale Harger Memory



Natalie Ogletree - September 15, 2022 at 04:36 PM

CB

“ The Potter/Brathwaite family would like to thank God for the long years that God gave our cousin, Uncle Dale. We are especially thankful to all the adopted family of Uncle Dale: Warren and Carolyn Brown and Dale’s special niece Tammie, the Hopkins (Oakley, Marlene, Duane, Jeffrey, & family), Stanfield (Mary Ann, Gene, Shawn), Isaac (Shalita), Williams (Nellie, Anita & family), and Walker (Leterberhan & family) families for their love and support throughout the years. Thank you to all neighbors on “S” Street that looked out for Uncle Dale, and to the missionaries, parishioners, and priests of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church for their visits, love and kindness throughout the years. A special thanks to Vernessa Whitfield, Shawnta McKinney, Tab and Shannell, for their tender loving care and assistance over the past year.

Courtney Brathwaite - September 15, 2022 at 10:49 AM

WS

“ Dale and I Met in 1963 when we’re on the Peace Corps in Ethiopia. He often hosted Ethiopians who were cash strapped in Washington even though they were strangers. I stayed with him several times when I was doing research at the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

william Seraile - September 12, 2022 at 07:51 PM

DH

*Thank you for sharing with our family William we greatly appreciate your comments.
Donna Harger*

Donna Harger - September 15, 2022 at 08:44 PM

DH

Thank you for sharing such thoughtful words with our family. Donna Harger

Donna Harger - September 17, 2022 at 02:45 PM

DW

Rest in peace , cousin/uncle Dale . I will miss you .

Debbie Harger Waters

Deborah E Waters - September 17, 2022 at 10:00 PM