



George Huston Oliver

February 13, 1935 - June 15, 2018

George Huston Oliver, 83, passed away on June 15, 2018 in Searcy, Arkansas. He was born in Berkley, Michigan to his parents, Bill and Auritus Oliver. George was preceded in death by his wife, Joy; grandson, Blake Ryan Hunter; his parents; his sister, Kay Rogers and her husband, Bob. George was married to Joy Vinson Oliver for over 60 years. Together they had three children, Debbie Oliver Starks (Don) of Searcy, Michael Oliver (Nancy) of Searcy, and Dedra Oliver Hunter (Steve) of Bentonville, Arkansas.

Grandchildren – Shannon Starks Davis (Greg), Andrew Starks (Haley), Josh Starks (Leah), Natalie Oliver Dockery (Jared), Huston Oliver (Reagan), John Oliver, Joseph Oliver, Kalyn Hunter McCoy (AJ), and Chase Hunter. George had 11 great-grandchildren, – Samuel, Isaiah, Jack Henry, Zaylie, Zander, Parker Jo, Hosea, Everett, Elizabeth, Riley, Clay, with another one arriving in December; and brother, Bill Oliver (Sandra) of Maumelle. George graduated from Harding College in 1957 with a degree in Economics and a minor in Music. While at Harding, he started a jazz band called the Moody Blues. George played the drums. After graduating from college, he served our country in the U.S. Army in San Antonio, Texas. Upon honorable discharge, George and Joy moved to Michigan, where George worked for 25 years, first with Pontiac Motors and then with the U.S. Army Tank-automotive & Armaments Command. He also served as an elder, and is widely known for his time as the Director of the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus. At age 50, George completed his Masters degree and began a new career at Harding

University as a professor in the School of Business. He also served as both Chairman of the Department of Management and Dean of the School of Business. In addition, George served as the Vice President/President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past-President of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), an international accreditation association for Business Education in Higher Education, Chair National Strategic Planning Committee (ACBSP). George was also involved in consulting activities, which have included: National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), Washington D.C.; Southwestern Bell Telephone; St. Louis, MO; White County Medical Center (Hospital), Searcy, AR; CATY (Social Service Agency), Pittsburgh, PA; Regions Bank (Regions Leadership University); Consultant/Instructor, Searcy Chamber of Commerce's "Leadership Institute," Executive Advisory Council, Horizons Stewardship Company; Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Children's Home, Monticello, AR; and Searcy Children's Home, Searcy, Arkansas. George is listed in the Lexington Who's Who, 1999-2000; Distinguished Service Award for Leadership- ACBSP, 1997; Harding University School of Business Distinguished Teacher Award, 1999; and received the Distinguished Teacher Award for Harding University, 2000-2001. Inducted in the "2002 Education Leader's Hall of Fame" from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools & Programs. George retired after teaching for 30 years in the College of Business Administration at Harding in May 2015 at the age of 80. Through all of George's accomplishments, his most important one was that of being a father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Family was everything to him. A Celebration of Life will be at 2:00 pm on Friday, June 22, 2018 at the College Church of Christ. The family will receive guest after the service in the Family Room. Memorials may be made to help endow a scholarship fund established in his honor (George H. Oliver Legacy Scholarship) or to a scholarship established to honor the memory of his grandson (Blake R. Hunter Memorial Scholarship). Send to: University Advancement, HU Box 12238, Searcy, AR 72149. Arrangements by Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. www.powellfuneralhome.net.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

College Church Of Christ
712 E Race Ave
Searcy, AR 72143-4421
(501) 268-7156

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of George Huston Oliver



Powell Funeral Home - June 21, 2018 at 12:28 PM

BP

“ Very sorry to hear of Mr. Oliver's passing. He was always warm, kind, and encouraging to me. I will miss him!

Brice Priestley - June 25, 2018 at 11:21 AM

TE

“ I will always remember joy and George as strong mentors when I was in MDYC. A few years later I was blessed to have him as my professor while attending Harding. My love and prayers go out to the entire family. Blessings to you all in this time of grieving.

Tim Eddings - June 23, 2018 at 01:08 AM

CB

“ My deepest condolences to the Oliver family. I have good memories of George and the time I spent under his direction with MDYC. He was a warm, generous and kind-hearted man.

Chris Boyd

Chris Boyd - June 22, 2018 at 09:46 AM

JW

“ Appreciated he humble leadership style in the classroom and in the business department.

Joseph Williams - June 21, 2018 at 02:33 PM

TV

“ He has always been an example and inspiration of love and wisdom. So many good memories of spending time in their home with he and Joy and their special family. We love you all and lift you up for strength and peace!

Tanya and Nicky Valls - June 21, 2018 at 02:14 PM

BO

“ Mr. Oliver was one of the first people at Harding to greet us when enrolling our oldest son Kelly. The Oliver's offered their home and any assistance to Kelly as we left to Arizona. You can just sense Godly people...and that's how we always felt about the Oliver's.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. May Mr. Oliver's influence and shared memories "live out" through his family and friends.

God bless,

Bobby & Julie C

Bobby - June 21, 2018 at 12:11 PM

AO

“ I have many fond memories of Mr. Oliver, but none more precious than his constant encouragement and comfort during the illness and death of my mother. He was always checking on me and asking if there was anything he could do, even years after I had taken his class. As a student, I always felt he was my foremost supporter and that he had absolute confidence in me, during that difficult time in my life. He always made time to seek me out and talk to me, no matter what else he was doing. He was such a generous, gentle, kindhearted man. I am very blessed to have had a friend like George Oliver.

Andy Olree - June 21, 2018 at 09:11 AM

AB

I have so many pleasant memories of George and his family as we worked together with MDYC. He was a good leader and a Christian example before the young singers. Alice Boyd.

Alice Boyd - June 22, 2018 at 11:26 AM

KB

“ Mr. Oliver was such a dear man! He was my advisor while I was studying for my MBA. He was always a welcome face to a weary student. He had words of encouragement and a gentle hug as he reassured us we could pull through. After I graduated he still sent me encouraging notes and was interested in my progress in my career. I know you all will miss him dearly but he is on the other side cheering you on so you can see him soon!

God Bless you in your time of grief and adjustment. We all hold you close to our hearts and in our prayers at this time of loss.

In Him, Katherine Boone

Katherine Boone - June 21, 2018 at 08:53 AM

JH

“ George and I were roommates at Harding in 1956-1957 and we have been friends ever since. Two of our sons were in his classes at Harding as they earned degrees in business. They often have said that he was one of their best teaches. He taught more than business, he also taught life. My sons and I are better men because of George's example and influence. The Hills in New York send prayers and love to the family.



JERRELL HILL - June 21, 2018 at 08:47 AM

KQ

“ Mr. Oliver was my retailing teacher back in 1986. I absolutely adored him and his class. He was one of my very favorite teachers at Harding and send my prayers to all of the family. He will be sorely missed. Karen Davis Qualls, (87)

Karen Davis Qualls - June 21, 2018 at 07:50 AM

CS

“ I had Mr. Oliver for a class at Harding in 1992. One of the things I remember most from his class, that I still use today, is how you can determine what day a car in made on from reading the VIN on the vehicle. He said he would NEVER buy a car that was built on a Friday or a Monday. On Fridays the workers are looking forward to the weekend and on Monday, they are recovering from the weekend. Great teacher and a great man. He has gained he reward!

Chris Steele - June 21, 2018 at 05:59 AM

BH

“ *Mr. Oliver was always one of my all time favorite professors. He was kind and gentle, yet passionate about his field. I learned much about business under him, however, more importantly, I learned how to have joy no matter what it is you're doing. He could always turn a frown upside down and showed care and concern for all those in his presence. I have always had a great respect for him and know he leaves a wonderful legacy.*

- Brandon and Annette Harriman

Brandon and Annette Harriman - June 21, 2018 at 04:31 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Huston Oliver.*



June 20, 2018 at 09:34 PM

DI

“ So sad to receive this shocking news! My wife & I met George Oliver in 1990 when he was sent by Dr Glenn Boyd to bring us from LIT airport being our first time in USA from Nigeria to African Christian Hospitals Foundation (now Intl Christian Hospitas Foundation) where his wife, Joy Oliver was the Secretary! He was a humble but formidable and friendly man to drive with! Ever since then, he has loved my entire African family even as our kids passed through HU! Talk about the Bible classes at the College Church, he was prompt, available and a quiet but great participant with great bible insights! We will miss him in Searcy, AR!
Our prayers are with his entire family! May God grant His wife, Joy, whom we've known since 1985 at ACHF, the fortitude to bear the loss! We are confident that we shall see him on that Resurrection Morning, to part no more! Adieu great soldier of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ! May your soul requiescat in pace! Dr Zik & Hon.
Justice Ory Zik Ikeorha

Dr Zik Ikeorha - June 20, 2018 at 07:21 PM

DI

Corrigendum:
So sad to also hear that his beautiful wife, Joy, we referred to above has also passed on to glory in March, 2018! Galant soldiers of Christ rest in perfect shalom until the Resurrection morning! May God comfort the entire families and the members of the College Church of Christ, Searcy! Peace Perfect Peace indeed! DrZik & Ory

Dr Zik Ikeorha - June 20, 2018 at 08:23 PM

RC

“ When I came to Harding from Australia in 1999, I was struggling with culture shock and George was understanding, always asked me how I was adjusting and if he could help in some way.

Reet Cronk - June 20, 2018 at 07:17 PM

LS

“ He was a good friend of mine when I was at Harding. He was a good listener and gave good advise to me. I had his daughter Debbie as a student in nursing and we were good friends. He had an impressive journey when he was here. Hope God's peace will comfort you with the loss and he will live on in your memory. He will be missed. We know we will see him again. Louise Suit

Louise Suit - June 20, 2018 at 07:09 PM

HA

“ I am teaching in Cambodia at the present time. Just two days ago, Rosann, my wife called me about the news of Joy's death reported in the Harding News Bulletin. Today I found the family telephone number on the internet and was about to call George. However, as I opened the emails I found, unfortunately, the news of his passing. As a fellow 1957-graduate of Harding, I sends my deepest sympathy to the Oliver family. Last October (2017) at the Harding Homecoming, I had a very pleasant visit with both George and Joy at our 60th class reunion luncheon. The three of us arrived a little early for the luncheon and had opportunity to visit and reminisce for a good while. It was a very encouraging conversation, and now I shall always cherish it. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord!"

Herman Alexander - June 20, 2018 at 07:05 PM

AP

“ So sad to hear of his passing. What a terrible loss to the Harding community and his dear family. My all time favorite professor at Harding for multiple classes! So much wisdom and real world examples to live by. So many funny stories. My last semester before graduation, my second son Was born 3 weeks before Classes ended. We named him Oliver...prayers and thoughts for his family during this time.

Ashley Tobin Perez - June 20, 2018 at 06:23 PM

MW

“ One of my all-time favorite professors. Prof. Oliver, thank you for the wisdom, the kindness, and the profound impact you made on thousands of students. We love you!
-Matt Woodson

Matt Woodson - June 20, 2018 at 06:09 PM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of George Huston Oliver.



June 19, 2018 at 11:27 PM

HH

“ I was a student of Mr. Oliver when I attended Harding University. Because he had worked at Pontiac and I had several GTO Pontiac cars we became great friends. I recently had one of my cars restored and took it by his home to show him. He was very thankful and asked me not to call him Mr. Oliver but to call him George. I couldn't do that he meant to much to me not to respect him. I went by to visit him today and learned of his passing from a neighbor. I will miss you Mr. Oliver God bless you and your family.

Harold W. Huskey - June 19, 2018 at 10:00 PM

RF

“ George and Joy were a part of my church family as well as my MDYC family. They paid for me to fly to Harding College to audition for a vocal music scholarship. I did receive the scholarship, but could not afford the other college expenses. I did however continue singing and am still singing. I will be forever grateful that George and Joy cared enough to give me a wonderful opportunity. I pray that God and loving memories will comfort the entire Oliver family as they begin this life without George.

Robin Fielder - June 19, 2018 at 08:51 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of George Huston Oliver.



June 19, 2018 at 07:30 PM