



Michael Alexander Graves

July 8, 1948 - August 26, 2022

Michael A. Graves

1948-2022

Michael Alexander Graves, 74, of Greenwich, CT, passed away at his home on Friday, August 26, after a long illness. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Sherryl Browne Graves, and two sons, Daren A. Graves of Boston, MA, and Camar A. Graves of New Haven, CT, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Graves received his Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Swarthmore College, Class of 1969. He attended Harvard Law School, earning a JD (Class of 1972) and then Harvard Business School, earning MBA (Class of 1975). Throughout his career he worked in the financial services industry for several firms in New York and Connecticut, including a position for CitiBank in Venezuela. He retired from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, a watchdog group for the industry.

Mr. Graves cared deeply about the affairs of the world, and what role he could play in bringing about justice in this world. He was active in the Urban League and the 100 Black Men of Fairfield County. While also committed to issues like peace in the Middle East and the right to a high quality education, Mr. Graves was particularly focused on helping urban communities build capacity and on funding scholarships to promote educational and economic access for

underserved students.

Mr. Graves enjoyed spending his time watching movies, playing word games, and watching sports. His enjoyment of the activities was only truly realized when he was doing them with his wife and children.

A celebration of life will be held on Thursday, September 1, at the Graves Medley Funeral Home at 11 am, with visitation with the family at 10 am. Interment will follow at Fairfield Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Swarthmore Black Alumni Network (SBAN) internship endowment in the name of Michael A. Graves '69.

Cemetery Details

Fairfield Memorial Park

230 Oaklawn Ave.
Stamford, CT

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Graves Medley Funeral Services
31 Stillwater Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902
(203) 323-2666

Service

SEP 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

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31 Stillwater Avenue
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Tribute Wall

FR

“ Dear Sherryl,

I was sorry to hear that Michael died. He and I shared a few features of “The Odd Couple” as we navigated our freshman year as roommates. Both of us made the mistake of trying to adhere to the dress code described in the college information for freshman and we were conspicuous those first few days/weeks of school. Michael stayed with the coat and tie far longer than I did. We then went our separate ways, me heading into pre-med and biology and Mike into the world of political science. I think we all recall him affectionately because of his outgoing manner, winning personality and his effusive conversation.

He took on an outsize role as a prominent member of SASS and I did my best to fly below the radar screen. I gained a new respect for the challenges that Michael (and you) faced when I read the book “Seven Sisters and a Brother,” even though Mike was not one of the co-authors. I think just about all of us white students were blind to the plight of Black students before they got to Swarthmore and really didn’t understand the difficulties they faced after they arrived. For that reason, I have been glad to support Black Studies and SBAN Internships. Whenever possible, I have made my contributions in Michael’s honor.

I think that the last time I saw him was at a Swarthmore reunion at least 10 years ago. At that time, he told me of his medical issues, and I recall he said it was Parkinson disease. That would mean a long-term battle with an insidious, progressive disease. Both my parents died like that, so I can guess that you and your immediate family must have endured an exhausting time. For me and my family, it was emotionally, physically and financially draining. I hope you all emerged intact.

Felix Rogers

Felix Rogers - September 04, 2022 at 05:54 PM

PB

“ *Fond memories of Mike from when he was my room-mate in 1968-69.*

Paul Brownsey - September 04, 2022 at 04:00 PM

AH

“ *My sincere condolences on the passing of Michael. He was a friend, an erstwhile fraternity brother and football player, and it was a privilege to know him. I admired his integrity and his efforts to unravel the institutional racism that still vexes us today. Rest easy Michael, your trials are over.*
Alan Hollister

Alan Hollister - August 31, 2022 at 11:43 AM

CG

“ *Sherri: May the happy memories remain vivid and crowd out the sadness as soon as possible. Michael was a unique person. I remember him dispensing unsolicited bits of life advice on more than one occasion in the dining hall, and seemed to be a force of a nature in expressing himself about many topics.*
His advice was an appreciated gesture.
Odd that the college memories remain so vivid and clear. Please take care of yourself
Christine Grant Class of 69' .

Christine Grant - August 31, 2022 at 10:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Alexander Graves.*



August 30, 2022 at 03:53 PM