



## Mr. Dale Warren Dover

August 2, 1949 - January 14, 2019

Dale Warren Dover (b. August 2, 1949) died peacefully on Monday, January 14th at the age of 69, succumbing to a private battle with cancer. Scholar, Athlete, Coach, Diplomat, Linguist, Juris Doctor, Mayor, Youth Advocate, Father, Grandfather and Friend, Dale was a renaissance man to all who knew him. He was committed to forging a pioneering life path, with an eye towards disrupting the status quo, demanding excellence and righting injustice — all while entertaining his audiences great and small. Dale was born in New York City to Thomas Alfred Dover of Boston, MA and Virginia Elizabeth Carter Dover of Frostburg, MD and was the middle son of five brothers and one sister, Freddy (d.1955). While a middle child by birth order, Dale strived (in all things) to be first. A NY All-City Basketball star, Dale emerged from a housing project in the Bronx, New York to attend Harvard University. He led the Harvard Crimson Basketball team to a top ten national ranking. As a senior, Dale was recruited to play for both the Boston Celtics and Harlem Globetrotters. Ultimately, he chose to be player-coach for the Portuguese National Basketball Team, where Dale's achievements were so significant that the team installed a bronze statue of his likeness in their museum 43 years later. Dale's early time abroad sparked a lifelong interest in foreign language and culture, leading him to join the US Department of State in 1974. While holding the post of Vice Consul in Denmark, Dale was asked to coach the Danish

National Basketball team, a first for an American national. Following this assignment in Denmark, Dale was appointed to a Consul post in Tel Aviv, Israel, in the wake of the Camp David Peace Accords. Dale subsequently returned to Cambridge, MA with his young family (including daughter Lauren and son Noah) to earn a JD from Harvard Law School, while also serving as a proctor and teaching Freshman writing.

In 1984, the family put down roots in Virginia and Dale began his new career as a corporate attorney. However, he yearned for something more rewarding for this next career chapter. Despite having no prior experience in the political realm, Dale ran for and was elected to the Falls Church City Council and went on to become the City's first African-American mayor in 1990.

Dale's passion for helping young people eventually became his career when he opened his own law practice in Alexandria, Virginia over 25 years ago. While his door was open to all, Dale felt strongly that children needed an advocate in the court system and devoted the balance of his career to doing just that in the city of Alexandria. In the words of one judge, "if you were a child in the court system, there was no better person to have on your side than Dale".

Most recently, he also worked as a labor relations attorney for Alexandria Transit Company (DASH). While Dale's life achievements were impressive, it was his life philosophy that set him apart. He never stopped learning, striving and exploring — Dale was fluent in Mandarin, Portuguese, French, Danish, Hebrew, Swahili and most recently picked up Arabic.

He took every opportunity to return to his beloved Portugal or Harvard to play basketball "with the young guys", but also periodically chose far flung places throughout the world to visit and expand his horizons.

Juxtaposing this sense of adventure was a commitment to his local communities — and he will be deeply missed by his friends at the Alexandria YMCA, Public Library and Bar Association.

He leaves behind two children, Lauren and Noah; four brothers, Harry,

Randolph, Thomas and Paul; and five beloved grandchildren, Maya, Rhys, Cadence, Sienna and Blake.

The family would like to thank good friends Leslie Williams and Doug White and brother Paul Dover for their dedication to Dale during his illness.

A Celebration of Dale's extraordinary life will be held on February 1st at 3:00pm on the basketball court of the YMCA Alexandria (420 East Monroe Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301).

Dale visited the Y almost daily for over 25 years and shared his love of this special place with family, friends and colleagues. In lieu of flowers, family and friends are creating a memorial fund that will focus on the social causes that were most important to Dale. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

# Cemetery Details

## **Bethel Cemetery**

1300 Wilkes Street  
ALEXANDRIA, DC 22320

# Previous Events

## **Memorial Service**

FEB 1. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

YMCA Alexandria  
420 East Monroe Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22301

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Dale Warren Dover*

October 07, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *I only learned of Dale's passing this morning. I am extremely saddened and shocked to say the least. I first met Dale at Evander Childs High School in the Bronx and we became great friends. He was often at my house after school and became part of our family. He was incredibly smart and was generous in helping me and fellow students with our assignments. He was a true friend-very dedicated and supportive. We shared a similar sense of humor and enjoyed lots of laughs together. We continued our friendship after high school and college. Dale would often stay at my apt when he was in NY and we would spend an entire afternoon at J&R records on Park Row going through the racks of Jazz LP's. At some point in the 1980's I lost touch with Dale and this failure to reconnect is one of the major disappointments of my adult life. I have such great memories and I know he is sorely missed.*



**Barry Koski** - May 03, 2020 at 06:14 PM

MO

“ I was trying to reconnect with Dale and just found this page! I am so sorry to hear of his passing! I worked with him extensively in the Alexandria courts for years, myself representing CPS and he representing parents and children. Sometimes we agreed with how the case would proceed and sometimes we did not, but in either situation he was a fierce advocate for his clients both inside and outside of the courtroom, But he was always able to maintain personal relationships with opposing attorneys.

He always had a smile on his face and overwhelmingly was the best dressed person in the courtroom, if not the whole courthouse. I remember seeing him walking into court on Cinco de Mayo wearing a huge sombrero, with a huge grin on his face.

He was an amazing person and the world is lesser without him in it. May your memories give you solace.

All my best,  
Mary O'Donnell

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**Mary O'Donnell** - June 02, 2019 at 12:57 PM

DB

“ I was a roommate of Dales at Harvard in Quincy -we enjoyed playing Handball in the basement of the old DU club -he had a smile and love of live I will always remember-we both worked for a while in Roxbury at the Y. I Truly regret having lost touch with him over the years but his life ,family and accomplishments Humble us all -Dr Tom Franklin and Jay Noble shared a quad with us. My deepest sympathies to his wonderful family.

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**Dock Blanchard** - February 06, 2019 at 10:09 AM

GM

*Just learned of Dale's passing today. I had the pleasure of knowing Dale while we both were high school students in the Bronx. His basketball coach at Evander Childs HS and my History teacher at Dewitt Clinton ran a summer camp in upstate NY. Dale and I worked for two summers at the camp, Dale was great to be around: smart, articulate, and a great sense of humor. Years later I ran into him in Washington DC. I am grateful to have crossed his path  
Glenn*

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**Glenn Myers** - October 03, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ I thank Dale’s family for sharing their memories of Dale with us yesterday. I very much appreciated the celebration of his life. I worked with Dale for more than 20 years as a Juvenile Probation Officer. He served with dedication and an eye for detail as a defense attorney and Guardian ad Litem. He was passionate about helping youth and about basketball.

Whenever we met to review a case our conversations either began, ended or both, with discussions about basketball. We shared similar basketball experiences. I knew James Brown as an alumni of my high school. Dale was the former captain of the Harvard basketball team on which James was a member. I saw Red Auerbach a few times on TV. Dale tried out for the Boston Celtics and met Red Auerbach. I played basketball two years overseas. Dale played basketball several years overseas and a bronze statue was erected in his honor.

We played in the city basketball league in Alexandria and were teammates on the Court Service Unit (CSU) basketball team. We won the championship three years in a row 2000, 2001, and 2002. Dale was our point guard and in his 50’s outplaying opponents half his age. I will miss Dale for his vibrant color clothing choices, his quick wit, and our many basketball conversations. My heartfelt condolences to Dale’s family.

Sincerely,  
Percy White



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Percy White III - February 02, 2019 at 10:29 AM

JA

“ So sad about the passing of Dale. My condolences to the Dover family and his many friends. His compassion and dedication to the children he represented was amazing. He certainly lived a full life. I often thought of nominating him for living Legend in Alexandria.! My prayers for his family.

*I always miss my friend, he will be forever in my heart.*

*The Clarke & Sampson family will miss him as well, he was not just our neighbor.*

*Rest in peace Dale.*

*Sincerely,*

*Janice Aller*

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**Janice Aller** - February 01, 2019 at 01:42 PM



“ Very sorry to hear of the passing of Dale. My deepest condolences to the entire Dover family. It came as an unpleasant surprise to me, especially after speaking with brothers Randy & Harry at an event this past September in the Bronx. Dale's significant achievements in all his endeavors speak for themselves.

*He was a legend to many of us, and made us proud to know him.*

*R.I.P. Dale.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kenny Murphy*

*Jupiter, Fl.*

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**Ken Murphy** - January 28, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ I did not know my friend was sick as he was a private person and did not share such information. He shared his friendship with me in legal cases in which we served different clients. Always kind and soft spoken he was a gentleman and a scholar. I miss my friend.  
*George P. Doss, Jr.*

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**George Doss** - January 27, 2019 at 04:22 PM

EN

*George, I am sorry to hear of the loss of your friend. His obituary revealed what an exceptional life he lived.*

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**Edward Neal** - January 27, 2019 at 07:30 PM

AA

“ My sincere condolences to Dale's family. As I work in the Alexandria Juvenile Court, I was always impressed with his professionalism and his concern for the children he represented. When he would come into our office with his straw hat and flowered shirt, he always brought a smile to my face. Sometimes, I would even joke that all he needed was a grass skirt. Also, as a Nationals fan, we would often discuss the fortunes or misfortunes of the team. I feel that I, too, have lost a friend. My prayers are with his family, and I hope they take comfort in knowing that Dale lived a full and rewarding life, always helping others.

*Annette Amendolia*

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**Annette Amendolia** - January 24, 2019 at 08:14 PM