



## Michael Riley Lawrence

March 14, 1945 - June 10, 2018

Michael Lawrence died on June 10, 2018, surrounded by family and friends. He was born March 14, 1945, in Alexandria, VA, to Virginia Miller and Joseph Lawrence. He attended the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and served in Vietnam as 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

He began his career in construction in Philadelphia, promoting minority contractors through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Model City Program. Following this, he became a pioneer developer in the Fairmount/Spring Garden area, helping to create 20 of the most vibrant condominiums in Philadelphia today.

He extended his focus into various other neighborhoods throughout the city, including Center City and Grays Ferry. His development in Grays Ferry was a catalyst for the revitalization of that neighborhood. He later specialized in designing elegant kitchens and baths throughout the Philadelphia region.

Perhaps his greatest joy was discovering Chestertown, MD, where he bought Grassymeade Farm, an oasis on the Chester River to which he welcomed his family and many friends. The farm supported his love for horseback riding and driving carriages. Always cognizant of his good fortunes, Michael made major contributions to the Human Rights Campaign, the Sultana Education

Foundation, Washington College, and the Humane Society of Kent County.

He leaves behind his loving family and a large group of friends that he brought together and nurtured over many years. The family will have a private burial service, followed by a memorial celebration of Michael's life at Grassymeade Farm on Saturday June 30, at 1 p.m.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Riley Lawrence*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Michael Riley Lawrence*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Michael Riley Lawrence*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *A friendship of more than 35 years with Michael , filled with many fond memories and lively conversations !  
His sense of fairness as well as he "can do" attitude till the end of his life were remarkable  
He will be terribly missed  
Philippe Soussand*

**Philippe Soussand** - June 13, 2018 at 04:40 PM



“ *We are sorry to hear of the passing of Michael Lawrence. We knew him through his hospitality in hosting his waterfront home to club members who enjoyed both their carriage rides and his memorable lunch. Our sympathies to his survivors and close friends.*

**Anne and Jim Pomeroy** - June 13, 2018 at 10:04 AM

PH

“ *Michael was and always will be in my thoughts. I will forever have great and fond memories of him and what a real PITA he could be at times 😞 That tenacity was only a part of the tough eccentric exterior of the man. I truly believe that he was one of the kindest and most generous people on earth and a very good friend. You will be missed.*

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**Pao Lin Hatch** - June 12, 2018 at 11:25 AM

LS

“ *Liz Smith lit a candle in memory of Michael Riley Lawrence*



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**Liz Smith** - June 12, 2018 at 06:36 AM

LS

“ *Michael purchased the main portion of what was my grandparents property on Comegy's Bight. He was fascinated with its history and made any Kellog- Smith / Smith family members welcome ,whenever we chose, to stop by, wander around and reminisce. His generosity in this regard will always be remembered and appreciated.*

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**Liz Smith** - June 12, 2018 at 06:34 AM