

COALITION OF CONCERNED BLACK CHRISTIAN MEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In Memory of Dr. Oliver "Jerry" Harmon

(February 6, 1940 – January 6, 2014)



Oliver "Jerry" Harmon was raised on a rural farm in Ellendale, Delaware by his maternal grandmother after losing his mother at the tender age of 7. His elementary school days were spent in a segregated one room school house for colored students in the 1940s. Despite having limited resources and an absent father, he excelled academically and graduated valedictorian from Jason High School.

After graduating high school, Jerry accepted a full academic scholarship to Delaware State College (now University) and majored in Biology. He was the very first in his family to attend college and realized quickly the significance of an education. After finishing at Delaware State, he accepted additional scholarships to attend Howard University's School of Dentistry. It was his lifelong dream to become a dentist. In 1967, he received his DDS - Doctor of Dental Surgery. He was the very first student from Delaware State University to complete a health professional program and he was their first student to become a licensed dentist and the very first student to hold the title of "Dr".

He started his first 4 years as a dentist in the United States Air Force, serving as a Captain at both Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. He left the military and opened the doors of his private practice at Hampton Mall, in Capital Heights Maryland in 1970. Three years later, he joined his Howard University classmates and opened the doors of Landover Dental Associates in Landover, Maryland. During his nearly 50 years of dentistry, he happily and skillfully mentored dozens of rising dentists, provided care for those in need and participated in the Donated Dental Services program through the State of Maryland. He taught as an Assistant Professor at Howard University's School of Dentistry and served on the medical staff at Prince George's Hospital Center.

He was extremely grateful for the opportunities afforded to him by the academic scholarships that shaped his life, and preached to all that would listen - that a college education was the way to go. He was involved in a large number of community service and church activities. However, his greatest LOVE was working with the Coalition of Concerned Black Christian Men (CCBCM) and raising money for deserving students to attend college, so they too, could be afforded the same opportunities and access to an education as he had. He was a firm believer and a true example that an education is the key needed to reach personal dreams.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS