



## Mr. Oliver Wright Leary

January 19, 1947 - May 14, 2022

Oliver Wright Leary of Durham, North Carolina transitioned into eternal rest at the age of 75 years old on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Carver Living and Rehabilitation Center.

Born on January 19, 1947, to Richard and Mamie Leary in Pitt County, North Carolina, Oliver and his twelve siblings were educated in Pitt County Schools, where the pursuit of lifelong learning was encouraged and expected. Oliver started his higher education at North Carolina College (now University) and – after serving two years in the U.S. Army – he resumed his studies and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. From there, Oliver set his sights on another goal: earning a Juris Doctorate from NCCU’s School of Law.

Throughout his career, Oliver held positions with companies such as the Norfolk Western Railroad and Muncie Housing Authority, before actualizing his own entrepreneurial endeavors, including a consulting business and real estate brokerage, Learco Realty, Inc.

Blessings continued to shine on Oliver while pursuing his studies at NCCU when he met Donna Perry and the two eventually married. After living in Greenville, North Carolina and Muncie, Indiana, the pair settled back in Durham where they raised their two daughters, Charmaine and Carmen.

Among Oliver's favorite topics was the incessant, humble bragging he did about both children. He was quick to provide details on all of their latest activities and accomplishments like Carmen's dental practice or Charmaine's most-recent travels. A proud father and grandfather, he beamed with admiration when speaking of his girls and granddaughters, showing photos to anyone that would look.

As an active follower and participant in politics, Oliver ran for local and state office and worked on several political campaigns. He was active in (and fought with!) local political organization, the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. He was a regular 'commentator' on national and world events from his home office as well. A passionate debater with strong opinions, Oliver loved to engage in conversations on a wide range of topics. Oliver also found time for several hobbies, including traveling, photography, piloting, chess and regular jaunts to Atlantic City and Las Vegas. And, until his recent illness, he could be spotted taking his regular walk around the neighborhood, usually covering two miles or more daily.

Oliver is preceded in death by his parents; brothers Wilbre, Zebedee and Elmer; sisters Frederick, Vivian, Barbara, Sandra and Laura Marie. He is survived by his wife Donna, two daughters, Charmaine Leary of Bowie, Maryland, and Carmen Leary Holloway (Victor) of Charlotte, North Carolina; two granddaughters Camille and Kyndall Holloway of Charlotte, North Carolina; two sisters, Ruth Asbury of Silver Spring, Maryland, Shirley L. High (Moses) of Raleigh, North Carolina; two brothers, Linwood Leary (Josephine) of Lake Gaston, Virginia and Ray Leary of Greenville, North Carolina and a host of loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Please note that due to recent COVID-19 outbreaks and with safety in mind, seating at the funeral home will be limited. The family invites you to join virtually with a live stream of the service.

To view the Celebration of Life Service for Mr. Oliver Wright Leary through Zoom Live Stream:

Please click the link below to join the webinar,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88574984754?pwd=rPNRFNLRL0nH-E-hcQklHs2mHuQ2hR.1>

Webinar ID: 885 7498 4754

Passcode: 159037

If you'd like to attend in person, please contact the family to confirm seating arrangements. Masks will be required.

Public viewing has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N. Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

A Private Family Service to celebrate the life of Oliver will be held at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701, on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 12:00 noon, with private family viewing from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Mr. Oliver Wright Leary will be laid to rest in Beechwood Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to the Leary Family at 12 Ballard Court, Durham, NC 27712.

# Cemetery Details

## Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St  
Durham, NC 27707  
(919) 560-4154

# Previous Events

## Viewing

**MAY 18.** 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.  
309 N Queen St  
Durham, NC 27701  
(919) 682-1171  
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com  
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

## Private Family Viewing

**MAY 19.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.  
309 N Queen St  
Durham, NC 27701  
(919) 682-1171  
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com  
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

## Private Family Service

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MAY 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.

309 N Queen St

Durham, NC 27701

(919) 682-1171

[scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com](mailto:scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com)

<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Oliver Wright Leary*

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October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *I have been a neighbor of Oliver for many years and enjoyed talking with him. He always waved when he was out walking. Such a kind soul!!!*

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**Tonya Snow-Saleeby** - October 11, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *Just learned of Oliver's passing. We were classmates at NCCU. I really enjoyed our friendship and conversations through the years. He would often catch up with "The Crew" for luncheon or Homecoming.*

*Thomas I. Parrish, III  
NCCU Class of 1968*

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**Thomas Parrish** - May 25, 2022 at 10:25 AM



“ *Julie and I would like to extend our condolences to Mt. Leary's family. When we first moved into the neighborhood I was unfamiliar with Oliver's routine and offered to give him a ride when I saw him walking. Thereafter he always greeted us when he passed by our house when we were outside. Once he reminded me in a good humored way that it was time to mow the lawn. We had missed seeing him recently as he always had a cheery hello. We are sorry to hear of his passing, but will always have the memory of his presence. Rest in peace and God bless.*

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**Tony and Julie Amara** - May 20, 2022 at 06:50 PM

BB

“ Oliver was a great man and my friend for 25 years. He was my neighbor for 21 years. May his loved ones know they have our sincere condolences, and remember all of the good times they shared with him. He was so proud of his family. God bless you all and RIP, Oliver. You will be missed! Lifting prayers for you all.

Becky Belk - May 19, 2022 at 12:06 PM

MS

Oliver was an inspiration as a avid walker, maybe sometimes walking the neighborhood 3 times a day. He would wave and speak usually unless he was focused on thoughts. Praying for the family at this difficult time, we were neighbors to Oliver.

Melanie and Bob Swan - May 19, 2022 at 07:05 PM

TA

Julie and I would like to extend our condolences to Mt. Leary's family. When we first moved into the neighborhood I was unfamiliar with Oliver's routine and offered to give him a ride when I saw him walking. Thereafter he always greeted us when he passed by our house when we were outside. Once he reminded me in a good humored way that it was time to mow the lawn. We had missed seeing him recently as he always had a cheery hello. We are sorry to hear of his passing, but will always have the memory of his presence. Rest in peace and God bless.

Tony and Julie Amara - May 20, 2022 at 06:45 PM

BB

“ Becky Belk purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Mr. Oliver Wright Leary.



Becky Belk - May 19, 2022 at 12:01 PM

BB

“ *Becky Belk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Oliver Wright Leary*



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**Becky Belk** - May 19, 2022 at 11:55 AM

PA

“ *Cousin Donna and Family  
We will continue to keep everyone in prayer.  
"For everything there is a season" Eccles3:1  
Much Love Pat ,Natalie,Jonathan & Spencer*

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**Pat** - May 19, 2022 at 11:12 AM

BH

“ *Brenda G. Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Oliver Wright Leary*



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**Brenda G. Hawkins** - May 18, 2022 at 04:13 PM

GD

“ *Sending my prayers and condolences to The Leary family.*

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**Gerelene Fleming Dixon** - May 18, 2022 at 04:04 PM

MM

“ *Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families. May God be with you all and may Mr. Oliver Wright Leary rest in paradise. The McPherson family in California*”



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**Michelle D McPherson** - May 18, 2022 at 02:56 PM

MM

*Love Cousin Pat Chapman*

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**Michelle D McPherson** - May 18, 2022 at 03:04 PM

MM

“ *On behalf of Malaby's Crossroads MBC, we extend our sincere condolences to the family. All of us know the weight and fear of death. The death of our bodies, our relationships and our relatives. But Jesus has the final word. Remember, as Christians we know His transforming ways continue to bring light and life to our world.*



*Deaconess Kaye Russell*

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**Malaby's Crossroads MBC** - May 18, 2022 at 11:10 AM



“ *To the family so very sorry for your loss , Oliver and I was classmate the class off 1964 He was a great friend, debate I will keep the family in. .my prayers.*

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**Lillian Kornegay** - May 18, 2022 at 08:19 AM

BO

“ *Brenda O. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Oliver Wright Leary.*



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**Brenda O.** - May 17, 2022 at 03:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Oliver Wright Leary.*



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May 17, 2022 at 12:41 PM

JF

“ *On behalf James Frye and family, we extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends on the passing of Oliver. Lifting you all up in prayer. God Bless You!!!*

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**James Frye** - May 17, 2022 at 10:00 AM

SP

“ *Sarah Gardner Pritchard sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Oliver Wright Leary*



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**Sarah Gardner Pritchard** - May 17, 2022 at 08:17 AM

AG

*I'm so sorry to hear about the lost off Oliver to the family you have my smythay.*

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**Alton gardner** - May 17, 2022 at 08:26 AM

GG

*Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. With deepest sympathy at this time of sorrow.*

*Gregory Gatlin and Family*

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**Gregory Gatlin** - May 18, 2022 at 08:48 AM

TH

*Donna, we're thinking of you and the family and sending prayerful thoughts your way. Wishing you peace, comfort and much love!*

*Terry Hewlett and Family*

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**Terry Hewlett** - May 18, 2022 at 03:35 PM

PH

*You are remembered by old neighbors. Rest In Peace. May your family be blessed by God's comfort and their cherished memories*

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**peter hanink** - May 19, 2022 at 01:36 PM

AI

*To The Leary Family.*

*Earth has no sorrows that Heaven cannot bear. Oliver and I were both graduates of Pitt county Training School later known as G.R. Whitfield High School. Grimesland, North Carolina. Though his body will return to the earth from whence it came, his soul and the love that he had for his family and friends will remain eternally. We thank God for his life and may his soul rest in peace.*

*A. T. Mills, III*

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**Amos T. Mills, III** - May 20, 2022 at 01:13 AM