



## Harry Louis Jones Sr.

October 8, 1949 - February 15, 2017

Harry Louis Jones Sr. was born on October 8, 1949 in El Paso, Texas to the late Harry Francis Jones and Frances Person Jones. Harry was the oldest of three children, with two siblings Sharon Jones Toah and Jocelyn Jones. During his early years, he lived in Florida. As a military family, they moved frequently from base to base, in Taiwan, then moving to Fort Campbell, Kentucky and on to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Prior to Harry's father being assigned to Vietnam, the family purchased a home in Southern Pines, NC.

Harry, known as The Kid, was in tenth grade when he entered West Southern Pines High School. West Southern Pines High School is also the scene where he met his beloved high school sweetheart Becky McNeill. They both transferred to East Southern Pines High School where he played football and completed high school. Their life's journey took them to college at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Harry completed a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. While in college Becky and Harry got married, and juggled the responsibilities of being college students and parents to their first born Ebony Angel. The Jones family continued to grow, having twins LaHari and Reina, followed by the youngest sibling Harry Jones, Jr. affectionately known as JR.

Harry has had a long and varied career in public administration spanning from North Carolina and Texas. At the height of his career, Harry became the first African-American Mecklenburg County Manager. He graduated from over a half dozen leadership programs, such as Leadership Charlotte. He was active in many civic and professional organizations, serving as board chair for United Way of Central Carolina's; board member for Urban League of Central Carolina's and board member for National Forum for Black Public Administrators. He also served as President of the North Carolina City and County Managers Association. Harry was recognized for his excellence throughout his professional career that included: The Douglas G. Haymon Distinguished Public Service Award from the UNC School of Government Master of Public Administration Alumni Association and the Leadership Charlotte's Schley R. Lyons Circle of Excellence for Public Leadership Award from the National Forum for Black Public Administrators to name a few. Most recently, he received the county's highest honor, the Order of the Hornet. He was also a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity – Beta Delta Boule where he serves as Agogos.

When Harry was not being a public servant, he could be found on the golf course, enjoying his grandchildren, and from time to time enjoying a glass of red wine.

On Wednesday, February 15, God called Harry home. He was surrounded by the love of his family. He leaves to honor his memory his beloved wife Becky Jones, cherished daughters, Ebony Jones, LaHari Jones, Reina Jones Short (Brian), and one son Harry Jones Jr.; grandchildren Mahogany, Cedar, N'Dya, Quest, and Reagan; loving in-laws Halbert and Jeanette Kearns: and caring hosts of relatives, friends, and colleagues.

# Events

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**FEB** **Family Visitation with friends** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**20**

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Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church

401 North McDowell Street, Charlotte, NC, US

**FEB** **Boule Ceremony** 10:45AM - 11:00AM

**20**

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Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church

401 North McDowell Street, Charlotte, NC, US

**FEB** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

**20**

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Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church

401 North McDowell Street, Charlotte, NC, US

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.** - February 21, 2017 at 10:34 PM

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“ I met Harry when he was an assistant county manager. He came to see me about a matter I had resolved in court. He wasn't happy with me. By the end of our meeting, there was mutual respect and we became friends. He even brought me an NYPD cap after a trip to New York City. Whenever we crossed paths, his greetings were warm and sincere. As he fought his illness, his faith was an inspiration. I am thankful to have known him. God bless his family during this sad time.

Judge David S. Cayer

**Judge David S. Cayer** - March 01, 2017 at 12:02 PM

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“ James Earl Yarrell lit a candle in memory of Harry Louis Jones Sr.



**James Earl Yarrell** - February 24, 2017 at 03:15 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Harry's passing.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Sincere condolences to the Jones Family.

Bob, Diane Smolko & Family

**Robert J. Smolko** - February 20, 2017 at 06:02 PM

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“ Well ... gotta do over as the first one went into "cyberspace". I wasn't particularly saddened to learn of Harry's transition ... we'd talked about where he'd grown to spiritually I can't say we were close friends, but I do think we were close colleagues and he "appointed" me to a couple of committees/commissions.

I don't live in Charlotte any longer so I'm unable to attend the service today, physically. Then I was informed about this online platform ... just what I needed.

God Speed Harry Jones!

John "Moe" Moore

John Moore - February 20, 2017 at 09:20 AM

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“ Becky, the community grieves with you. Harry was a gift to all who knew him and a very special friend to me. My heart is with you. Find strength in your beautiful memories. With much affection, Linda Ashendorf

Linda Ashendorf - February 20, 2017 at 08:01 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harry Louis Jones Sr..



February 18, 2017 at 08:23 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry Louis Jones Sr..



February 18, 2017 at 11:52 AM

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“ What a man! Harry Jones was a magnificent human being and an example for all those who dedicate their lives to public service. His life is a model for us all.

I first met Harry in 1974. He was a young man full of fire and ambition in the Master of Public Administration program at UNC-Chapel Hill. Harry was determined to help make the world a better place and he saw a career in public service as a way to bring much needed changes in both government and society.

I watched with admiration as Harry quickly became a respected leader in local governments here in North Carolina and in Dallas, Texas, too. Harry grew as his work required him to expand and intensify his capacity to listen and respond to new voices and to adapt and communicate new insights. This was true in his professional life as a public leader, but also, more recently, in his own confrontation with cancer, and with God.

We will miss Harry Jones very much. Our country needs men like him. Fortunately, we still have and can continue to share his inspiring story. Thank you, Harry!

Gordon Whitaker, Professor Emeritus, UNC School of Government

Gordon P Whitaker - February 18, 2017 at 10:13 AM

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“ Harry L. Jones was a wonderful, caring and loving human being. He was devoted to family and friends. He was a leader all of his life. I am praying for his beautiful wife Rebecca, and all of his equally beautiful children. May Harry rest in Peace, and may his family and friends find Peace in his rest.



Carrie E Cauthen - February 17, 2017 at 07:46 PM

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“ We are sorry to learn of the death of Harry Jones. Harry and I were classmates at UNC-CH. He was a great inspiration and a wonderful leader. His governmental service spanned many years in various locations. He will be missed by all.

Ben Boykin

Ben Boykin - February 17, 2017 at 01:29 PM



“ Harry was my dear friend and roommate at UNC Chapel Hill. I will miss his friendship and reminiscing about our roommate experiences. Those memories live on as well as the extraordinary legacy he left behind. Rest in peace my dear buddy.

**Johnny Johnson** - February 18, 2017 at 10:39 AM

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“ C. Carvana purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Harry Louis Jones Sr..



**C. Carvana** - February 17, 2017 at 10:27 AM

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“ Sincere Condolences To The Jones Family,  
So sorry for your loss. Sometimes, the loss of a love one may seem unbearable. Mourn, and grieve as you must. "For everything there is an appointed time, even...a time to weep." Ecclesiastes 3:1,4. With Heartfelt Regret,



**F. Taylor** - February 17, 2017 at 09:44 AM

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“ 21 files added to the album Harry L. Jones, Sr.



**A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.** - February 16, 2017 at 06:19 PM

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“ To BECKY and Family

I just want you to know your Family in Connecticut are Praying for you and your family. Harry was a great Husband father- grand-father he will truly be missed.

Love your Cousin Mickey and Family!

Ernest Newton II - February 16, 2017 at 05:11 PM

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“ It's sad to know that my uncle has passed but he's in heaven now free at last.

I know the pain that you're going through reminiscing on times when he was there with you

But remember family he's in a better place no more hurt and pain of this crazy world to face.

He's an angel now sitting with the most high on top of the world in that beautiful sky.

God has him now; I know it's sad but true but he's an angel now watching over you.

~Much Love~

Tiffany Jones - February 16, 2017 at 04:05 PM

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~Much Love~

Tiffany Jones - February 16, 2017 at 03:38 PM