

## Ernest P. "Ernie" Davis

September 8, 1932 - November 11, 2024

Ernest P. Davis, one of six children born to the union of the late Daniel W. Davis and the late Emily Jane Proctor Davis, was born Thursday, September 8, 1932, in Harrisburg, PA. Known as "Ernie" by family and friends, he graduated from the former William Penn High School and studied at the Wharton School of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Davis was a former member of St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Rev. Franklin R. Henley. There, he formerly served as Past Treasurer, Trustee and Financial Officer. Currently, he is a member of Baptist Fellowship Church and served as Business Consultant under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Winston D. Palmore. Mr. Davis was instrumental in acquiring a temporary church home for Baptist Fellowship and in finding a portion of land for the church's future home site.

Ernie's impressive, successful trailblazing career was unparalleled. Rev. Franklin R. Henley encouraged him to enter the insurance business which he did in 1961. Within the first nine months into the insurance industry, he wrote in excess of one million dollars in coverage. Since that time, he has written millions of dollars of insurance annually and, as a result, has been a long-established Life Member of the Million Dollar Roundtable for forty-five years, an achievement attained by very few insurance professionals. From 1975 - 2000, he wrote in excess of nineteen million dollars' worth of insurance each

year, which included insurance pensions and tax-sheltered annuities. Ernie was a member of the Local and National Association for Life Underwriters. In August 1963, he was featured in "Ebony," "Jet," "Time" and other national publications in recognition of his accomplishments in the insurance industry. He was one of the first Black men representing a Black insurance company to write in excess of one million dollars in a year.

Ernie served on the Waypoint Bank Board of Directors, the Board of Directors for the Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) Foundation, Pinnacle Health Foundation and the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat Society, among other organizations. He is affiliated with New York Life from where he retired and many other insurance companies. Active in endeavors to enhance the quality of life in the community, his philanthropic investments have been demonstrated through his support of Pinnacle Health, YMCA, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, HACC and many other nonprofit organizations.

Ernie has held leadership positions as an officer of numerous community and service organizations including Dauphin County Housing Authority, Harrisburg Area YMCA, Dauphin County Crime Stoppers, Woodside/Schaffner Juvenile Detention Center, Central PA Chapter of the March of Dimes, United Way of the Capital Region, Dauphin County Executive Commission on Drugs & Alcohol, Bethesda Mission, Greater Harrisburg AIDS Alliance, Club Twenty-One, and others. Ernie is a Life Member of the NAACP and a Charter Member of Frontiers International Service Club. He has also been recognized for community service and excellence in business by the West Shore Kiwanis Club. A distinguished Mason, he received the highest honor of Scottish Rite Freemasonry, the Thirty-Third Degree, on May 26, 1997, in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1992, Ernie was honored by the Pennsylvania Council Deliberation of Scottish Rite as Mason of the Year. He was instrumental in saving the main Masonic Lodge in Philadelphia one-half million dollars in renovations and repairs to their facility. Ernie served as Past Master of Chosen Friends No. 43

and Past Potentate of Himyar No. 17; Nimrod 9 Grand Inspector General; and Harris 26 HRAM Companion.

In addition to these stellar accomplishments, Ernie also served as Past Chairman of the Dauphin County Minority Task Force which works to ensure that minority-owned businesses have a fair competitive share of contracts, hiring policies and job advancement opportunities. Ernie was presented the YMCA Award for Black Achievers in Industry by the Harlem Branch in New York City in March 2000. In 2001, he received the Camp Curtin Branch YMCA Black Achievers in Industry Award which is presented to a person who is "achieving status in industry and is a motivator and pace setter for Black youth."

Ernie had many interests including basketball, football, tennis and swimming. He held season tickets for the Philadelphia 76ers often attending with his cousin Proctor and attending the Baltimore Ravens home games with his nephew, Robert "Turt" Davis. Ernie also had a passion for automobiles having owned many makes and models to include Buick, Riviera and several Mercedes-Benz models among his collection.

It was never Ernie's desire to boast of his accomplishments, but to generously share and encourage other African Americans to know the same opportunities are available to everyone through hard work and determination.

On Monday, November 11, 2024, Ernest P. Davis transitioned from time to eternity joining his parents, two brothers, Daniel William Davis, Bruce E. Davis; and three sisters, Ruth Baylor, Betty Jane Hymon and Pearl "Sissy" Johnson.

Ernest P. Davis leaves an honorable, outstanding and loving legacy to be

cherished by his children, two of whom are attorneys, one who is a physical therapist and one who is a devoted homemaker: daughters, Candace L. Rushiddin of California, Margo Early (Wyatt) of Harrisburg, PA, Valerie Ernice Spencer of Oberlin Gardens, PA; and son, Terrence Orel Davis (Dorothy) of Atlanta, GA. He will also be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Candace C. Wright, Bettina L. Wright, Arlynn Davis, Lerin Heyward, Sean Dantè Spencer (Abby); his great-grandchildren, Marina C. Butler, Samatrah L. Burroughs, Sage Valerie Spencer, Sloane Marcella Spencer, Zola Ann Spencer, Journey Amari Butler and Jordan Imari Butler; significant lady friend, Iris Lewis; along with other family members and friends.

Masonic Service will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at Wallace Funeral Directors, 106 Agnes Street, Harrisburg, PA. Funeral Service will be held at 12 Noon, Thursday, November 21, 2024, at The First Baptist Church of Steelton, 1850 S. 19th Street, Harrisburg, PA, with viewing from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Interment will be at William Howard Day Cemetery. [wallacefd.com](http://wallacefd.com)

Special thanks to 2nd and 4th Floor Medical Staff at UPMC Community Osteopathic Hospital and the 2nd Floor Staff at the Helen Simpson Rehabilitation Hospital.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

# Cemetery Details

## William Howard Day Cemetery

Lincoln and Carlisle Streets  
Steelton, PA 17113

# Previous Events

## Masonic Service

NOV **20**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.  
106 Agnes St  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
(717) 939-9950  
wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com  
<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com>

## Flower Delivery

NOV **21**. 8:30 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Steelton  
1850 S. 19th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

## Viewing

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NOV **21**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Steelton  
1850 S. 19th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

## Service

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NOV **21**. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Steelton  
1850 S. 19th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Sending sincere coldolences to all family and friends of Ernie Davis. He was a wonderful friend and advisor to our family,especially givening good advice on insurance. He will be missed by our family.*  
*Shelia D. Sullivan Salisbury, North carolina*



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**Shelia D. Diane Sullivan** - January 31, 2025 at 09:55 PM

GC

“ *My deepest condolences to the family and friends ,Ernie will be missed but never forgotten*

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**Georgia chisolm** - November 22, 2024 at 08:59 PM

GC

“ *Georgia Chisolm lit a candle in memory of Ernest P. "Ernie" Davis*



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**Georgia chisolm** - November 22, 2024 at 08:55 PM

SS

“ *Condolences to the Family...Ernie Davis you were truly a dear friend !!! from as you say "Shy". !!*

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**shyanne singletary** - November 21, 2024 at 04:29 PM

RW

“ Rudy and Corita Watson purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Ernest P. "Ernie" Davis.



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**Rudy and Corita Watson** - November 20, 2024 at 02:59 PM

CF

“ Craig, Beth and the Teter family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Ernest P. "Ernie" Davis.



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**Craig, Beth and the Teter family** - November 19, 2024 at 04:08 PM

JC

“ Valerie and family, my deepest sympathy and prayers on the homegoing of your father. Mr. Ernie was an amazing community leader for the Harrisburg area. My thoughts are with you  
Joyce Culpepper



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**Joyce Culpepper** - November 19, 2024 at 04:03 PM

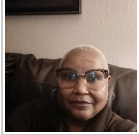
PR

“ Uncle Ernie, I will miss you very much. RIP  
Patty Davis Roebuck.



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**Patty Davis Roebuck** - November 19, 2024 at 01:11 PM



“ Valerie...So very sorry to hear of your father's passing. Ernie was a great guy, and will be missed.



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**Portia Bolen-Geter** - November 19, 2024 at 07:26 AM

IF

“ Iris Lewis and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest P. "Ernie" Davis.

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**Iris Lewis and Family** - November 18, 2024 at 04:26 PM

IF

“ Iris Lewis and Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Ernest P. "Ernie" Davis.



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**Iris Lewis and Family** - November 18, 2024 at 04:26 PM

BB

“ Valerie and family, please accept my deepest condolences on the loss of your father, friend and family steward. He was a very encouraging person and helped many in the community. He will be remembered. Blessing.

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**Barbara B. Barksdale** - November 18, 2024 at 04:25 PM

CC

“ *My sincere condolences and prayers to Valerie and Family. May God be with you during this difficult time*

**Cindy Cox** - November 18, 2024 at 10:09 AM

BW

“ *Deepest condolences, prayers to all family members and friends. He was one New York Life Insurance Best Agent.*

**Barbara Walker** - November 18, 2024 at 08:59 AM

ZN

“ *My sincere condolences go out to the Davis family.  
I knew him since I was a child. He was my family's insurance man. May he R.I.P. Peace*



**Zulene Newkirk** - November 17, 2024 at 03:11 PM

MS

“ *May you The Family be Blessed with Long Memories of such a wonderful man, my dearest friend....MsWv*

**MsWv** - November 17, 2024 at 02:34 PM

LS

“ *My deepest condolences to the family in friends Blessings to you all stay strong. The DUBOIS SHOFFNER FAMILY* 🙏🙏🙏

**Leivada Shoffner** - November 17, 2024 at 01:55 PM