



## Waller Staples Hairston

October 3, 1936 - November 23, 2024

Waller Staples Hairston passed away November 23, 2024 after 88 years as a loving husband, beloved father, and committed community volunteer. Waller was born October 3, 1936 to Samuel Hairston and Sallie (Staples) Hairston, and grew up outside Danville, Virginia. He met his future wife of 58 years, Eleanor Buell Bartlett of Birmingham, AL, at a Christian education conference at Kanuga Conference Center, which became a favorite family gathering place. He graduated from University of Virginia McIntire School of Commerce and Navy ROTC in 1958. Waller and Eleanor married just after their college graduations on June 14, 1958. Waller proudly served over 4 years of active duty in the US Navy, earning his law degree at night school along the way, and retired as Commander after 22 years of reserve duty. Waller devoted his professional life to the practice of law and pursuit of fairness, based in Easton, MD. He was a member of the Maryland Bar Association and handled a wide variety of cases, practicing trial law in courts throughout Maryland.

Waller was a founding board member for the Chesapeake Center in Easton, serving 50 years to improve opportunities for adults with disabilities. He served in numerous other community volunteer positions and boards, including the Town of Easton's Ethics Commission, election volunteer, Planning Commission, and more, cheerfully enjoying the Town's holiday turkey as his recompense. Waller cherished his network of friends from groups including the Hairston Clan, Military Officers Assoc. of America,

Loophole Law Club, and YMCA tennis. Waller and Eleanor were active members of Christ Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Easton, which he supported in various roles over the decades, including Warden, Vestry, and Convention representative. Waller's genuine care for others, loyalty, sense of public service, and his ready smile were valued by all those who knew him.

Waller was a devoted family man with a love of the outdoors and curiosity about the world. Summer vacations with the kids included car camping trips across the US, discovering the magnificent variety of our country. He and Eleanor explored Canada, England, Scotland, and Alaska together. He had a passion for cars, good maintenance, and DIY repairs, adventures in themselves often shared with his children. From his rural roots, he had a deep love and appreciation for wildlife, whether it was red-tail hawks, geese, deer and even squirrels. He prized the gatherings of family and friends, always appreciative of good food and great company.

Waller is survived by four children - Allen Hairston (Gail), William Hairston (Susy), Anne Hairston-Strang (Ray Strang) and Sallie Miller (Joe), and eight grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his parents, his wife Eleanor Hairston, brother Samuel Hairston, and sister Sallie Bullock.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Chesapeake Center, Inc. of Easton MD at PO Box 1906, Easton, MD 21601 (<https://www.chesapeakecenter.org/donate.html>) or the National Hairston Clan, Inc. Scholarship Program at <https://www.nationalhairstonclan.org/scholarship/>.

Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 20, 2024 from 6 to 8pm at the Fellow, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home, 200 S. Harrison St., Easton. His Memorial Service will be Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024 at 11am at Christ Church Easton at 111 S. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21401.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

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

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home  
200 S. Harrison Street  
EASTON  
EASTON, MD 21601

## Funeral Service

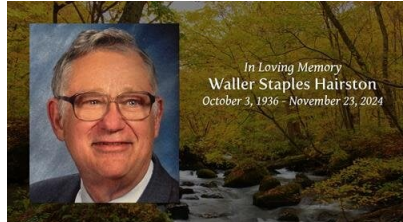
DEC **21**. 11:00 AM.

Christ Church  
111 Harrison St.  
Easton, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Waller Staples Hairston*



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - December 19, 2024 at 04:22 PM

CK

“ *I was very sorry to learn of Waller's passing. He was a gentle giant, not in stature but in character. I knew Waller in his roles as an extremely capable lawyer and a wise and trusted community leader. He was tireless advocate for what was best for our community, especially those who need support from others. I wish all the best for his family.*  
*Chris Kehoe*

**Christopher Kehoe** - December 24, 2024 at 10:25 AM

BM

“ *Beth, Joe, and your friends at MFA purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Waller Staples Hairston.*



**Beth, Joe, and your friends at MFA** - December 19, 2024 at 01:28 PM

BM

“ Beth, Joe, and your friends at MFA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Waller Staples Hairston.

Beth, Joe, and your friends at MFA - December 19, 2024 at 01:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Waller Staples Hairston.

December 17, 2024 at 08:37 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Waller Staples Hairston.



December 17, 2024 at 08:37 AM

PF

“ Panduwawala Family lit a candle in memory of Waller Staples Hairston



Panduwawala family - December 15, 2024 at 11:01 PM

JC

“ Dear Allen, Will, Anne & Sallie: I’m so sorry to hear of this loss. Your dad was the first person to hire me to do legal work in my hometown, and was a valued friend & mentor. My condolences to you all. May his memory be a blessing to you all...as it will for me. 🙏🏻🙏🏻



Jim Chance - December 12, 2024 at 12:17 AM

PF

“ It seems like only yesterday that I went to work in the law offices of Henry, Hairston & Price. My immediate supervisor was Waller Hairston, who helped introduce me to the world of the small-town lawyer. I will always be grateful for his guidance and friendship over the years. Mt prayers are with his children and the other members of his family.



Phil Foster - December 04, 2024 at 03:08 AM

DH

“ The Chesapeake Center Board and Staff are saddened at losing a real champion of our mission, to support those with disabilities in reaching their potential. As a Founding Board member, Waller was committed to the Center's success and was forever a staunch supporter.. On a personal note, I was honored to know and learn from Waller during my years as President and CEO. He was fair, honest, empathetic and compassionate. Rest in peace faithful servant.

Donna Harrison - December 03, 2024 at 02:33 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Waller Hairston



Anne Strang - December 02, 2024 at 10:19 PM



“ Rita Hill lit a candle in memory of Waller Staples Hairston



Rita Hill - November 29, 2024 at 05:39 PM



“ Carolyn Lane lit a candle in memory of Waller Staples Hairston



Carolyn Lane - November 27, 2024 at 05:13 PM