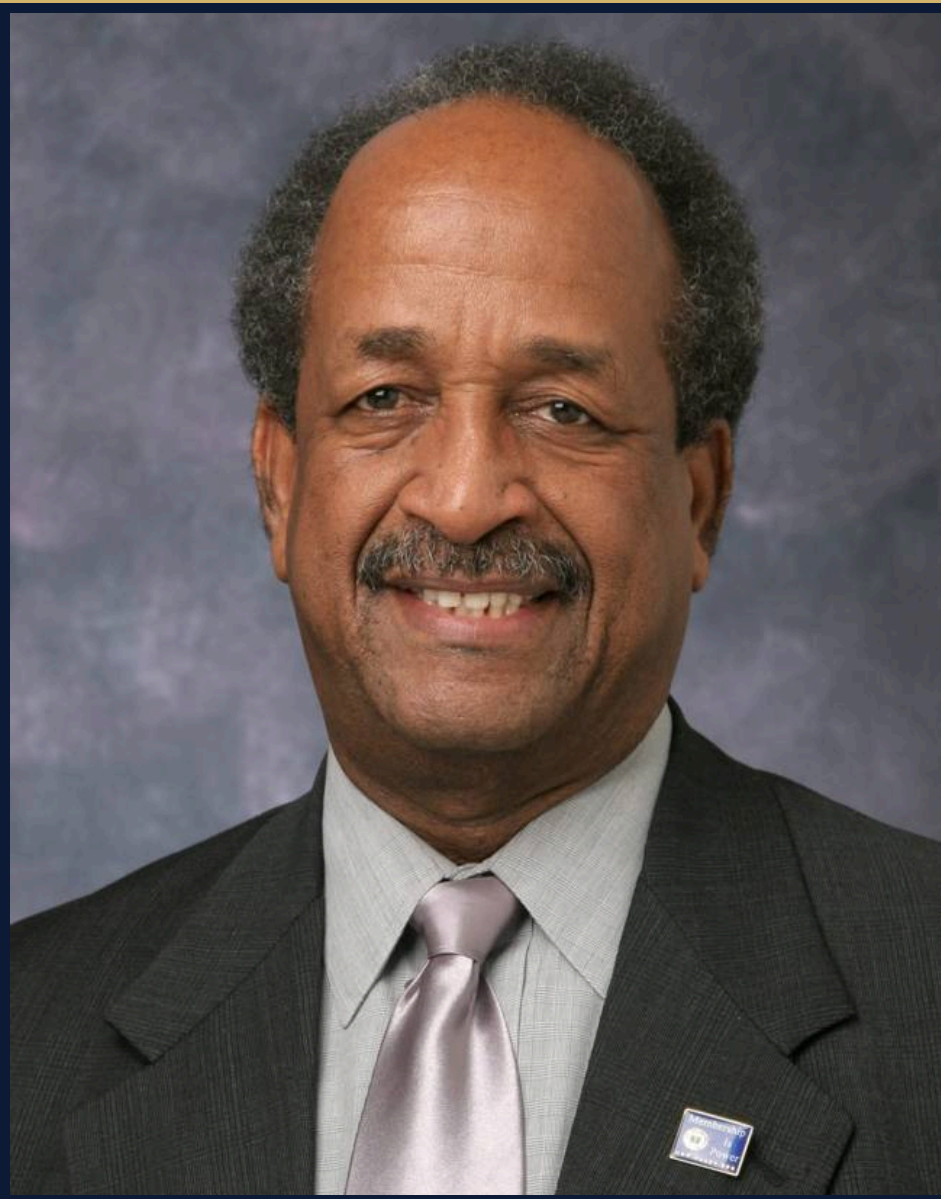


— A CELEBRATION OF LIFE —



Harold Crumpton

— *A Son of The Ville* —

OCTOBER 14, 1938 — AUGUST 25, 2026

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 • 11:00 a.m.

Greater Grace Church

3690 Pershall Road, Ferguson, MO 63135

Order of Service

Celebrating the Life of Harold Crumpton



Prelude

Processional

Opening Prayer

Selection — “Amazing Grace”

Community Tributes

Family Reflections

Musical Selection

Resolution of Respect and Remembrance

Words of Comfort / Eulogy

Benediction

Recessional

Officiant

Rev. Dr. Raymond Clyde Crumpton

Memorial Gifts

In lieu of flowers, the family invites gifts in Harold's memory to either of the following.

Harold & Jessie Early

Education Scholarship Fund

Helps a child from north St. Louis attend New City School, where Jessie served for eighteen years.
gofundme.com/f/n19hq4



St. Louis City NAACP

In honor of Harold's years of service as President and on the National Board of Directors.
givebutter.com/stlnaACP



A Son of The Ville

Written by his children, Karen and Robert



Harold in his younger years.

Harold Crumpton never forgot where he came from. Born October 14, 1938, and raised in The Ville in north St. Louis, he spent 87 years in laboratories and boardrooms, in state government and on the national board of the NAACP, and did all of it as a son of that place. He died Tuesday, August 25, 2026, of natural causes.

Harold was a leader. He led in the laboratory, at Southwestern Bell, on the Missouri Public Service Commission, as Chairman of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, as President of the St. Louis City NAACP, and in the neighborhood where he grew up. The titles changed, but his commitment to others never did. Wherever he went, he believed in opening doors, creating opportunities, and making room at the table for those whose voices too often went unheard.

“The titles changed, but his commitment to others never did.”

Our father was born to Ivory J. Crumpton Sr. and Roena (Pettiford) Crumpton, one of six children, alongside brothers Ivory Jr. and Floyd and sisters Shirley, Mary Lee, and Drucille. He learned early the importance of family, hard work, education, and responsibility to others. His older sister Shirley, just two years his senior, helped him with his schoolwork, and he always gave her credit for much of his early academic success.

Dad attended Simmons Grade School and graduated from historic Sumner High School in 1957, the oldest high school for Black students west of the Mississippi. His love for Sumner never faded, and decades later, he joined the effort to preserve the school that had helped shape his life.



Harold with Robert and Karen.

In 1963, Harold began working at National Lead Company as a chemist assistant, advancing to chief shift chemist by 1966. Determined to further his education, he studied nights and weekends while working full-time. With support from the Danforth “I Dare You” Scholarship, he earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Washington University in 1971, becoming the first in his family to graduate from college. In 1973, as an early fellow of The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, he earned his MBA from Washington University, concentrating in finance and production. He understood the power of education and made certain we understood its importance, too.

That same year, Harold joined Southwestern Bell’s management program, part of an effort to create greater opportunities for minorities in corporate leadership. During his 19-year career in Network Operations, he helped establish the National Society of Black Telecommunications Professionals, serving as a charter member and later as its president. He retired from Southwestern Bell in 1992, but his commitment to creating opportunities for others was far from over.



Harold and Jessie with Karen, Robert, and Aunt Charlie Bee.

“For our Dad, leadership was never simply about holding a title. It was about making a difference.”

Beginning in the 1980s, while still working full-time, Dad devoted countless evenings and weekends to civic engagement and political organizing. He believed deeply that every voice mattered and every vote counted, especially in communities too often overlooked.

He worked to increase voter participation throughout north St. Louis City and County, supporting Congressman William Lacy ‘Bill’ Clay Sr., Missouri’s first Black member of Congress. In 1986, he served as campaign manager for Paula J. Carter, helping launch her 15-year legislative career in the Missouri House and Senate. He worked on behalf of Freeman Bosley Jr., St. Louis’s first Black mayor, and supported the campaigns of Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, Congressman William Lacy Clay Jr., and numerous other elected officials.

His commitment to neighborhood leadership was especially evident in his work with Alderman Sam Moore of the 4th Ward. Dad helped elect Moore in 2007 and supported his successful re-election campaigns in 2011, 2015, and 2019. Their partnership reflected Dad’s enduring belief that the future of north St. Louis was worth fighting for.

One of Dad’s closest political relationships was with his friend Mel Carnahan. He worked tirelessly on Carnahan’s successful 1992 gubernatorial campaign, and on May 3, 1993, Governor Carnahan appointed him to the Missouri Public Service Commission, where he served until 2000.

As a commissioner, Dad advocated for consumers and greater access to essential services. He established the Natural Gas Roundtable in 1996 and co-chaired the Telecommunications Roundtable in 1998, creating opportunities for citizens, community representatives, and legislators to have a voice in important decisions. He also worked to close the digital divide by expanding telecommunications access for schools, libraries, and healthcare providers. In 2000, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners honored his contributions with a resolution in his name.

Dad’s loyalty to the Carnahan family continued following Governor Carnahan’s tragic death in 2000. He supported Jean Carnahan’s U.S. Senate campaign and the campaigns of Russ Carnahan for Congress and Robin Carnahan for Missouri Secretary of State and the U.S. Senate. His dedication to public service was grounded in personal relationships, trust, and a genuine belief in the people he supported.

Throughout his life, Dad continued to serve the St. Louis community in numerous leadership roles. He chaired the Board of Trustees of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, served as President of the St. Louis City NAACP, and represented Region IV on the NAACP National Board of Directors from 2007 to 2011, including service as vice chair for economic development. He also led the Greater Ville Neighborhood Preservation Commission from 2007 to 2015 and served on the board of the Financial Research Institute at the University of Missouri–Columbia.

Even in his seventies, Dad could be found walking through The Ville, pointing out historic buildings and homes worth preserving. His connection to the neighborhood was personal and unwavering. He wanted future generations to appreciate its history and recognize its potential.

Following his passing, St. Louis NAACP President Adolphus M. Pruitt II described him as a giant in the community who “never once forgot where he came from.” We cannot imagine a more fitting tribute to his life’s work.



Always there to cheer his family on.



Harold and Jessie on their wedding day.

Yet for all he accomplished, the role he cherished most was being our Dad. He was our teacher, protector, biggest supporter, and constant source of love and encouragement. He was the father who sat at the kitchen table helping Karen with math homework and the proud dad who showed up for Robert's practices and games, from soccer and basketball to track and football. When Robert attended the University of Illinois, Dad remained his biggest fan, faithfully cheering on the Fighting Illini.

Our father taught us the importance of integrity, perseverance, education, and treating people with dignity. But his greatest lessons came from how he lived. He showed us what it meant to work hard, stand up for what you believe in, honor your commitments, and always make time for the people you love.

And our father loved to laugh. He enjoyed good conversation, sharing stories, offering advice, and simply being surrounded by family and friends. Behind his strong convictions and high expectations was a man with a wonderful sense of humor, a generous spirit, and a genuine love for people. His wisdom guided us, but his warmth and laughter made the journey memorable.

Dad married our mother, Jessie, in 1964. Their 51 years together were marked by love, commitment, and devotion. When she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, he became her caregiver, making certain she was treated with dignity, tenderness, and love throughout her illness until her passing in 2015. His devotion to her revealed another side of the same man who had dedicated his life to serving others.



Harold with Karen in her younger years.



Harold with Karen and Dee.

In the years that followed, Dad found companionship with Darleen "Dee" Wilson, his life partner. His love and guidance extended well beyond our immediate family. He was a mentor, friend, and father figure to many, including Jeff King and Paul "PW" Wilson. He believed in encouraging young people, sharing his knowledge, and helping others recognize their potential. To his grandchildren, Ava and Ethan, he was simply Granddaddy, a loving and steady presence in their lives.

Harold was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Jessie Crumpton; his parents, Ivory J. Crumpton Sr. and Roena (Pettiford) Crumpton; his brothers, Ivory J. Crumpton Jr. and Floyd Crumpton; and his sisters, Shirley Hayes and Drucille Crumpton Miller.

He leaves to cherish his memory his daughter, Karen Crumpton White, and son-in-law, Brian White; his son, Robert Crumpton, and daughter-in-law, Erin Miller; his grandchildren, Ava White and Ethan Shead; his sister, Mary Lee Morganfield; his longtime companion, Darleen Wilson; and a host of extended family members, dear friends, colleagues, and countless individuals whose lives were enriched by knowing him.

His legacy lives on through the communities he strengthened, the opportunities he created, the doors he opened, and the countless lives he touched.

To the world, he was Harold Crumpton, a leader, an advocate, and a man who made a difference. To us, he was simply Dad and Daddy. We will miss his voice, his wisdom, his laughter, and his love. And we will carry him with us, always.

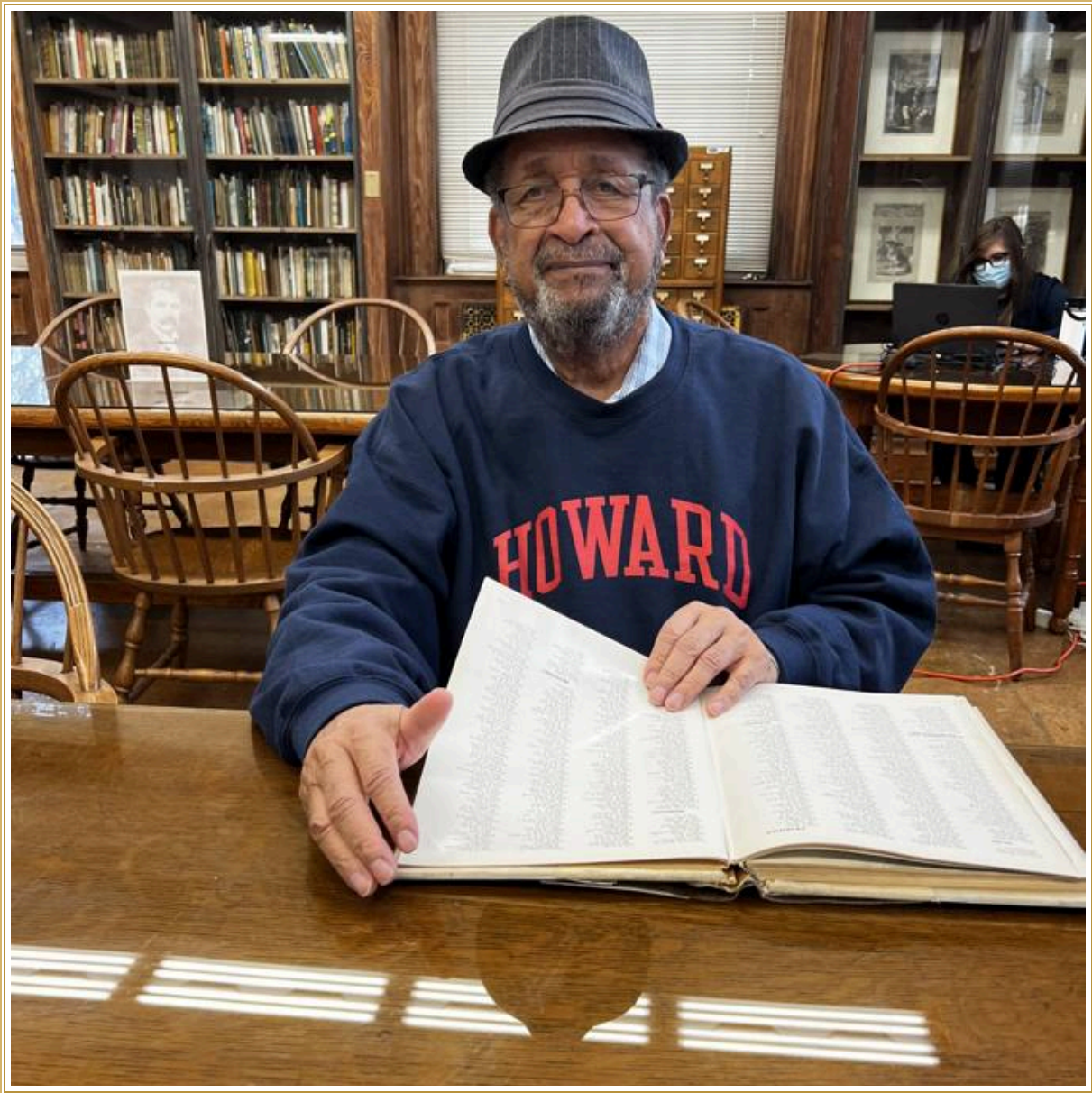
With all our love, Karen and Robert

Treasured Memories



The People He Loved





A life of leadership, service,
wisdom, and love.



Forever in our hearts.

Thank you for celebrating the life of Harold Crumpton.