



## Randolph Hargrave

May 2, 1950 - April 13, 2019

Randolph Ulysses Hargrave received his early education in Como, NC. His educational journey continued at Truxton Elementary after his family relocated to Portsmouth, Virginia. S.H. Clarke was the setting for his Junior High School years. Woodrow Wilson High School, home of the “Presidents”, became his alma mater as he was a graduate of the Class of 1969. He furthered his education receiving a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. In the year of 2018, Randy had taken several classes in religion from Tidewater Community College. The day before his demise, he shared with his wife what he felt was a personal word from GOD. He told her to always remember this date, April 4, 2019, for it was on this day that GOD said to him, “ You have been running from me for 30 years. You were doing good things, but that is not what I called you to do. I called you to preach. I will deliver you from whatever you are going through.” He was preparing Randy for his final season on earth.

Randolph was truly devoted to his community and a lifelong member of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Virginia. It was there where he served as Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School Teacher for Youth and Adult Men, Member of The Board of Christian Education, Faithful Commander of the AWANA Ministry, Deacon Board Ministry, Budget Ministry, Male Choir, chaired several Pastor’s and Church Anniversaries, instrumental in the Marketing Ministry, teacher in the Discipleship Evangelism Ministry, and

a Spiritual Walk Ministry just to name a few.

Randy was known as the “King of CO-OP” for advertising for newspapers across the country. Alan Levenstein, Randy’s former sales manager, recalled conversations at every conference in which he would introduce himself to ad executives as a representative from the Virginian-Pilot. He would hear them respond, “The Virginian-Pilot, isn’t that where Randy Hargrave is? Randy had transformed their Co-op Program after he visited their newspaper and conducted training for their sales staff. Randy shared his successful training program to the newspaper in 38 states as well as a newspaper in England, where he and his daughter Kenesha traveled when she was in the 8th grade.

Randy took upon himself to learn the Co-op business. The Pilot reaped millions of dollars offered by manufacturers that would not have been realized without the work of Randy, the “King of Co-op”. He was genuine and honest in dealing with people, and they realized it.

In the 1980’s, because the paper believed in the spirit of competition, the basketball league was born. This was an important venture for Landmark, and they needed to be ensured that it was in the right hands. They realized their own Randolph Ulysses Hargrave had “the right hands” and the “Midas Touch”. He became commissioner of the team. Randy did it all - coordinated the schedules, hired the referees, found the gym where the games were to be played. He even swept the floor after the game. Randy was quite a competitor. He did not need to play for he had outstanding talent on his team: Fred Jones, Jack Ross, Tony Martinette, Leonard “Speedy” Gainer, guys who played in high school and college. The moral of this story is Randy showed to his team and to the other team that we all know. He was a guy who would do the dirty work and whatever it took for his team to win, whether it was chasing Co-op Advertisers, gas contractors, NSU Presidents. You name it. He never met a challenge he did not relish.

In the 1990's Harbor Park opened. The Pilot wanted to make sure they showed the customers how much they appreciated their business but still tried to keep within budget. Well, at least most of the team did, and then there was Randy "Bubba Gump Shrimp" Hargrave. No one loved shrimp like him. In the early days, most of the bills from the sky box would be in the \$300.00 range. However, this time the director Bruce Bradley signed it and let it go. This was the same routine, but he noticed the bill in the neighborhood of \$600 dollars! He wondered how the stadium made a mistake. He checked who had the box. You guessed it, "Shrimp Hargrave," along with the Qualified Gas Contractors. Randy was called and asked, "What happened"? He said those are my people, and I know they love shrimp. That shrimp is going to get me some full-page ads this year. It was at this time the "No Shrimp Without Approval or NSWA rule was born. Randy believed doing what you need to do and ask for forgiveness later. Thus, the legend of Randy "Bubba Gump Shrimp" Hargrave was born.

In 2011 after working proudly, faithfully, with incomparable integrity, for over three decades, Randy retired from the Virginian-Pilot Newspaper as Co-op Manager. An award was bestowed in his honor, The Randy Hargrave Crusader of the Month Award. Randy epitomized the definition of "Crusader" for the tireless energy he put into every initiative he undertook, especially ones that required results from the entire Ad Department. A sense of team work is what motivated Randy to make those around him better by providing guidance with sale opportunities and support for sales executives, especially the ones less seasoned. Randy was an exceptional individual who persevered through adversity, never giving up and always staying positive.

Randy was the creator of the African Americans Today section of the Virginian-Pilot newspaper, recognizing local Black pioneers in the Tidewater

area.

As an extension of his legacy of integrity and diligence, Randy was also a part of the Board of Zoning Appeals in Portsmouth, Adjunct Professor at Norfolk State University, and created a Male Mentoring Program at Tidewater Community College, a weekly session called Champions for Change.

As we celebrate, we will be reminded of Randy's crusading spirit and his determination to succeed against the odds.

We treasure the thoughts of Randy's extended family, his friends, and his Virginian-Pilot family.

Things you could always count on from Randy as recounted by those who knew him best --

Unwavering love for God, Passion for his family, the Pilot Newspaper, and Tidewater Community College  
Spreading the Gospel/Winning souls for CHRIST.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy  
Chesapeake, VA

## Service

APR **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church  
3310 Deep Creek Blvd.  
Portsmouth, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ *J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - April 22, 2019 at 10:46 AM



“ *Mrs. Hargrave I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your beloved husband. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May the memories of your husband and the peace of God reside in your hearts until you'll meet again. May you also find comfort and healing in knowing that weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*



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**Merita Brinkley** - June 08, 2019 at 02:58 PM



“ *To Raynell and the entire Hargrave family:  
I was so very sorry to hear about Randy's passing. There are no words to say to ease your pain now; only time and our wise God can do that. But I'm praying for your strength and your healing. Blessings, family. And rest well, Randy, until we see you again.  
Love, Pat Thomas-Cross*

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**Pat Thomas-Cross** - April 21, 2019 at 05:10 PM

BS

“ Beverly Shepard lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave



Beverly Shepard - April 20, 2019 at 06:02 PM

BS

“ A truly, truly wonderful soul. Heaven welcomes him home.

Condolences,

Beverly Shepard

Beverly Shepard - April 20, 2019 at 06:01 PM



“ 32 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - April 20, 2019 at 07:51 AM

JJ

Condolences to the family of my classmate and wonderful human being, Randolph

joseph F jordan - April 22, 2019 at 04:20 PM

DW

“ *Daphne Waring-Sorrell lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Daphne Waring-Sorrell** - April 20, 2019 at 06:46 AM

KW

“ *It is With great sadness that I hear of my friend Randy's passing. We enjoyed many basketball competitions on weekends off while we worked at the Virginian-Pilot. I will remember Randy as he passed me in the halls of the Pilot saying, God bless you Ken. Our condolences to Raynelle and the family. I know where Randy is. Ken and Simonetta Wright*

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**Ken Wright** - April 19, 2019 at 07:51 PM

GC

“ *Gladys Cross lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Gladys Cross** - April 19, 2019 at 06:42 PM

FS

“ *Frank, Stefanie and Cristina Sorrentino.*

*Will miss our conversations with one of the  
nicest person we have ever known*



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**Frank Sorrentino** - April 19, 2019 at 05:49 PM

SH

“ *Saundra S Hunter lit a candle in memory of  
Randolph Hargrave*



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**Saundra S Hunter** - April 19, 2019 at 03:36 PM

NM

“ *Nell Moody lit a candle in memory of  
Randolph Hargrave*



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**Nell Moody** - April 19, 2019 at 08:55 AM

MF

*To Mrs Hargrave and family sorry to hear the passing of your love  
one.14 John 1-2*

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**Ms.Jackie Freeman** - April 20, 2019 at 05:03 PM

FH

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Randy Hargrave. May the wonderful memories of your loved one be a source of comfort during this difficult time .*



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**Francoise Holley** - April 18, 2019 at 08:57 PM

LF

“ *Love, Aunt Hazel & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Randolph Hargrave.*



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**Love, Aunt Hazel & Family** - April 18, 2019 at 01:49 PM

SW

“ *Sylvia W. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Randolph Hargrave.*



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**Sylvia W.** - April 18, 2019 at 12:48 PM

VR

“ To the Hargrave family: I am praying for you all and thank God for Mr. Randy. He made such an impression on me with just one opportunity that we had a chance to meet and talk at your home several years ago. I am still feeling the effects of meeting such a good hearted man who was an outstanding, husband, father, grandpa, uncle, cousin, and friend. He served the Lord faithfully, and was such a quiet, sweet presence in his community, in his church, and in his business endeavors.

Kenesha, thank you so much for the opportunity to meet your dad. He and your mom Raynell were perfect partners, and they are just the best parents anyone could ask for.

I love you all, and I hope that you have nothing but sweet memories and that these memories and good thoughts comfort you all during this time, and that the many prayers uphold you now and forever.

Love and prayers,  
Vanessa and Linwood Richardson and family

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**Vanessa L Richardson** - April 18, 2019 at 11:05 AM



“ Cross Wind Chime - Bronze was purchased for the family of Randolph Hargrave.



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April 18, 2019 at 10:51 AM

PS

“ How does one say "goodbye" to a friend of 50 years. From the 1st time I met Randy in high school, I knew he was a great guy and would be a terrific friend. Such fond memories remain in my heart from our high school days and lots of fun working on past reunions. Randy was currently assisting with our WWHS Class of 1969 50th reunion and was so heartbroken to tell us he could no longer keep that commitment. We knew then that it must be serious for Randy to step down. Little did we know that we would lose him so soon. The reunion just won't be the same without him. I send my love and sympathies to his wonderful family, and I know Randy will always smile on them as they continue their journey through their lives here on earth and wait patiently for their arrival Home in Heaven with him. Raynell, Kenesha and Michael - May God Bless and Comfort you as only He can. With much love - Patsy Noble Southard - fellow classmate and friend

Patricia Southard - April 18, 2019 at 10:44 AM

TF

“ TCC Portsmouth Campus Student Center Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Randolph Hargrave.



TCC Portsmouth Campus Student Center Family - April 18, 2019 at 10:40 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Randolph Hargrave.



April 18, 2019 at 05:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Randolph Hargrave.*



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April 18, 2019 at 12:43 AM



“ *Freda Walker Moore & Family lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Freda Walker Moore & Family** - April 17, 2019 at 08:49 PM



“ *Phyllis Harris lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Phyllis Harris** - April 17, 2019 at 08:18 PM



“ *Faith Burden lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Faith Burden** - April 17, 2019 at 05:21 PM

VC

“ Vera And James Carroll lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave



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**Vera and James Carroll** - April 17, 2019 at 04:54 PM

TB

“ Theresa Browndoonquah lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave



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**Theresa Browndoonquah** - April 17, 2019 at 02:56 PM

AE

“ I’m so devastated to hear about Mr. Randy’s passing. We all know he’s in a better place! God needed him more than we did. I am so honored that I got the chance to one of his “Ladybugs” whenever he spoke to you. He will be truly missed around TCC. My prayers are with the family.

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**Aneisha Ellis** - April 17, 2019 at 10:19 AM

DS

“ Randy, Raynell, Kenesha and Michael have been family to me as far back as I can remember. I met Randy at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church at the age of seven (7). Time doesn't permit me to express the personal impact Randy has had on my life as a young lad (boy) and as an adult. Randy always offered words to right the wrong. Any problem I experienced, I could always count on the Hargrave family to be that inspiration and listening ear. I remember when Randy and Raynell met and the day they became one in Holy Matrimony. Kenesha and Michael have been my God sister and brother since their births. I traveled to Portsmouth from Detroit, Michigan on February 3, 2019. I visited Mt. Carmel during morning service. Randy Recognized me sitting in the congregation and took it upon himself to sit with me for a period of time during the service. Randy was so overjoyed to here about my plans to relocate back in Hampton, Roads upon retirement in 2021. Randy was not only a friend and brother, but he was a true and loyal soldier for the Lord. Yes Randy is now present with the Lord. His love and spirit will remain with all us throughout our lives. Knowing Randy, he would not want us to cry for him. Randy would want all of us to continue to carry the blood stain banner just as God would want us to. Raynell, yes I'm 5,000 miles away in Europe but know, I'm with you, Kenesha and Michael in spirit and love. May God continue to bless you and may heaven continue to smile down upon you. Love ya ALWAYS and please remember, this earth has NO SORROW that heaven can't and will not heal...



*Dennis Barron White of  
Detroit, Michigan  
April 17, 2019*

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**Dennis Barron White Sr.** - April 17, 2019 at 10:06 AM

CA

“ *Camara Francis & Family and Stephanie Alexander purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Randolph Hargrave.*



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**Camara Francis & Family and Stephanie Alexander** - April 17, 2019 at 09:47 AM

CF

“ *Camara Francis lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Camara Francis** - April 17, 2019 at 09:17 AM

JK

“ *From James and Beverly King*



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**James & Beverly King** - April 17, 2019 at 09:09 AM

WF

“ *Wanda Fraser lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Wanda Fraser** - April 17, 2019 at 07:24 AM

WF

“ Michael played football with our son Bobby. Randy was team dad, I was team mom. To this day when I would see him it would be hi team mom, and hi team dad and then a big hug. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family. The Fraser's Bob, Wanda and Bobby

Wanda Fraser - April 17, 2019 at 07:22 AM

LG

“ Sorry for the loss of your family member. Randolph was a great friend as we grew together in the church. He will be truly missed



Larry Gist - April 17, 2019 at 01:54 AM

IL

“ I was sorry to hear of Randy's passing. We were neighbors in Portsmouth for over 15 years. I extend my sincere condolences to Raynell, Michael, Kenesha and his entire family. May God grant them strength during this time.

Irvine & James Lee - April 16, 2019 at 08:29 PM

RB

“ I was so sorry to hear the news of Randy's passing. He was always a source of support and the voice of reason during my days at The Virginian-Pilot. He will be missed. Prayers and condolences to the Hargrave family. May peace and God's blessings be with you.

Robin Boyd - April 16, 2019 at 06:25 PM

RB

“ *Ryta Barnes lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



**Ryta Barnes** - April 16, 2019 at 06:06 PM

EH

“ *Ethelyn Whitehead Holley lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



**Ethelyn Whitehead Holley** - April 16, 2019 at 05:47 PM

EH

“ *Evelyn Hampton lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



**Evelyn Hampton** - April 16, 2019 at 02:08 PM

KN

“ *Randy was one of the kindest people I have ever met! He brought joy wherever he went. I was glad to be one of his Ladybugs! Heaven gained a true angel & I can see him smiling now! I especially enjoyed him talking about his family & his love for our Lord!*

**Kathy Newbern** - April 16, 2019 at 01:49 PM

PW

“ *Pamela Syms White lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



**Pamela Syms White** - April 16, 2019 at 01:41 PM

DQ

“ *Donna Quinerly lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



**Donna Quinerly** - April 15, 2019 at 07:30 PM

VA

“ *May the strength of Our Lord and Savior comfort and reassure you of the faith as have in Jesus Christ. Our sincere sympathy. We love you. Valarie, Marcus, & Nakya Dozier*



**Valarie** - April 15, 2019 at 06:01 PM

CS

“ *Catrena D. Speller And Sydni Speller lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



**Catrena D. Speller and Sydni Speller** - April 15, 2019 at 05:50 PM

WS

“ *Wilhemina Small lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Wilhemina Small** - April 15, 2019 at 04:48 PM

LS

“ *Leigh M. Burton, Sr. lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**Leigh M. Burton, Sr.** - April 15, 2019 at 03:46 PM

TT

“ *I was saddened to hear of Randy's passing. I had the great pleasure of working with him for many years at The Virginian-Pilot. He was always smiling and was a great person to be around. He set an example for all who had the good fortune to know and work with him. He is gone too soon but I know he, a man of faith, is home with our Lord. May his memory be eternal.*



*Tom Townsend*

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**Tom Townsend** - April 15, 2019 at 02:19 PM

TF

“ *The Easter Family lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**The Easter Family** - April 15, 2019 at 11:44 AM

JP

“ *John & Shelia Parker lit a candle in memory of Randolph Hargrave*



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**John & Shelia Parker** - April 15, 2019 at 09:21 AM