



Harrison Reed Duke III

February 8, 2026

Harrison Reed Duke III, a man of profound character, unwavering brotherhood, and deep-rooted Detroit pride, transitioned on February 6, 2026. A true champion of achievement, Harrison's legacy stretches from the heart of the Motor City to the banks of the Chesapeake Bay and across the Caribbean Sea.

Born on April 8, 1951, in Detroit, Michigan, he was the beloved son of Harrison Reed Duke Jr. and Pauline Blanche Duke. He attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Mumford High School in 1969, and earned his Bachelor of Science in Marketing with an emphasis on accounting and finance from Hampton University, a Master's in Educational Administration from Marygrove College, a Master's in vocational Education from Wayne State University and a Master's in Curriculum from Eastern Michigan University.

A man of extraordinary character, quiet strength, and unmistakable Detroit pride, Harrison lived a life defined by integrity, curiosity, and service. From his early days as a Mumford Mustang to his cherished years at Hampton University, he embodied excellence, humor, and humility. His dedication to others carried him across South America, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic as a member of the Peace Corps, experiences that shaped his global perspective and lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship, justice, and human dignity.

For more than 30 years, Harrison was a celebrated educator within the Career and Technical Education Department within Detroit Public Schools. Although he retired as the director of the CTE department he truly thrived in the classroom, teaching marketing, accounting and Distributive Education Clubs of America/DECA with an energy and commitment that inspired generations of students. He believed deeply in the power of education to open doors and transform. Known for his high standards, engaging teaching style, and his ability to make students feel seen and capable, Harrison helped shape countless future professionals, leaders, and entrepreneurs. His impact, measured not only in academic success but in confidence, character, and opportunity, continues to echo through the lives of all who had the privilege of learning from him.

As a proud and active third-generation member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Harrison was deeply respected for his wisdom, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to the Bond. He served the Detroit Alumni Chapter with distinction as Undergraduate Advisor and Chapter Historian, and contributed meaningfully through his work on the Member Training, Reclamation, and Spirit Committees. Harrison also made a lasting impact at the provincial level as the first Director of Undergraduate Affairs for the Northern Province, as well as through his service on the Northern Province Historian and Membership Training Academy Committees. Renowned for his sharp wit, generous spirit, and steadfast leadership, Harrison was a pillar within both the Detroit Alumni Chapter and the Northern Province, embodying the highest ideals of achievement and brotherhood.

Above all else, Harrison treasured his family. He shared a profound and tender bond with his grandchildren, Duke Alexander, and Drew Symone, guiding them with stories of history, lessons of kindness, and the enduring wisdom of the "Beatitudes." His presence was a source of comfort, insight,

and joy, a storyteller whose words could illuminate a room and a patriarch whose love shaped generations. He is preceded in death by his sister Diana Anita Duke and is lovingly remembered by his wife, Herenia Odette Duke (Lemoine), his daughters, Odette Laura Duke-Washington (David Washington), Jennifer Pauline Duke, his grandchildren, the brothers of the Sports and Technology Conference, and his extended family including Hampton classmates, Kappa brothers, and a wide constellation of friends and mentees whose lives he deeply touched.

Harrison leaves behind a legacy of compassion, achievement, and grace. His life reminds us that true greatness is found not only in what we pursue, but in what we impart to others. All who knew him carry forward his light, his wisdom, and his enduring example of a life well lived.

Previous Events

Doors Open

FEB **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

The Station at Michigan Central
2001 15th St.
Detroit, MI 48216

Valet Parking will be available for the service.

Celebration of Life and Legacy

FEB **23**. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Station at Michigan Central
2001 15th St.
Detroit, MI 48216

Valet Parking will be available for the service.

Tribute Wall

WD

“ On behalf of the Mumby family and The Kappa Alpha Psi , Beta Chi line brothers, The Unforgiven 6, extend and offer our heartfelt condolences prayers and love to the family and friends of HARRISON R. Duke.III. As a friend and fraternity brother, Duke was a brother and friend like no other! A true genuine pure heart of gold who would stand by you through thick and thin. He was someone you could count on when everybody else has left the room and Duke would provide the comfort, direction wisdom, and guidance with a touch of humor, compassion, and dignity needed to weather the storm! There’s no question Duke was extraordinary; his care circle was all inclusive, family was number one no mistake about it; Family was number one, but as a friend or frat brother or coworker or Hampton alumni he treated you and regarded you as family. His presence will be missed but not forgotten! Love Never Fails! Rest in Peace, My Brother!
Mumby 💎🙏🙏



William W.Mumby DDS - February 23 at 01:28 PM

KB

“ I adored you especially as a little bitty girl Skipper! This was our last picture. Im happy that YOU knew I remembered playing Frisbee all summer with you as a 2 or 3 year old and I kept my trophy Frisbee all of these years. Rest in heaven and give my kisses to the ancestors.



Kimberly Black - February 23 at 11:51 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.*



February 23 at 09:44 AM

EC

“ *Brother Duke had a knack for bringing out the best in people. He had an eye for talent and loved educating young minds and giving his frat brothers and friends solid advice, insights and his time and ear. He loved Detroit, Hampton University, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, but his family was his most prized possession. So happy to have passed his way. Eric Thomas Chism*

Eric Thomas Chism - February 22 at 08:39 PM

EG

“ Emanuel & Shereal Grain purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.



Emanuel & Shereal Grain - February 22 at 02:06 PM

EG

“ Emanuel & Shereal Grain planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harrison Reed Duke III.

Emanuel & Shereal Grain - February 22 at 02:06 PM

“ My best friend for 40 years! We were part of our families! We were there for each other professionally and personally. A man I would give up my life for. And he for me ! A lot was unspoken between us as it should be between men but that was the bond we had. We had undying respect for each other as brothers do and could share the deepest thoughts with each other without passing judgment. We grew up together I in the country of PA and him in Detroit, fathers who served in WW2 combat and would whoop us if we needed it, played ball til the light came on and we knew to get home, got in trouble, chased girls (never succeeded) always looking for a hustle to make some money, served our country, then actually met in 85. I looked up to him as a fantastic educator and told him that and what would he do? Tell me how to get there! He never accepted or wallowed in accolades, not his style, don't believe me? He won Teacher of the Year for the State and after he accepted the award questioned why his students were not graded properly in a State Marketing Competition! He didn't even acknowledge the award! He rewarded himself by helping others succeed, including me and not patting himself on the back! He was a competitor and that was how he rolled. He was a leader and I would follow him into combat and lay down my life for him because he believed we would win. Not “could” but would! If we were in a drinking establishment and it looked like we might not get out of there without getting bones broken , I'd say “Harrison, let's get out of here” he'd always reply” now Pauly, we're going to finish our beverage first! Listen man I'll talk to them (his great asset) “ He'd talk but I knew it wasn't going to end well when he whispered to me”Pauly, now back out real slowly and when I say 'run' ! I said “I'm not leaving without you” He says “get the damned car started NOW! “ Harrison loved his rum (straight with a small cube) anytime he'd come over he'd make sure I had rum on hand and we'd sit on the deck just talking and sipping drinks for hours and one thing about Harrison once he had a few rums (maybe two). You better get ready for long lectures on any topic! Harrison and my mother could sit for hours talking politics, Odette and I would just let them talk cause we knew it would be a marathon! And you couldn't say anything bad about Harrison in front

of mom cause she'd take his side even over me and I'd say "but mom I'm your son!" She'd reply" yes but you're wrong! Listen to Harrison, you might learn something" Harrison will be part of my life eternally! Harrison, I know your watching me and I haven't had a drink in 26 years but I'm going to hoist a shot of that Cuban rum! And don't argue with God! I love you brother, that'll never change or disappear!

paul yakaitis - February 22 at 12:44 PM

JS

“ *The Officers and Board of JRAB Education Support Services, an organization dedicated to helping parents support their child's education at home, send their deepest condolences to the family of Harrison Duke III. Harrison was a founding board member of JRAB. He fostered a household culture of learning, creating an environment that prioritizes educational growth in the home. His input, knowledge and upbeat attitude will be greatly missed.*



JRAB educational servives - February 22 at 12:09 PM

JS

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JRAB educational serviices - February 22 at 12:10 PM

LL

“ Love Donna, Gaye, Dean & Aunt Lucie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harrison Reed Duke III.

Love Donna, Gaye, Dean & Aunt Lucie - February 21 at 09:42 PM

LL

“ Love Donna, Gaye, Dean & Aunt Lucie purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.



Love Donna, Gaye, Dean & Aunt Lucie - February 21 at 09:42 PM

DW

“ I send this reflection with my deepest and heartfelt sympathy.

Memories of my cousin “Skipper” immediately bring to mind his effervescent and profound personality. His family visits to New Jersey during summer vacations and special events were always something I held dear.

When my sister Gaye, brother Dean and I were growing up in the 60’s – yeah, the Baby Boomer generation “old school” - summers were filled with fun times at Skipper’s grandfather Uncle Ted’s and grandmother Aunt Tootsie’s house. Our cousin from Detroit was in town and that meant good time to be had by all.

As a grown up though, Skipper and I had occasional phone conversations about world events, society, religion... you name it. He had a grasp for what was goin’ on – as Marvin Gaye sang – and I so enjoyed listening to him.

Skipper always showed up and on time...if you know what I mean. Skipper and Odette’s attendance at my wedding was so special to me and when they attended my mother’s 90th birthday celebration. I loved watching them do the Detroit Hustle on the dance floor...so smooth just like Skipper.

He was truly a light in this sad world and will be truly missed.

*Love always,
Cousin Donna Walton*

Donna Walton - February 21 at 09:35 PM

CB

“ Cara & Michael Blount planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harrison Reed Duke III.

Cara & Michael Blount - February 21 at 10:05 AM

KH

“ Rest in Abraham's Bosom 🕊️
Bless Your Family 💕🙏. One of my favorite teachers. Decca, Marketing, etc. James Brown Papa Got a Brand New Bag, video you put together for a class project. Taught me how to have a firm handshake. Had not seen you since graduating in 90, but had always wanted to see you throughout the years, to tell you how much I appreciated you helping me get ready for the work force and just appreciated being one of your students. You simply did not age. Rest in Abraham's Bosom Mr. Duke 🙏🙏💕🙏

KARMEN M HOSE - February 20 at 08:06 PM

DJ

“ Diallobe Johnson purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.



Diallobe Johnson - February 20 at 07:15 PM

DG

“ Deshawn G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harrison Reed Duke III.

Deshawn G. - February 20 at 02:13 PM

TF

“ *The Ennis Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.*



The Ennis Family - February 19 at 09:55 PM

AT

“ *I knew Harrison as Duke (and he knew me as Alonso). He came to the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps Volunteer shortly after I came. And, yes, Duke was the only person I've ever known who had a song written about him—Cucu Valoy's merengue No me empuje, “Don't push me”—peaceful Duke resisting Balaguer's armed guardia back in the mid-70s.*

As my closest gringo neighbor, in the market town nearest to my village, we hung out together a lot, sharing what we were living and learning this new country. Duke was my brother confidant as I courted—and the first from my home culture (melting-pot America) to meet—the young woman from my village, Minga, who became my wife.

Blessings, blessings upon you, Duke. After decades greeting each other long-distance now and again, such a joy for Minga and I finally to find our way to your home in Detroit ten-plus years ago—and so glad you came to see us at our airport layover a few years later as we returned from Nepal.

So sorry that you're no longer here. Our thoughts and prayers are with Odette and your family.

Allen Turner - February 19 at 01:51 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dr. Crenshaw - February 18 at 03:21 PM

DC

*Brothers, Duke Harrison, Dr. Norman Clement & Dr. Andre Crenshaw.
Tampa, Fl July, 2023.*

Dr. Crenshaw - February 18 at 03:28 PM

SA

*My dear friend Harrison and I have known each other so long I had to remind myself not to call him Slipper. Our fathers grew up a couple of houses away and the families always considered each other related . Years and years would pass with no I contact and when we were reunited we would pick up where we Left off. I will miss you my brother your advisor and our long conversations. I am blessed to have had you in my life..
Love, Sheila*

Sheila Allison - February 18 at 08:07 PM

CD

“ Cubie D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harrison Reed Duke III.

Cubie D. - February 18 at 01:49 PM

RJ

“ *May the peace of Christ be with the Harrison Duke family.*

*Robert Creekmur, Jr.
Ogre Phi Ogre*

Robert Creekmur, Jr - February 17 at 11:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.*



February 17 at 07:08 PM

NW

“ *Rest in peace fellow Hamptonian and an original member of Ogre Phi Ogre, class of 73. A very nice person!!*

Nathaniel Whitaker - February 17 at 06:49 PM

WL

“ *My sincere condolences for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the family in your hour of bereavement.*

*Winston Lovelace
Class of '73*

Winston Lovelace - February 17 at 03:49 PM

AL

“ *Praying that God will comfort and strengthen you during this difficult time in your lives. Rest in paradise Harrison. You will be missed.*

Annette Lane - February 16 at 11:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Harrison Reed Duke III.

February 14 at 01:36 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.



February 14 at 01:36 PM



“ On behalf of a group of former Peace Corps Volunteers who dubbed themselves “El Nucleo” (The Nucleus) that served with Harrison Duke in the Dominican Republic; we offer our deepest sympathy on his passing. He was the glue and guiding light for our group. His infectious personality endeared him to fellow volunteers and Dominicans alike - he cannot be replaced. We will miss “No Me Empuje” for the rest of our lives. Sincerely, Thomas Barrett, Bernard Hernandez, Robert Hill, Bert Humphrey, and Ballard Shapleigh.

Thomas Barrett - February 14 at 01:28 PM



“ *The Brothers of the Detroit (MI) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. solemnly acknowledge the transition of Brother Harrison R. Duke, III, a 1970 initiate of the Hampton University Chapter, the Beta Chi of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. to Chapter Invisible.*

Brother Duke faithfully served our Chapter as Historian and Undergraduate Advisor to Alpha Beta, and he served the Northern Province with distinction as Province Historian and Director of Undergraduate Affairs. For more than five decades, he preserved our history, mentored generations of Brothers, and upheld the highest standards of our beloved Fraternity.

He proudly carried a multigenerational legacy as the grandson of the first Northern Province Polemarch, Brother Harrison R. Duke, Sr.

While Brother Duke has entered the Chapter Invisible, his voice, scholarship, and example will continue to guide us.

The Detroit (MI) Alumni Chapter extends heartfelt condolences to his family, the Beta Chi Chapter, the Northern Province, and all who were blessed to call him Brother.



Emmanuel Idowu - February 14 at 07:56 AM

MP

“ *Harrison Reed Duke III, knew the Lord Jesus. Every Wednesday since Covid 19 began the Northern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. would come together on Zoom to pray for each other and for our greater communities. Brother Duke’s time and testimony will be missed. “Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.” Romans 12:9-13 NLT, In Christ’s Magnificent Name we pray. Amen! Faithfully, Mr. & Mrs. Michael “ Tiger” Price, MBA*



Michael “ Tiger” Price - February 14 at 07:33 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Harrison Reed Duke III.*



February 13 at 03:19 PM

CW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chago Wilson - February 13 at 08:39 AM

TD

“ Praying for your healing Tom Mills Deca

Tom Mills Deca - February 12 at 02:06 PM

MR

“ My sister was a Student Teacher under Harrison and I was privileged to get to know him. He was the ultimate Professional and always had a smile on his face. I always enjoyed seeing him whether in a professional or personal capacity. I know he was a wonderful husband, father, friend, and colleague who will be missed by all who knew him.



Marta Ries - February 11 at 12:28 PM