

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Linda Karen Harllee Harper



June 24, 1965

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May 26, 2023

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Visitation: 9 - 10a.m.

Memorial Service: 10a.m.

Gonzaga College High School, 19 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Fr. Joseph E. Ligan '75 S.J., President, Gonzaga College High School, Officiating

Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., Eulogist

Memorial Service

Organ Prelude

Dr. Thomas D. Tyler

Prayer of Comfort

Rev. Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr.

Old Testament Reading –

Isaiah 25:8=9

Rev. Adamio Boddie

New Testament Reading –

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Rev. Adamio Boddie

Solo

Dawn E. Robinson

Tributes/Reflections

The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia
Fr. Joseph E. Langan '75 S.J., President, Gonzaga College High School
Lisa Smiley, Dina Collier and Sharon Jackson-Bowman - Friends
Blake T. Harper - Son

Solo

Dawn E. Robinson

Acknowledgements

Byron T. Harper

Eulogy

Rev. Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr.

Solo

Dawn E. Robinson

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr.

Recessional

Linda K. Harllee Harper was called to eternal rest on Friday, May 26, 2023 at Sibley Memorial Hospital. Linda was born on June 24, 1965 in the District of Columbia, the first of two children born to Gwendolyn L. Harllee and the late Fredric N. Harllee.

Linda attended the Barrie School, Paul Junior High School and graduated from Woodrow Wilson Senior High School (Jackson-Reed). Linda experienced a lot of travel during her summer vacations with her maternal grandmother. She went on to continue her education at the University of the District of Columbia earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. While attending, she became a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She later received a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Trinity Washington University. Linda also continued her education at Harvard University and was a 2019 graduate of the Skinner Leadership Institute's renowned Masters Series For Distinguished Leaders.

Linda was a co-host for "Led By Love" on 89.3 FM, a weekly public radio show created to reimagine justice in this country by discussing issues facing the country's young people and their families impacted by the justice system. Led by love is how Linda lived her life.

In 2021, Mayor Muriel Bowser appointed Linda as the first Director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, a new agency charged with coordinating the city's efforts to reduce violence. In 2023, the Mayor appointed Linda to simultaneously serve as the Director of the City's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.

Linda "Loved" everyone! A natural motivator, she believed in accountability and consequences, but she also believed that second and third chances were just the beginning. When you were in her presence, her aura radiated and motivated you to help others and to be the best you could be.

She was the ultimate child advocate who was passionate about serving less fortunate youth. She championed, supported and collaborated to advance justice and opportunity for vulnerable populations. She was known as an active listener, innovative problem-solver, compassionate coalition builder and a savvy strategic thinker.

Linda lived her life to the fullest, but her most important and proudest job was being a wife to Byron and a mother to Blake. Both proud, native Washingtonians, Byron and Linda married in 2005. As best friends they had a deep bond that extends to their childhood. Team Harper is a trio of constant love and togetherness. Linda was also a constant support system for her husband. She was a very hilarious person and kept Byron in stitches. As much as she loved D.C., her love for her son surpassed everything. She poured her boundless love and wisdom into raising a humble, conscientious, and brilliant young man by giving motherly advice on how to survive the challenges of navigating a young life.

Their son Blake's love for basketball is the reason that Linda and Byron were inspired to respond to the lack of quality youth basketball instruction. They then launched the D School Elite Basketball Program in 2014. For five years, this program exposed youth to positive development and ensured that young players learned the fundamentals of the game; many have since gone on to participate at the highest levels of high school competition and beyond. The program touched many young people, many of whom Byron and Linda continue to mentor and inspire.

Linda was a devoted and cherished mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, cousin and friend. She was always there for each of them and she made it ALL look easy. She leaves to cherish her memory, husband Byron, son Blake, devoted mother Gwendolyn L. Harllee, brother Fredric R. Harllee, loving in-laws Dr. Thomas & Edith S. Harper, Godson Ryan C. Waller and a host of other relatives and cherished friends.



Love Lives On

by Amanda Bradley

*Those we love are never really lost to us,
we feel them in so many special ways,
through friends they always cared about
and dreams they left behind,
in beauty that they added to our days
in words of wisdom we still carry with us,
and memories that never will be gone.
Those we love are never readily lost to us,
for everywhere their special love lives on.*

*Eternal Love,
The Family*

Acknowledgements

It is with an overwhelming sense of gratitude that the family extends thanks and appreciation to all for their generosity and expressions of love shown to comfort us during this time of sorrow.

Thanks to the staff at Sibley Hospital, the Virginia Cancer Specialists, Dr. Dipti Patel-Donnelly, Dr. Anne Favret, Fr. Joseph E. Lingan '75 S.J., and the wonderful staff at Gonzaga College High School.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the Keith-Sean Lindsey '84 Endowed Scholarship Fund at Gonzaga College High School, in honor of Linda K. Harlee Harper.

Repast

Immediately following the Memorial Service, the repast will be held in the Carmody Center here on the campus.

Professional Services Entrusted to:

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