



Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr.

December 17, 1920 - May 18, 2022

William Herbert Highsmith, Sr. was born on December 17, 1920, in Philadelphia, PA, to William Henry and Christine Andrews Highsmith. He graduated from Philadelphia's Central High School (175th Class). In his youth, he attended Miller Memorial Baptist Church, where he went on to become a member.

Upon graduation from high school, he was employed at Philadelphia's William Cramp Shipbuilding Company, where he was the first Black Shipfitter Trainee. Following his time at the shipyard, he served in the US Navy during World War II, where he was stationed in the Philippines.

Following his honorable discharge from the US Navy, William enrolled in Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC, where he met his college sweetheart and future wife, Irene Hooper Highsmith. From this union, two children were born: William Herbert, Jr., and Sharon Christine. While attending Livingstone, William became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Life Member 1468) in 1949. Following their 1951 graduation from Livingstone, William with a B.S. degree in Mathematics and Irene with a B.S. in General Science, they were married on August 15, 1953, and enjoyed over 61 years of marriage until Irene's death in March 2015.

In the mid 1950's, William and Irene taught in Douglas, GA, Spartanburg, SC and Denton, MD. And in 1957, they relocated to New York City, where William earned a Master's in Education degree from New York University.

Upon completing his Master's, the two returned to Philadelphia, where William

began a 29-year career as a Math teacher in the Philadelphia School System, serving for over 20 years as Chairman of the Math Department at Stoddart-Fleisher Middle School. He retired in 1985.

In 2018, William and Irene relocated to Silver Spring, MD to be closer to family.

William was a member of the following organizations: Livingstone College Alumni Association; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Life Member); DeMolay Consistory #1, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry ("AASRFM"), Prince Hall Affiliated; Pyramid Temple #1, AEAONMS, PHA; Past Patron, Mabel M. Keys #99, OES, PHA; Disabled American Veterans, Life Member; and the American Philatelic Society, Life Member. And in May 1991, William was elevated to the 33rd Degree by the United Supreme Council, AASRFM, PHA.

William is survived by his son, William, Jr. of Silver Spring, MD; his daughter, Sharon of Clayton, NC; his grandson, Aaron of Lynchburg, VA; and his sister, Lorraine Lake of Silver Spring, MD.

Cemetery Details

Highsmith-Andrews Family Cemetery

Robersonville Product Road
Robersonville, NC 27871

Previous Events

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

MAY 28. 12:30 PM (ET)

Congleton Funeral Home and Cremations
3205 E. 10th Street
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 355-9995
congletonfuneral1@gmail.com
<http://congletonmortuary.com>

Celebration of Life Service

MAY 28. 1:00 PM (ET)

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3205 E. 10th Street
Greenville, NC 27858
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Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr.*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *Brother Bill,*

Prayers and thoughts go with you and yours as you bid farewell to your father and our brother, William Herbert Highsmith. May God's peace be with you all.

Grady Hedgespeth

Grady Hedgespeth - June 24, 2022 at 01:19 PM



“ *My best Fiend for so many years. College classmates and Bosom Buddies! Doc was a Great man of much wisdom. I seldom saw him but when we got together , Boy Oh boy did we talk about the Good ole days!*

*My love to Billy and Sister and Lorraine!
Peace to Your Family. Doc is just a thought away. He's with Irene.
I'll see them soon.*

Reuben Salters & Family

reuben Salters - May 28, 2022 at 02:06 PM



“ *My heart and prayers go out to you Billy and Sharon. Just know we love you and have you in our thoughts and prayers.*

Lisa Bailey-Harper - May 28, 2022 at 01:11 PM

DJ

“ Condolences to Bill Jr. and his sister Sharon from Dr. John LittleJohn Jr and family. Knowing Bill Jr. for so many years has allowed me to know the family, as well. I count it a privilege and honor. Rest-in-Power Mr. Highsmith Sr.

Dr. John LittleJohn Jr. - May 28, 2022 at 12:02 PM

RC

“ Dear Sharon and William, Jr.,
You both have my condolences and prayers.
We at Miller Memorial loved your Mom and Dad. God Bless the both of you.
Love, Rhoda Chasten and Family



Rhoda L. Chasten - May 27, 2022 at 12:39 PM

NA

Greetings from Norene Awkward to Bill and Sharon;

May Jesus take you by the hand and help you find relief throughout this time of sadden as you journey through your grief. May you feel the healing touch of every thought and prayer that's sent with LOVE and sympathy from the Fleming and Hite Families, Philadelphia, Pa.. who truly care. Love You Much!!

Norene Awakward - May 28, 2022 at 12:26 PM

JO

“ Joylette purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr..



Joylette - May 27, 2022 at 09:49 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr..*



May 26, 2022 at 05:27 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr..*



May 26, 2022 at 10:27 AM



“ *Love Your Jubilee Housing Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr..*



Love Your Jubilee Housing Family - May 24, 2022 at 02:51 PM

TJ

“ I and the brothers of Lambda Zeta chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity had the pleasure meeting Mr. Highsmith's son and frat Bill back in the late seventies. I believe when you have met the child in many ways you have met the parents and extended family. With HighHigh nothing could have been more true. His parents were polished, elegant and just down right charming. All ingredients they poured into their son and daughter. I want to thank you Big Brother Highsmith and the Highsmith family for your distinguished contributions to our world. I am simply grateful God placed some of those accomplishments like Bill in our life's path.

Thomas James (TJ)

Thomas James - May 23, 2022 at 11:28 AM

RF

“ Rev.Milton& Delorse Staton Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr.



Rev.Milton& Delorse Staton Family - May 22, 2022 at 08:58 PM

CL

“ To William, Jr. and Sharon,

God has called your loving Dad - a great Warrior, to rest!. He is now at peace with his beloved Irene, your Mom.. They often strolled "beneath the Maples and the Oaks" on the campus of Livingstone College many days before their graduation in 1951 and eventual marriage,. May they rest in eternal peace!

Thank you for allowing my tribute..

*Love and Prayers,
Carolyn Moore Bland, LC 1952
New Bern, North Carolina*

Carolyn Moore Bland, LC"52 - May 21, 2022 at 10:13 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. William Herbert Highsmith Sr..



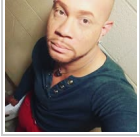
May 21, 2022 at 07:44 PM

EH

“ Sending Prayers To The Family.



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - May 20, 2022 at 08:45 AM



“ We, the family of the late Deacon Clarence Earl Highsmith, Sr, and Mother, Marie L. Highsmith, send our deepest condolences to you and your family for the loss of a Highsmith pillar. We want you to know that we love you and continue to pray for you during this transition.

BeJaie Hudson-Highsmith - May 20, 2022 at 07:49 AM



“ Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolence on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - May 19, 2022 at 03:35 PM