



Oliver Louis Paige

August 14, 1932 - April 5, 2025

Sunset and evening star and one clear call for me! That there be no moaning of the bar when I put out to sea... Crossing The Bar, Alfred Lord, Tennyson

It was an overcast Saturday afternoon when Mr. Oliver Paige “crossed the bar” from the shackles of time into boundless eternity. His sun dawned on life’s horizon on the 14th day of August 1932 in Caroline County, Virginia. He was next to the youngest of eight, a quiet, reserved young man who received the example of education from his mother “Sis Lucy”. It was her love for education and her wish to be a teacher that became his guiding star. His upbringing was difficult, but he rose above all, graduating third in his class from Union high school in the area. An official in that school, Mr. Banks secured a scholarship for him to Virginia State College (now University) where he continued his academic education majoring in English education. Mrs. Rufae Holmes, a recruiter for I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth, Virginia, saw in Mr. Paige, a valuable addition to their English Department. His first students recognized his naiveté, but they also saw his gifted abilities. This would begin a long and successful career not just of teaching English, but of asking questions, shaping minds, and guiding young lives. Amid all this, there was a certain woman, Frances Revell who also taught English at Norcom. Her students had lunch with Mr. Paige’s students, introductions were made and they were married on April 2nd 1961 at Mt. Hermon Baptist Temple in Portsmouth. In 1962 they gave birth to a son Keith. Over time, neighborhoods

changed as well as churches. In both Community Presbyterian and Woodville Presbyterian Mr. Paige excelled in both art, with bulletin boards and bookmarks, and in music as an organist, worship leader and Men's Choir member.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ruben Junius and Lucy Paige (nee' Catlett) and his brothers: Junius Jr. Willis, James, Russell, Richard, Ruben, Steaven and a sister Lucy Mae Grant (Willam). Memories of his life will be cherished by his son Rev. Keith Paige, a stepdaughter Hadiyah Muhammed, his nieces Effie Richardson, Mary Hursey, Sherry Paige, and Jean Milbourne, nephews, Rev. Franklin Grant, Ronald Paige, Jerry Paige, Edwin Paige, and David Paige and a host of relatives, church members, former students, friends, and all who were touched by his anointed life.

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd
Chesapeake, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Service

APR **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Community Presbyterian Church
801 Tazewell Street
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Oliver Louis Paige



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - August 13, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ Thelma Branch lit a candle in memory of Oliver Louis Paige



Thelma Branch - April 24, 2025 at 04:59 PM



May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan, Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 29, 2025 at 01:39 PM



I was never in any of his classes, but Mr. Paige always spoke to me as if he knew me in the hallways. He was just a NICE MAN period.

Rev. R. L. Addison - April 12 at 01:18 AM

CD

“ Cheryl Davis-Elliott lit a candle in memory of Oliver Louis Paige



Cheryl Davis-Elliott - April 24, 2025 at 01:29 PM

JM

May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan, Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 29, 2025 at 01:39 PM

TR

“ Educators turned family!! That's who the Paiges were to the Riddick/Brown family! Ma & Pa Paige will forever hold a special place in our hearts and memories. Thanks for a lifetime of love and special moments shared.



Tomecia Riddick - April 24, 2025 at 08:11 AM

JM

“ Once in an era you meet a blessed spirit, Oliver L. Paige, a second father for me. Teacher and mentor for many that span a lifetime. Affectionally called the “Governor” by our Class ’63, we loved his expressions and strict adherence to good values, perfection in English, and I thought in all things. Yet, he would say “we were not perfect.” When I asked him about teaching he said Joan, “it is a calling.” I think no girl could have been so blessed to have Mama (Boo) and “Pappy” (my nicknames) as parents. The last words he spoke to me a few weeks ago, were about my beloved brother, Keith, as Daddy lovingly said “My son, my son, my son.” My beloved brother Rev. Keith O. Paige, proud graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, carries on their tradition and is the true embodiment of their spirit. We love you Daddy. You’re always in our hearts. If you can bear to leave us, we can surely bear to let you go to a better place of happiness and joy with Mama. Though separated by time and distance, I further give a special thanks to all friends, relatives, coworkers, and students for your condolences, especially for those who could be there when I couldn’t.



Joan Muhammad - April 23, 2025 at 06:11 PM

JM

Excerpts and photos are from our family scrapbooks and year books.
Joan

Joan Muhammad - April 24, 2025 at 10:12 PM

AS

Thank you so much for those fond memories. Mr. Paige & Ms. Revell were both Outstanding teachers 🙏🙏 Antoinette(Jones) Scott class1963💖

Antoinette Scott - April 26, 2025 at 10:21 PM

JM

Hi Antoinette! So glad to hear from you! Thank you for your kind words. We love you, Joan

Joan Muhammad - April 29, 2025 at 01:32 PM

BT

“ My condolences to the family of Mr Paige. Mr Paige was my 12th grade English teacher and I might add that he was my favorite teacher also. Mr Paige was pleasant and very distinguished. He was an example of what a man should be. He was tough as a teacher however gave every student the opportunity to excel. I salute Mr Paige for a well lived life full of distinction.



Byron Taylor - April 23, 2025 at 05:26 PM

JM

May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan, Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 29, 2025 at 01:40 PM

JJ

“ Jacqueline Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Oliver Louis Paige.

Jacqueline Johnson - April 22, 2025 at 05:12 PM

JJ

“ Jacqueline Johnson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Oliver Louis Paige.



Jacqueline Johnson - April 22, 2025 at 05:12 PM

AB

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of your father's passing. Please accept my heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. May you find peace in the memories you shared and comfort in the love of those around you.

I'm keeping you and your family in my prayers, asking God to strengthen you and grant you His peace that surpasses all understanding. If there's anything I can do to support you, please don't hesitate to let me know.

With sympathy and prayers,
Elder Audrey Bennett
Trinity Presbyterian Church



Audrey Bennett - April 21, 2025 at 10:59 PM

JM

Thank you for your most gracious condolences, Daughter Joan

Joan Revell Muhammad - April 22, 2025 at 11:17 PM

JS

“ Mr. Paige was the BEST teacher. He was no nonsense, but was always kind, patient, a definite class act. Mr. Paige always dressed well, conducted himself as an exemplary gentleman, and expected the same of his students. If you ask a CHS graduate, who their favorite teacher was, we're all unanimous, Mr. Paige! He has such a positive impact on all of our lives. Sincere condolences to the Paige family. 🙏



Jeanne Farmer Swain - April 21, 2025 at 08:13 PM

JM

May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan, Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 29, 2025 at 01:44 PM



“ 20 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - April 21, 2025 at 07:26 PM



“ Marilyn Thomas Wahl lit a candle in memory of Oliver Louis Paige



Marilyn Thomas Wahl - April 21, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ Muhammad Al-Bari & Robinson Families purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Oliver Louis Paige.



Muhammad Al-Bari & Robinson Families - April 20, 2025 at 12:11 PM



“ Joan Revell Muhammad planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Oliver Louis Paige.

Joan Revell Muhammad - April 19, 2025 at 07:27 PM

JM

“ *Joan Revell Muhammad purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Oliver Louis Paige.*



Joan Revell Muhammad - April 19, 2025 at 07:27 PM

SC

“ *Mr. Paige was the best teacher I ever had! There was something about him that made everyone respect him. He cared about teaching every student. Making sure that each one of us were challenged to reach our best potential. It is hard to believe that it was over 40 years ago that I had him as a teacher - yet I still remember how incredible of a person he was. I hope he knew how many of his students loved him and appreciated him. I hope he knew that he made a difference in so many lives. Prayers for his family*

Susan Call - April 19, 2025 at 12:03 PM

DK

“ *Mr..Oliver Paige and Mrs. Frances Revell Paige were amazing parents, Mount Hermon Baptist Church leaders, and church friends to my parents Mr. & Mrs. Daniel & Adell Knight. Sunday School, Youth Church, Baptist Training Union, and even Vacation Bible School found both of them actively energetic in services for the youth.. At I.C. Norcom High School the Paige's displayed admiration and guidance to all students. They were also beacon Mount Hermon community leaders. My prayers and condolences are extended to the family. Dr. Dr. J. Leon Knight*



Dr. Joseph Knight - April 19, 2025 at 01:52 AM

RL

“ Mr Paige was one of the best teachers I had during my time at Norcom. He was unsurpassed as an English teacher and took a genuine interest in his students. He will be missed, but also remembered as a person who cared deeply about his craft.

Rodney Looney - April 17, 2025 at 10:07 PM

RS

“ I am sad to learn of the death of Mr. Oliver Louis Paige. He was my 12th grade English teacher at I. C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth, Virginia in 1966. His famous quote written by Thomas Paine , “ These are the times that try men’s souls” , rings in my ears everyday. I find myself have to say the same thing all day long. I thank Mr. Paige for being a caring teacher who taught in a way that made students eager to learn. Rest now in heaven Mr. Paige with your wife Frances until we meet again.
Love, Regina Long Southall
I.C. Norcom High School , June 1966

Regina Long Southall - April 17, 2025 at 02:52 PM

RM

“ Mr. Paige was an awesome teacher. He knew how to get the attention of each and every student in his English classes. My condolences and prayers 🙏 to the family. He will be missed.



Rondalyn G. Mills - April 16, 2025 at 09:30 PM

ST

“ *Mr. Paige was my 12 grade English teacher. He would teach the class and was brilliant with everything about English. He also taught us other things to help us in life after graduation. We didn't know it then but when I took those civil service and other government test everything he taught was on there. Amazing man way beyond his years. Thank you Mr. Paige for being a light*



Sonya Brown Terry - April 16, 2025 at 08:29 PM

LT

“ *Mr. Paige was a fabulous teacher, admired by all. My deepest condolences to the family.*

Lydia Waters Thomas - April 16, 2025 at 04:14 PM

SW

“ *I had Mr. Paige for my English Teacher at Churchland High School when it was located on High Street. Mr. Paige had so much patience with me. When it was time to do a Term Paper he would say Sharon just give me a three page Paper; he knew I hated Term Papers. He was a great Teacher. Rest On Mr. Paige.
Sharon Williams (Class of 1975)*

Sharon Williams - April 16, 2025 at 03:35 PM

JM

Hi Sharon! May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan, Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 29, 2025 at 01:46 PM

BC

“ I will never ever forget the kindness and the way he made his students eager to not only learn to love English but to enjoy the subject coming to his class and looking forward to an enjoyable class period. Great Teacher take your well deserved Rest



Brenda Reynolds Carter - April 16, 2025 at 02:40 PM

JM

Hi Brenda! May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan, Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 29, 2025 at 01:46 PM

JF

“ My life has been greatly enriched because my teacher, Mr Oliver Paige. I am praying for all who mourn his transition

Joyce Norfleet Mackey Foster - April 16, 2025 at 01:14 PM

AN

“ There will probably never be a more knowledgeable teacher than Mr Paige. As soon as the bell rung for class to start his first words were turn in your book to page .. paragraph.. line.. word #. I knew I was in trouble cause I hadn't even read it. Rest peacefully Mr Paige

anita - April 16, 2025 at 09:21 AM

MK

Wonderful teacher and colleague.
May he rest in peace.

Mary Korty - April 16, 2025 at 12:35 PM

JM

May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 24, 2025 at 09:57 PM

DS

*“ Mr. Paige was the Best English teacher I’ve ever had!
I and soo many of the students from I. C. Norcom High School will miss you...*

*Thank you
Darryl V. West, Sr.
Class of 1965*

Darryl V. West, Sr. - April 15, 2025 at 11:40 PM

TB

Like the others, Mr. Paige was my English teacher. He was a model teacher and was very knowledgeable! He taught with a kind heart. He will be missed but never forgotten!

Thomasyne Alecia Beverly - April 16, 2025 at 03:52 PM

RP

He was a teacher, a father and a friend to me. The same care that he gave to his students, he also demonstrated as both a loving husband and caring father. He tried not to necessarily be the father that raised him. Instead, he tried successfully to be the father that I desperately needed. When I came home from whatever school I was in, I knew that both of my parents loved me, and that was the greatest lesson that anyone could ever receive. Thank you all for your kind words!

Rev. Keith Paige - April 18, 2025 at 05:34 PM

BG

Mr. Paige was my freshman English teacher at Churchland High School. He addressed his students as "Miss" or "Mr." He respected us and expected respect in return. And I think, more often than not, he got it.

Beth Spencer Grant, Class of 1987, Churchland High School

Beth Grant - April 18, 2025 at 10:47 PM

P1

Mr. Paige was the reason that I became a teacher! I wanted to help students love learning the way he inspired me. He reminded me of "To Sir With Love," teaching us lessons about life as well as literature. He'd allow us to challenge him, but he expected logical arguments! I have NEVER respected an educator as much as Mr. Paige. His love for his students was legendary, which is why we all admired him so much. I know that you're back with your lovely wife again, and sporting a WELL-DESERVED halo. You will forever be my Sidney Poitier, sir! ❤️

Paula Maupin Wynn--- Class of 1984 - April 19, 2025 at 12:56 PM

MW

Mr. Paige was my 12th grade English teacher at Churchland High School (Class of 1981). I truly admired wonderful teacher, man, spirit and great sense of humor. I travel all over the country and still brag about my 12th grade English teacher, Mr. Paige. Mr. Paige will forever remain a great educator and a kind spirit. Mr. Paige truly cared about his students. I will forever brag about Mr. Paige. I'm so sorry for loss of the wonderful Giant. Be blessed and we will continue to carry on his greatness!!!

Marilyn Thomas Wahl - April 20, 2025 at 04:20 PM



Like many others Mr. Paige was my English teacher and I can say my favorite teacher. I have talked about him many times over the years and the impact he had on me as an average student. He didn't let me hide from the hard work when I was afraid I couldn't do it well. He took time to help me figure it out and gave me the confidence to try. Like another student on here I hated term papers but he broke it down and made it manageable. Rest in Heaven Mr. Paige. You have earned your wings.

Susan Jones - April 23, 2025 at 08:14 PM

JM

May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 24, 2025 at 09:58 PM

JM

May God bless you for your generous spirit and condolences for our family, Sincerely Keith & Joan Thank You.

Joan Muhammad - April 24, 2025 at 09:58 PM