



Riley Leonard Stewart, JR.

March 18, 1950 - July 18, 2023

Riley L. Stewart Jr. was born March 18, 1950, to Ethel Mason and Riley Stewart Sr in Long Island, New York. He was raised as the oldest brother to Joann and Deborah Drew. As a big brother, he played the role well. Riley was affectionately known as Stew and transitioned this life on Tuesday July 18, 2023.

Stew received his education in the New York Public School system, graduating from John Adams High school in 1968. He immediately started working from high school, working at Flying Tiger, Air Cargo, now known as Federal Express. In 1969, Stew transitioned to New York Tel where he found his passion as a communication tech, staying with the company until he transferred. Stew worked for AT&T, Lucent Technologies, and finally retiring from Avaya after 39 years of dedicated service. Stew lived in Queens New York for most of his life, until his retirement in 2005 where he moved to Decatur, GA.

He started his favorite past time of flying, obtaining his private pilot license November 5, 1976. He was a self-starter and extremely motivated to better himself. At the age of 20, Stew purchased his first commercial property which prompted him to attend Queens College where he majored in Real Estate. In 1980, he and his best friend John Phelps, purchased a Cessna 172, becoming one of the few black pilots to own an aircraft. Stew was an active member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, AOPA, since December 31, 1976. He was an active member of the Negro Airmen

International, Inc., which is the oldest African American civilian aviation organization in the country. He and his family, and friends enjoyed taking flights to various locations including; Bahamas, Canada, Connecticut, Virginia and several other destinations. In 2015, he received the Wing of Hope Order of the Aviator Recognition for donating his beloved plane to provide medical evacuation flights and access to healthcare for remote communities.

He married Robin Miles November 23, 1983, in Queens New York. They met over their love for politics, meeting at the Southeast Queens Democratic Club. They were married for 39 years during, which they shared two lovely daughters. Their marriage was seen as extraordinary, because for twenty-two years they commuted eight hundred and sixty nine miles for families birthdays and holidays and other special occasions. Stew loved his family and often spoke of them to everyone he met. He was active with his grandchildren, participating in PTSA, and being a “rent-a-grandpa” at Dekalb Early College Academy where he would advocate for other children.

Stew is a Lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Stew has served on the Bob Mathis Elementary School Advisory Board, and Dekalb County, Friends of the Flat Shoal Library, Board. He has supported many political candidates by working on campaigns and financial support. Stew served on the Waldrop Station Homeowners Association and was first listed on the Georgia Secretary of State website in 2011 as the CFO until 2015. As of 2023, he was an active board member at large. Stew was an avid reader and would take the time to discuss any topic with anyone. He would challenge himself by doing crossword puzzles on extremely hard topics.

Stew’s parents Ethel Drew, Riley L. Sr. and his sister Deborah preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife Robin, his daughters Nicole and Natalie, his sister Joann, his grandchildren Jahree, Jasmine, Jada, Samari, and Jerrod, his great granddaughter Yasmin. His brothers in love Eddie(Donzel), and Shawn and sister in love Helen (Vanessa), Rachel and Jacquie as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and his Godchildren,(Tacia, Eddie, and

Anita).

Livestream Link: <https://vimeo.com/event/3592796>

Tribute Wall

VE

“ You will truly be missed Stew. I thank God for bringing you into our families lives. You gave so much of yourself to so many people in life. I pray that when you see our Heavenly Father you know the words that He will speak unto you. Thank you my son, my good and faithful servant, job well done. To Robin & all the family thank you for sharing your husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend with us all. Thank you Stew for inspiring me to do the things I do. Please know that all of you will always be in my prayers. Always with love mercy and grace Vanessa Mason Evans and Family

Vanessa Mason Evans - July 30, 2023 at 02:59 PM

FF

“ Sending comfort and prayers to the Stewart family. Beautiful service...
Francine F. (Hoa board member)...

Francine F. - July 30, 2023 at 02:47 PM

TB

“ At this difficult time in your life, we pray that God will grant you the peace you need to get through this. Sincere condolences!

Tina & Michael Washington

Tina Beckles-Washington - July 30, 2023 at 12:29 PM

FU

“ Deepest condolences, Stew rests in Peace.

Felix Urena - July 30, 2023 at 05:01 AM

“ *After They Are Gone*

*When someone we love passes away,
We ache, but we go on;
Our dear departed would want us to heal,
After they are gone.*

*Grief is a normal way to mend
The anguish and pain in our hearts;
We need time to remember and time to mourn,
Before the recovery starts.*

*Let's draw together to recuperate,
As we go through this period of sorrow;
Let's help each other, with tender care
To find a brighter tomorrow.*

*Stew would always use humor to uplift
We started with Newyork Tel on 12/23/68 and in our later years he
would call and ask what happen on the 23rd Dec and sometimes I
would say I didn't know then he would send the following*

Old Goat Quiz

Great mental exercise for the over-60 crowd.

Which of the following names are you familiar with?

1. Monica Lewinsky

2. Spiro Agnew

3. Benito Mussolini

4. Adolf Hitler

5. Jorge Bergoglio

6. Alfonse Capone

7. Vladimir Putin

8. Linda Lovelace

9. Saddam Hussein

10. Tiger Woods

You had trouble with #5, didn't you?

*You know all the liars, criminals, adulterers, murderers, thieves,
sluts and cheaters, but you don't know the Pope??*

Lovely, just lovely...

Sometimes I worry about you...

Going to miss Him

To Robin & family with all our love

Alvis & Eloise Rogers

Alvis Rogers - July 28, 2023 at 05:12 PM

WH

stew once told me that every dog has its day but a dog with a broke tail has a week end he didnt spell week or wea- end love Robin and the Family. Love Walter Hill and family

walter hill - July 30, 2023 at 02:40 PM

CA

“*Today, I share the love for first of all a wonderful husband and father to his children and grandchildren as well. The lost of such a great person will truly be missed. He helped anyone that he could and the love of retiring and moving to Atlanta to see his grandchildren grow right before his eyes, was his pride and joy to be here with them as well. Stew, as many called him will truly be missed. For me, from day one until the last day of life was always full of love. No matter how he might have felt, he never put himself first but others, when you think about Stew, you think that there was only one person truly in your life with love at all times. I can remember visiting him in the hospital and before I can ask him how he was doing, he beat me to the punch. He's the one sick but asking me how I've been and what's going on with me since the last time he saw me. Now that's love for sure. Stew, your job has been well done, the test of life is now over and you wear the Crown of Glory as you left the cares of the world behind and walk with Jesus until your beautiful wife and family join you on your journey with the Lord. God put a masterful plan within your hands and you took it for a greater job to now do for Christ who called you home for greater works. To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. Many Blessing, for you have walked a worthy life.*

*Amen,
Family: God's Blessings*

CeCe Ashe - July 27, 2023 at 09:22 AM