



Orville Charles Rowley Jr.

FEB 5, 1930 - OCT 14, 2017



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O rville C. Rowley, Jr. "Always a Gentleman"

Orville Charles Rowley Jr., age 87 of Lewes, DE, passed away on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at Delaware Hospice Center, in Milford, DE after a long battle with brain cancer. He was born Wednesday, February 05, 1930 in Springfield, MA, son of the late Orville C. Sr. and Hazel (Mott) Rowley.

Orville was a proud US Air Force Veteran, having served during the Korean War. He was a graduate of Springfield Technical High School, earned a Bachelors Degree from American International, a Masters Degree from Springfield College, and a professional certificate from the University of Connecticut. Orville retired as principal of Pleasant Valley Elementary School in South Windsor, CT, after a long and esteemed career. He was a lifelong member of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, and a member of D. Sherwood Lodge of Masons in East Longmeadow, MA, where he resided for 26 years before moving to Lewes. Orville was a loving and devoted partner, cousin, godfather, and friend. He will be truly missed by everyone who knew him.

In addition to his parents, Orville was preceded in death by his aunt, Barbara Rowley; his uncle, John Mott; and his cousin, Barbara French. He is survived by his partner, Jim McAlister; his cousin, Judith Lemire; his godsons: Adam Vernadakis and Ben Vernadakis; and his goddaughter, Donna Calabrese.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2017, at 11:00 AM at All Saints Episcopal Church, 18 Olive Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE, where friends may visit beginning at 10:00 AM. Interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Orville's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: 501 St. Jude Place; Memphis, TN 38105, Shriners Hospitals for Children: 2900



Obituary

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North Rocky Point Drive; Tampa, FL 33607, or Wounded Warrior Project: P.O. Box 758517;
Topeka, KS 66675-8517.

Please sign the online guestbook located on this site.



Tribute Wall

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C

Christian Slater posted:

Nicest man ever. I met him when i was a kid back in the late 90% and everyone i knew loved the man. I remember he always had a brand new beautiful Cadillac every year. I never heard anyone say a bad thing about him ever. My mother had him as principal at Pleasant Valley in South Windsor back in the 80's. Miss Collins.. and of course miss sweetlicky the Librarian. Mr Collins the gym teacher. Then the monster mr horn.. violent as always.

February 21 at 1:12 PM

SV

Sally Elliott Vanderleest posted:

Mr McAlister..I'm very sorry for your loss. You and all in his family are in my thoughts and prayers. Mr Rowley ...He was my 5th and 6th grade teacher at Norway Street School in Longmeadow, Mass. We were all sad to leave grade 5, but so excited at the beginning of grade 6 to realize we would have him for another year. We had a homework assignment on day one in 6th grade, and none of us were too happy about that, but..... He was a strong teacher who challenged us to think and learn and become our best. My favorite grade school teacher and a gift to so many students. I have fond memories of my time in his class and I'm thankful he was there to help me grow.Sally Elliott VanderLeestFriendship, Maryland

November 18 at 7:50 AM

ND

Nancy Dale posted:

I was fortunate to be one of his students at Norway St. School in Longmeadow, MA for 5th and 6th grades from 59-61. Mr. Rowley made school fun and interesting. We made a volcano that erupted authentically. He started an astronomy group that met at night in a student's backyard...an unheard of learning opportunity in those days. His is car, a 1957-ish something, had awesome fins not seen before in my in Longmeadow neighborhood. He has been a role model for me in my life and I realize he was a pioneer in many ways. My condolences to his partner, family, friends and the many students who remember him as I do. Thanks, Mr. Rowley.

November 8 at 2:49 AM



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Susan Guertin Devick posted:

My thoughts and prayers to his partner and all whose lives "Mr. Rowley" touched. He was both my fifth and sixth grade teacher at Norway Street School in Longmeadow many years ago. He was incredibly innovative in his teaching, one who really understood how children learned. Lots of emphasis on hands on experiences. I remember our class trip to NYC to visit the United Nations, followed by our presentation of a mock Security Council meeting back in the class. And the bike ride to Forest Park with him and Mr. Green, his intern. I'm certain I am not the only one whose teaching career was influenced by my time with him. Memories of Mr. Rowley will always put a smile on my face! Susan Guertin Devick West Palm Beach, Florida

November 7 at 7:46 PM



Anonymous sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Rowley family.



November 3 at 4:54 AM



Tom Poole posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Mr Rowley was my favorite teacher going all the way back to Tiffany St Elementary School. 50 years later and the memories are still fresh. Who can forget doing leg lifts in gym class and having Mr. Rowley walk across all of us standing on our stomachs as he passed. And trying to out sing Mr Right's class which was right next door. Thank you Mr Rowley. I'm a better person because of you.

October 23 at 1:43 PM



Donna Calabrese posted:

A beautiful light has left the Earth, but heaven is all the brighter. Thoughts and prayers go out to you, Jim, at this very difficult time. We are all so grateful for the love and care you provided to our dear Or. Love, John, Donna, John, Sarah and Emily

October 22 at 6:46 PM



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Susan Brookes posted:

Mr Rowley was probably tied for my most favorite teacher of all time. He and Kathy (Dwyer) Joyal, both at Tiffany St School. He was a charismatic and creative teacher of all subjects. Everything was interesting and fun that year! He had a beautiful singing voice and music class was a blast , even if one wasn't musically inclined. We "Christmas caroled " through the halls of the school, singing in 3 part harmony, and entertaining all the other students. Gym class was fun (probably the only year for me!) as he set up obstacle courses and made up competitive games that were great exercise and fun at the same time. He would entertain us with his gymnastics! A truly memorable teacher and human being. My sincere condolences to his loved ones. Heaven has one more angel to add to their chorus 😊 Susan (Farioli) Brookes Hampden MA

October 21 at 5:13 AM



Duwayne Litz posted:

Jim, I'm so sorry for your loss. Hold fast to the many wonderful memories that you and Orville created and shared together. Orville was a lovely, caring man with a wonderful sense of humor. God bless. Hugs being sent. Duwayne Litz

October 21 at 4:21 AM



Duwayne Litz lit a candle in honor of Orville .



October 21 at 4:17 AM



Sue Truitt lit a candle in honor of Orville .



October 20 at 11:03 AM



Sue Truitt October 20 at 11:05 AM
Such a loving and caring gentleman Orville



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BB

Betty Mann-Beebe lit a candle in honor of Orville .

Dear Jim, We have lost your Partner and my dear friend. Orville was a wonderful person who loved everyone and would do anything for you. I will miss seeing him and sharing special times with the two of you. Especially our times with Dr. Jim.

Betty

October 19 at 4:18 AM



DF

David French posted:

Jim, Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Or was a kind, caring and wonderful person and will greatly be missed. David, Carla, Daniel, Michael and Amelia

October 18 at 12:24 PM

BC

Barbara Conlin October 26 at 4:50 AM

My husband Fred Conlin was a friend of Orville's and through him I met Orville.. He was such a pleasure to be with and I'm sure will be greatly missed by many

EM

Ethel Maull October 20 at 5:08 AM

Mr. Rowley was a kind, polite, gracious gentleman, always smiling. My thoughts and prayers are with his family . God bless and take care. Ethel. Maull

CC

Carol Kantany Casartello October 20 at 4:05 AM

Mr. Rowley was my sixth grade teacher at Tiffany School in Springfield, Massachusetts. He was an extraordinary teacher in so many, many ways, not the least of it being his ability to keep an awkward group of adolescents engaged in learning. He also used his time with us to impart many life skills which have served me ... and I expect many others ... throughout our lives. He was always impeccably dressed, had beautiful eyes and a gleaming smile. Through his words and actions he, on a daily basis, encouraged us to strive to do the best and be the best we could. As an adult I ran into him in the Longmeadow Market one day and (awkwardly I am sure) tried to tell him what a positive influence he had had on my life and how grateful I was. I am still in the Greater Springfield area and think of him when I pass by Tiffany School or Fenwick Street. I also think of him when I am dealing with young people and am conscious of what I want to communicate to them, both in terms of concrete information and also in terms of encouraging them to be confident, considerate, fulfilled and happy people. That is exactly what Mr. Rowley did for his many students. I extend my sympathies to his partner and the rest of his family. I will always think of Mr. Rowley with gratitude, admiration and affection...

LB

Leslie Ballinger October 19 at 9:30 AM

Jim I am so sorry about your loss. You two were good for each other and I know you will miss him.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Orville by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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