



Eric Coleman Hrabowski

March 29, 1975 - March 11, 2026

Eric Hrabowski and his mother had worked all day together on the family's property management business in a cooperative spirit that they joked did not always come easily to them. But that day they were joyful.

Then the whole family - Eric; his son, Elijah; his father, Freeman; and his mother, Jacqueline - cooked dinner together: grilled chicken, mac and cheese, greens and cauliflower.

"We had had the best day for so many reasons," Freeman said. "The day ended at 12:30 that night, with a poem about the toughness of his life and about gratitude."

A lifelong poet, Eric read the poem he had written recently, the last lines of which read:

"I am renewed, imbued with the passion of rebirth. I am worthy and so are you."

The next morning, Freeman went down to his son's bedroom and found him unresponsive. Elijah, 14, came to give his father CPR while they waited for an ambulance. It was too late, Freeman said. His son had gone into cardiac arrest. He died on March 11. The cause has not been determined.

Eric Coleman Hrabowski was born March 29, 1975 in Urbana, Illinois, his parents' only child. By 1977, the family had settled in Baltimore, and he grew up with a father who was becoming known in the community as the president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

He went to Mt. Washington Elementary School, then to the Gilman School for middle school, and graduated from McDonogh School.

His friend since kindergarten, George Derek Musgrove, said Eric was gentle, kind and handsome.

As young boys, the two were often mistaken by teachers. Eric and Derek. The names sounded alike and they were both light-skinned Black boys with sandy brown hair, Musgrove said.

They also both grew up in Black elite Baltimore with parents who had done well. "He was a really pleasant guy that was part of the group that saw the whole world stretch out in front of us," said Musgrove, an associate professor of history at UMBC.

Eric spent summers in Birmingham and Warfield, Virginia, with his grandparents, all teachers who helped guide him, according to Freeman, whose mother often memorized poetry with Eric. His maternal grandparents took him fishing.

In his grandmother's eulogy, Eric spoke about his grandmother working to shape his character and dreams as they kneaded bread together, his small hands barely able to handle the dough.

Following in his mother's and father's footsteps, Eric went off to study at

Hampton University. He spent three years there before moving to Atlanta, where he modeled, worked in clothing sales and attended Georgia State University.

He also became an addictions counselor for six years.

In 2018, he married Jennifer Gaines Hrabowski. They lived in Atlanta before later divorcing. His son, Elijah, was born during a previous relationship.

Alicia Wilson, a former UMBC student mentored by the Hrabowski's, remembers going to their house for the first time with a number of other scholarship students. She thought Eric was just another student. The story, she said, spoke to his humility and to his desire to see the numerous students that went through the Hrabowski household as friends.

Over the years, Wilson, now vice president for civic engagement and opportunity at the Johns Hopkins University, grew close to the family. "He embraced me as a friend, as a sister, as a confidante," she said, adding that he never felt displaced by her or "the whole host of people who were also loved by his parents."

Tall and handsome, Wilson said, Eric was always wearing a stylish hat, loved to dance and enjoyed being around people. If there was a gathering at his house, he was there, she said, but he never tried to be the center of attention. "He wasn't a spotlight guy," she said.

In the past several years, he had serious health issues, including a stroke and surgery to replace a heart valve, Freeman said.

Musgrove said he had last seen Eric several months ago, as he was trying to

recover. His physical therapist had suggested he practice activities that strengthened his hand and eye coordination, and Eric was enjoying operating a remote-controlled car while talking to Musgrove.

"He was frail but hopeful," Musgrove said. "He was hopeful that now that he had gotten past a very difficult open-heart surgery that he could get into better physical shape and be a better father to EJ," Musgrove said.

Since Eric's death, Freeman said, the family has tried to process their grief quietly with close friends and family. A memorial service in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where the Hrabowskis have a house, will be held this summer. For now, Freeman will focus on the last day of Eric's life.

"We had tears of joy as our son gave us the essence of our relationship over the last 30 years," he said. "It was the most beautiful evening before the morning of passing, and it sustains us now."

Article by Liz Bowie, The Baltimore Banner

We, the family of Eric Coleman Hrabowski, extend our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support shown during this time of profound loss. Your kindness, comforting words, and acts of compassion have been a source of strength and solace to us.

Eric's life was a gift to all who knew him, and we are grateful to our family, friends, and community for surrounding us with such care and grace as we honor his memory.

We invite you to share your favorite photos and your "Eric" stories here with

us. We will lovingly compile a photo scrapbook, including your heartfelt tributes, to share at his Celebration of Life this summer.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made in Eric's memory to the Center for Urban Families, an organization whose mission reflects the values and impact Eric carried throughout his life.

<https://bit.ly/WeloveEric>

Donations may also be mailed to:

Center for Urban Families

2201 N. Monroe Street

Baltimore, MD 21217

With heartfelt appreciation,

The Hrabowski Family

Tribute Wall

TF

“ We, the family of Eric Coleman Hrabowski, extend our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support shown during this time of profound loss. Your kindness, comforting words, and acts of compassion have been a source of strength and solace to us.

Eric's life was a gift to all who knew him, and we are grateful to our family, friends, and community for surrounding us with such care and grace as we honor his memory.

We invite you to share your favorite photos and your "Eric" stories here with us. We will lovingly compile a photo scrapbook, including your heartfelt tributes, to share at his Celebration of Life this summer.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made in Eric's memory to the Center for Urban Families, an organization whose mission reflects the values and impact Eric carried throughout his life.

<https://bit.ly/WeloveEric>

*Donations may also be mailed to:
Center for Urban Families
2201 N. Monroe Street
Baltimore, MD 21217*

*With heartfelt appreciation,
The Hrabowski Family*

The Hrabowski Family - March 18 at 01:07 PM

DS

What a blessing to have enjoyed such a wonderful son over the course of the last 51 years! May the collection of your memories sustain you as you face this moment of loss and sadness. Praying that, soon, the joy of the conversations about and photos of Eric, his life and the good times shared will be the anchor that brings you peace, comfort, and laughter!!

*Much love,
Dianne Suber and Family ❤️*

Dianne Boardley Suber - March 26 at 10:38 AM

AA

“ *I'd like to express my deepest sympathies for the Hrabowski family. May his memory be eternal.*

Love and Prayers,

Anthony Adams

Anthony Adams - April 23 at 11:59 AM

HH

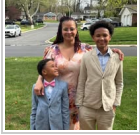
“ *Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your son Eric! May the grace and protections of the Lord bring you peace. May you always smile and find joy in your memories of family time together. Sincerely, Judge Wanda Heard,*

Hon. Wanda Keyes Heard - April 18 at 08:21 PM

TM

So sorry for your loss, Bro Freeman and family. My deepest condolences and prayers 🙏 May heart healing come quickly and memories never fade!

Tyrone E McKoy - April 25 at 05:08 PM



“ Dear Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski,

I am so very sorry for the loss of your son, Eric. I hope that the memories you shared and the love that surrounds you bring comfort to you, EJ, and your entire family. Wishing you strength and care in the weeks and months ahead.

*With Love,
Stanyell*

Stanyell Bruce - April 12 at 02:46 PM

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

Ever since I learned about Eric's transition, I have carried you in my heart, thoughts and prayers. And, I will continue to do so for a long time as you are enduring the unimaginable. I am profoundly sorry for your loss.

While words feel inadequate, it is knowing that you are loved and held by so many, including me, that what will sustain you. You are loved beyond measure.

Freeman - you poured into me and countless others over the years. We are better humans, leaders, citizens and more because of you. Because I've known you, I have been changed for good. Jackie, I know you have done the same. The world, and those you have impacted, are better because you offered your gifts so freely and generously. You did the same for Eric. Thank you!

Your beautiful and creative son knew he was loved and there is no greater gift a parent can give their child. Please hold tight to knowing that you gave him the greatest gift imaginable during his lifetime. While I am so sorry he passed, I am deeply grateful he had you as parents --- what a blessing. I also know the blessing was mutual.

I am also grateful that God granted you the grace of a beautiful and wonderful day together before Eric passed. It is my prayer that you hold tight to the joy of that day, as it is a reminder of the many joyous days you shared together as a family.

I will continue to hold you, EJ and your family so very close. And, every day, I will lift you in prayer and send love and light.

You are loved. I love you. I am so very sorry for your loss.

I carry you in my heart, always - Patty Perillo

Patty Perillo - April 04 at 12:53 PM

TS

“ I Teddy Scroggins am truly grateful to have had my cousin Eric (Yellavega) Hrabowski in my life. He was one of a kind... from his love for dancing 🕺, good food, caring for cats, and watching movies, to his sharp mind and the way he'd always correct my grammar like only he could. He had a unique style those exotic hats, always dressed to impress, and a swagger that was out of this world.

I'll always cherish the many times he would come up to Maryland from Atlanta or Hilton Head—sometimes planned, sometimes just popping up in Baltimore—and it didn't matter, he was always welcomed with love. Whether we were out dancing, grabbing something good to eat, or just chilling at the crib watching movies, those moments meant everything.

Eric's sense of humor was unmatched full of cheesy jokes that would still have you laughing and his love ran deep, especially for his parents and his son, who meant everything to him. That love and energy is something we'll all carry with us.

Thank you for sharing him with all of us. I'm keeping the family lifted in love and prayer, always.”

*Sincerely,
Theodore Scroggins*



Theodore Scroggins - April 01 at 09:15 PM

JD

“ *In memory of Eric Coleman Hrabowski*



Jean Donohue - April 01 at 05:28 AM

RP

“ *My dear Freeman and Jackie, my heart breaks for you. I have spent a lot of time trying to find words that would provide even some small form of comfort to you in this time of deep loss. There are just no words. I love you and am so very sorry for Eric's passing.*

Thank you for sharing with us your last day with Eric. I can see and hear Eric standing before the three of you delivering his beautiful poem, while sharing his heart and love for and with the people he loved most in this world. I can see Eric smiling while delivering his poem. I can see the four of you enjoying the day that God, through His grace and mercy, gifted you. I'm thankful that God blessed the three of you with such a beautiful day to keep safe in your memories.

Eric's sudden death is more than heartbreaking. I'm thankful to have known Eric and to have spent the time I did with him in Hilton Head and Baltimore. In all my memories of Eric, he was always so kind, humble, funny and genuine. Eric is truly a beautiful spirit and soul that will be missed dearly.

Love,

Raina

Raina Pitts - March 30 at 01:19 PM

TU

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

We are so sorry to hear about the passing of your son Eric. Our hearts are broken for you. We hope that you find solace in your memories of him, and in knowing that his last day was filled with love. We hope you continue to find joy in Eric's son, your grandson Elijah, who continues the family's legacy. We are making a donation to the Center for Urban Families in Eric's memory to help other fathers and their children thrive.

We wish you peace.

Your friends at The Hilltop Institute

The Hilltop Institute at UMBC - March 30 at 12:32 PM

JK

“ *Jeanne Kline-Hudnell lit a candle in memory of Eric Coleman Hrabowski*



Jeanne Kline-Hudnell - March 29 at 10:11 AM

MS

“ Dear Freeman, Jackie, and family,

Holly and I were heartbroken to hear the news of Eric's passing. I believe I only met Eric once, at one of the retirement celebrations for Freeman at UMBC. What stood out more than anything at that event was the love that was shared among the Hrabowski family, and the love the family shared with all their friends. And your grandson's dance moves.... Freeman said he could do better, but I have to say he was a much better dancer than I'll ever be. And I'll never forget the love Freeman and Jackie shared with my own family, including letters to my parents when my dad was ill, and then their visiting my mother in St. Petersburg, FL, shortly after my father passed away. And then inviting my mom into their own home when she was visiting in MD. There are so many times when the members of the Hrabowski family, from grandparents to grandchildren, made us feel like we were loved and part of their family. I bring this all up with the hope that your family finds comfort in the knowledge that Eric was part of a deeply caring family, and that he knew he was deeply loved.

With all our love in return,

Mike and Holly Summers

Michael Summers - March 29 at 08:56 AM

JF

“ We want to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Hrabowski family at the loss of their son Eric. We can't imagine the deep pain you are experiencing, especially Eric's son. Sending prayers of comfort and healing during this difficult time. May Eric's memory be eternal.

Jamie, Aimee and Gina Joshua and family - March 29 at 06:49 AM

SP

“ Dear Hrabowski Family,
I offer my sincerest condolences for the passing of your son.
After searching online, I realized Mr. Eric and I had more in common than I thought.
Additionally, from the same online sources, I concluded Mr. Eric and his son Mr. Elijah demonstrated the Real True Grit.
They both strove against the odds, all the way until the end: the Real True Grit, ever present in the UMBC Community (legacy left by Dr. Freeman Hrabowski).
I believe that is what they stood for and that is how they will be remembered.
You should be so proud of your son Mr. Eric and his legacy, your grandson, Mr. Elijah.
At this time, may The Lord God keep you all and comfort you all in The Name of The Lord King Jesus Christ.
Sincerely,
Stanley Pierre

Stanley Pierre - March 28 at 05:14 PM

LL

“ Dear Freeman,

It made me extremely sad to hear about your and Jackie's loss of your son. As a father of three children, I cannot imagine what it must be like, but I am sure it takes time to work through the emotions. I wish you two the best and hope that you will come out on the other side soon.

With my deepest sympathy,

Lasse Lindahl - March 28 at 02:20 PM

TT

“ Jackie and Freeman,
Perhaps there are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.
Thinking of you with sincere sympathy, Trena Taylor-Brown

Trena Taylor-Brown - March 27 at 07:29 PM

DF

“ Freeman, Jackie, and Family:
I was deeply saddened to hear about your son. My heart goes out to you and your family during this incredibly difficult time, and I'm holding you all—especially your grandson—and my thoughts and prayers. Diane Crump-Fogle and Morris Fogle

Diane Crump-Fogle and Morris Fogle - March 27 at 07:07 PM

LA

“ Dr. & Mrs. Hrabowski, sending you many thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I pray that the continued memories of love, joy, and laughter of Eric will penetrate your spirits as you walk through this journey. My continous prayers are with you. Lynne Adams

Lynne Adams - March 27 at 11:43 AM

SJ

Dr. & Mrs. Hrabowski, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your son. Losing your only child must be so hard. Please know that I am praying for you and your family.
Freeman and Jackie, you have done so much for so many, who now surround you with love and support. May the light and joy of his life be with you forever. Shirley Ann Jackson

S. A. Jackson - March 29 at 04:43 AM

TR

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

We cannot imagine the excruciating pain and sadness you now navigate. Your beloved grandson EJ is no doubt providing you the inspiration and relief you need at this moment. May God hold Eric in His arms until the time comes for you to do so again yourselves. We offer our deepest condolences to your entire family.

Joanne and Tim Regan

Tim Regan - March 27 at 11:27 AM

BB

“ President and Mrs. Hrabowski,
Sending heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this incredibly difficult time. May God grant you peace and comfort as you celebrate the life of your beloved son.

Brittini Brown - March 26 at 09:20 PM

MK

“ Dear Dr. & Mrs. Hrabowski,

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you navigate the days and months ahead. May God's peace and comfort be with you always.

Michele Kimery

Michele Kimery - March 26 at 09:13 PM

SK

“ Although I did not personally know Eric, I have a sense of his character, mission, and legacy through Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski, who have been tremendous role models and mentors for my entire family. May Eric’s legacy continue to prosper through his brave son and everyone he impacted along the way. Keeping the entire Hrabowski family in our prayers!

Sono Khan - March 26 at 09:05 PM

JJ

“ On behalf of Councilman Julian Jones and family, we extend our deepest condolences to the Hrabowski family during this time of loss.

We are truly saddened to hear of Eric’s passing and are grateful for the life he lived and the impact he made on so many. His legacy of compassion, strength, and service will continue to live on through all who knew and loved him.

May God, bring you comfort, peace, and strength in the days ahead. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Councilman Julian Jones & Family*

Julianna Jones - March 26 at 12:10 PM

SS

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

I was heartbroken to hear about the loss of your beloved Eric, and I can't begin to imagine the pain you are going through. I wanted you to know how much you are in my thoughts during this difficult time. I hope you can find some comfort in the love around you, and I'm wishing you strength and peace in the days ahead. Please accept my sincere sympathies.

Sarah Shin

Sarah Shin - March 26 at 10:13 AM

CB

I was sorry to hear of Eric,

,

I was so sorry to hear of Eric's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you .

cherry Blackwell - March 26 at 12:34 PM

MH

“ We are praying for peace in the hearts and minds of all who loved Eric. There are simply no words to capture the magnitude of this loss.

With deepest sympathy,

Chris, Morgan, and Braxton Harried

Morgan Harried - March 26 at 12:08 AM

SH

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

Words cannot express the sympathy that I feel for you during this time. May God's love and peace sustain you and may you hold the beautiful memories that you have very close to your heart! With love and blessings,

Stephanie Hill

Stephanie C Hill - March 25 at 07:21 PM

NP

“ Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Wishing you strength, comfort, and moments of peace in the days ahead.

Nicolle Parsons-Pollard - March 25 at 02:43 PM

RR

“ Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowksi,

I am so deeply sorry for the loss of your precious son. My heart aches for you during this unimaginable time.

I hope you can find some comfort in the love he brought into the world, and in the presence of your grandson, who carries forward his spirit and legacy in such a meaningful way.

You all are in my sincere prayers. God Bless you.

Robyn Iglehart Ross (M5) and Family

Robyn Iglehart Ross - March 25 at 02:21 PM

DL

“ Freeman & Jackie,
I have read several obituaries regarding your son, Eric. Freeman,
you are correct as our friendship extends close to 70 years in
Birmingham. Know that I am heartbroken for you, Jackie and Elijah.
May you find peace and comfort in the memory of Eric as his legacy
will live on through all of you via his poetry. I can imagine your
mother reading and memorizing his poetry.
I don't recall meeting him personally but remember you mentioning
him fondly when we both discussed our respective families.
Moreover, the photograph of him wearing the fedora shows a
remarkable resemblance of you.
Know that prayers form the Long family continues. In the interim,
hang in there, Frat... All the Noble, the True and Courageous...

Dale H. Long

Dale Hawkins Long - March 25 at 12:35 PM

LJ

“ Dear Freeman, Jackie, and Family,

I can't imagine how difficult this time is for
you. You are in my prayers. Prayers for
comfort, encouragement, peace, resilience,
and profound knowledge of God's saving grace.

Kiki Jenkins M5



Lekelia "Kiki" Jenkins - March 25 at 11:31 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



March Life Tribute Centers - March 25 at 11:17 AM

JH

“ *Forty-seven years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting a beautiful family of three — Freeman, Jackie, and Eric Hrabowski. They had recently arrived in Baltimore. Freeman had accepted the role of Dean of Arts & Sciences at Coppin College (now University). I was the Chief Financial Officer, and we were both under the age of 30. A bond was formed between our families that has not only endured but blossomed over the years.*

It is with great sadness that I learned of Eric's passing. We are all the lesser for having lost the joy that Eric brought to the world.

I wish the Hrabowski family strength and love during this difficult period.

*Joseph Haskins
Rhonda Overby
Joi Haskins*

Joseph Haskins - March 25 at 10:26 AM

BP

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,
I am heartbroken to read of your loss, the one that every parent prays we will never have to endure. Please add my sympathy and prayers to the outpouring of love extended to you.

Beth Pennington

Beth Pennington - March 25 at 12:10 AM

MG

Jackie and Freeman,

Eric was truly special, and anyone who knew him felt it. His warmth, his spirit, and the way he connected with people were a reflection of the love and foundation you both so beautifully gave him.

What stood out most was the deep love he had for his son, Elijah. It was undeniable, constant, and full of pride. That love will continue to live on and be a lasting part of his legacy.

There are no words that can make this loss easier, but please know that Eric will always be remembered with so much love.

Holding you close in my heart and lifting you up with prayers always.

Love, ❤️

Maritha Gay

Maritha Gay - March 25 at 05:22 AM

B'

“ Dear Hrabrowski Family,
I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Thinking of you. Praying for you.

💙 ☐

Brenda Mickles Foote (HU '74) - March 24 at 11:53 PM

WG

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,
Your family has impacted the lives of so many, and hearing of your loss has brought great sadness. I hope with all my heart that, during this incredibly difficult time, you may find comfort in your memories of Eric and in knowing that so many of us are holding you in our thoughts and hearts. With deepest sympathy,

Walter G - March 24 at 10:23 PM

TO

“ Freeman, Jackie, and Family,
My heart is with you and I'm holding you all close in my thoughts and prayers. I hope God brings you moments of rest, moments of grace, and moments where the love you shared with Eric feels stronger than the pain. I hope you feel surrounded by the strength, comfort, and tenderness you've poured into so many others. I'm here for you. Love you.

T Olivier - March 24 at 09:59 PM

MI

“ Mr. & Mrs. Hrabowski,

I'm truly sorry for your loss. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers, praying that God gives you strength and peace.

*-Michelle Darko
UMBC 24'*

Michelle - March 24 at 09:08 PM

AM

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

When we were working in adjacent offices, Freeman, before you moved into the presidential quarters, I witnessed and admired and continue to admire your unfailing devotion to all that you could transform for the better, university and community alike. Such I imagine was the example you and Jackie set for your son to lead him on the path to poetry and the care for the well-being of others. May the joyful evening you shared with him before he so abruptly departed remain a solace among the cherished memories of your lives together.

This poem was written and translated by Samuel Becket late in life:

*aller là où jamais avant
à peine là que là toujours
où que là où jamais avant
à peine là que là toujours*

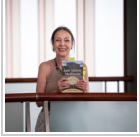
*go where never before
no sooner there than there always
no matter where never before
no sooner there than there always*

Such is the poet's consoling view of an eternity that we all share within, which makes us inseparable.

Kishin and I are saddened by your loss and offer our deepest condolences.

Angela Moorjani

Angela Moorjani - March 24 at 08:47 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to all of this wonderful young man's friends, relatives, and family.*

Sincerely,

Margie Burns

English Department, UMBC

Margie Burns - March 24 at 07:38 PM

OK

“ *Dear Freeman and Jackie,*

I am deeply sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family. May Eric rest in peace, Ameen,

Omar Ka

Omar Ka - March 24 at 06:24 PM

BB

“ *Dear Freeman and Jackie, we ache for you, and wrap our arms around you with love. The loss of a loved one is a terrible darkness, but the light they leave behind shines through forever. We cannot know when God will call us back to Him, we can only remember with love.*

With sympathy, Barbara and Tom Bozzuto

Barbara and Tom Bozzuto - March 24 at 04:40 PM

LG

“ Jackie and Freeman,
My deepest sympathy on the passing of Eric. I know there are no words that can ease your grief, but please know that Rob and I are thinking of you and you are in our prayers. May your happy memories be a blessing to you at this time.

Laura Gamble and Rob Gillison

Laura Gamble - March 24 at 03:31 PM

BM

“ Jackie and Freeman,
Wishing to join with your many friends a heartfelt condolence on the passing of Eric your most cherished son. I was saddened to learn of this. Reading about Eric has been poignant. His unique personality gentle and poetic, yet a strong presence made him endearing to so many and much loved by you.

Peace and prayers - Sen. Barbara Mikulski (Ret.)

Barbara Mikulski - March 24 at 11:40 AM

RQ

“ My prayers and reverant love go out to Freeman and Jackie on the loss of their son, Eric. I only met Eric as a young boy. My recollection is he brought boundless energy to the home, and endless love to and for his parents. I spent two years at Coppin State College with Freeman. We were young men, in our development years. A close bond and enduring friendship was cemented in that short period. I imagine Freeman has created many friendships in a short amount of time. He is that kind of man. The enduring nature of the friendship always felt as if it was God’s design. His hand was in it. As years past and our professions took us in separate ways, Eric grew to be a man, married a beautiful woman, and brought a beautiful son and grandson into Freeman and Jackie’s lives. As God’s hand brought Eric home, Freeman, Jackie, and their grandson shall endure with the memories and love of Eric.

Robert Quarles

Robert Quarles - March 24 at 10:41 AM

SS

“ Freeman and Jackie,

Your bond with your son is loving and unshakable. It is well.

Please know that you are thought of and held by all who love and respect you both, as well as your beloved Eric and grandson EJ. The love, warmth and comfort of your heart and home form memories and cover everlasting. Thinking of you and pray that you find peace during this difficult time.

Shanaysha Sauls - March 24 at 10:05 AM

GC

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

I am deeply saddened by the loss of your dearest son. Please accept my heartfelt condolences. May the Supreme Being and the memories of Eric bring you and your family strength, peace, and comfort during this difficult time. May Eric's soul eternally rest in peace.

Gloria Chuku

Gloria Chuku - March 24 at 05:53 AM

JS

“ Dearest Aunt Jackie & Uncle Freeman: your family and ours have been connected for more than 5 decades. Eric's smile, hugs and humor will last forevermore. May Eric know eternal peace and may both of you and your grandson move in grace and protection. Mountains of LOVE, Kitty Baby & J [Yvette & Janay]

Janay Smith - March 24 at 02:23 AM

CG

“ Mr. & Mrs. Hrabowski,

I'm so deeply sorry for your loss. My heart is with you. I'm keeping you and your family in my thoughts and hoping that, even in the midst of this, you're surrounded by love and find moments of peace along the way.

Christian Grier - March 23 at 11:37 PM

LF

“ Doc & Family, So sorry for your loss. Let God carry you. Larry Fomundam

Lawrence Fomundam - March 23 at 11:17 PM



“ *To the Hrabowski Family,*

There are no words adequate for a moment like this, but love compels us to try.

Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski, you have spent a lifetime standing in the gap for so many of us, together. You have poured yourselves into our futures, our dreams, and our becoming. You have been parental figures to generations of scholars who might never have found their way without your guidance, your grace, and your unwavering belief in us. The two of you, side by side, have modeled what it means to love a community as if it were your own family.

And yet, in this moment, we are reminded that behind everything you have given to the world, you are first a mother and a father, and your hearts are grieving in a way only parents can understand.

There is nothing like losing your own flesh and blood. Eric was not just your son; he was a part of the foundation from which you gave so freely to the rest of us. We honor him by honoring what he meant to you, and what the two of you mean to all of us.

Our love, our prayers, and our presence surround your entire family. We are praying for your "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow"!

*With deep love & condolences,
Michael & The Hunt Family*

Michael Hunt - March 23 at 08:26 PM

SM

*Freeman and Jackie,
Please know that I share your sorrow at the loss of Eric, just as I share so many years of memories of the three of you and of the entire Hrabowski family. My love and prayers go out to you now and always.*

Sheryl McCarthy

Sheryl McCarthy - March 24 at 08:40 PM

TS

“ *It is difficult to put into words how crushed we are. But when I think about Eric, I can't help but smile. He was funny without even trying. Just naturally gifted. My kids talk about the way you'd crack a joke or do something silly and they would roll their eyes. I still remember being sixteen, riding around Baltimore with you like I was grown. You made me feel safe, seen, and just a little too cool. But before that, I remember your special cup at Aunt Maggie's house. It was clear we should not touch that blue cup because it had its own reserved space in the cabinet. A special space for a special guy. I would hear people talk about how smart you were and how your mind worked in ways that made people stop and pay attention. You carried that brilliance with you your whole life. Hearing stories now about your poetry and even remembering that you told me you will be ok, brings me comfort. You deserved joy and peace, selfishly more time.*

You left us too soon, but you didn't leave us empty. You left us with memories that still make us laugh, stories that still warm our hearts, and a love that doesn't fade just because you're not here in the way we wish you were.

Our hearts are truly broken, but your memory is a blessing, and your legacy lives right here with us.

We love you, TaShawna, Jameson, Khloe & Kai

TaShawna D Stokes - March 23 at 07:40 PM

VT

“ Dear Freeman, Jackie, and EJ,

Words cannot adequately express the profound sadness I feel for you as you grieve the passing of your beloved son, Eric. I recall meeting young Eric in 1979 when Freeman introduced his four-year-old cute little ball of energy. I found Eric to be a smart, confident little boy who was not afraid to have a conversation with adults. Eric grew up to be a kind and caring person who loved learning and wanted to get the most out of life...he is gone too soon. I hope you feel the love and prayers your village sends to you and that the memories of Eric bring you peace.

Valerie A. Bell Thomas - March 23 at 06:37 PM

CA

“ *My heartfelt condolences may you find peace in knowing your loving and wonderful son is safely home in the arms of God*

Courtney Allen - March 23 at 06:30 PM

SJ

“ Freeman and Jackie, My deepest condolences to you both on the loss of Eric. I had the pleasure and honor to work in the library at UMBC from 1996 until my retirement in 2022. During that time I enjoyed frequently working to support audio-visual events in which Freeman also served. It was also my pleasure to have many other opportunities to get to know Freeman as a colleague and friend. I truly sensed that I became a family member in the UMBC community, and that this identity was to be cherished. Freeman and Jackie, it is thus a sense of family loss that I now feel at your sons passing.

You are all in my prayers.

Stephen M Jones

Stephen Jones - March 23 at 04:32 PM

EA

“ Dearest Jackie, Freeman and EJ, so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear son and father. I wanted to share a poem with you:

*We don't stop loving,
We don't forget.
We don't stop hurting.
We don't get over it.
We journey forward living, the best that we can.
We hold them in our hearts
Until we're together again.*

Love, Esther

Esther Avery - March 23 at 04:02 PM



SL

“ Dear Jackie and Freeman,

Words cannot express how deeply saddened Lois and I were when learning of your loss. If there is any solace, it can come from this amazing community that you built over many years, how much you mean to said community and the messages of love and support that you are now receiving.

Eric Coleman Hrabowski... "Zichrono Livracha" - "may his memory be a blessing."

Lois and Steve Levy and family

Steve Levy - March 23 at 02:51 PM

TN

“ Dear Freeman and family...please accept my condolences on the passing Eric. May his soul rest in peace and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Tony Norcio

Tony Norcio - March 23 at 01:38 PM

DA

“ Freeman and Jackie, my heart goes out to you. The account of your last day with Eric is profoundly moving, and his spirit comes through so clearly in his words and in the love you shared. I am thinking of you often and praying for strength, comfort, and peace for your family, especially for EJ. -Derrick M. Anderson and the Anderson Family.

Derrick Anderson - March 23 at 12:07 PM

RO

“ Dearest Freeman and Jackie,

There are no words that can fully hold the weight of your loss.

Freeman, speaking with you shortly after reminds me of what it means to live a life so deeply loved. The love you and Jackie gave Eric and Eric's love that he returned will always remain. I pray that you both reflect on your wonderful grandson-his courage and bravery will be that long lasting extension of Eric.

May you find strength in one another and the long bond as you continue to celebrate as two Hamptonians serving and giving after 55 years. This world loves and need you two!

You are not alone in this and Jackie, I will come visit soon.

*All my love,
Your sister President
Roz*

roz - March 23 at 08:40 AM

JW

“ Dearest Freeman and Jackie,

My heart is broken hearing the news about Eric. As an only child myself, I can only imagine what this loss means. I didn't know Eric but he sounded like a very intuitive, gentle, artistic soul. May you carry him, his memory, his poetry forth into the world to those who need his comforting words. And may he bless those through the thin veil, in the other realm with his love and insights. Since he was a lover of poetry, and I know Freeman you are as well, I wanted to share one now from Mary Oliver that always gives me solace around how to be with death as an invitation while we're still alive:

WHEN DEATH COMES

*When death comes
like the hungry bear in autumn;
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse*

*to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;
when death comes
like the measles-pox;*

*when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,*

*I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?*

*And therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,*

*and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,*

*and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,
tending, as all music does, toward silence,*

*and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.*

*When it's over, I want to say: all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.*

*When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.*

*I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.
—Mary Oliver*

*To spend our days as the bride to amazement, to take the world into
our arms exactly as it is...what a beautiful calling while we are still
here together.*

*All my love,
Jill Wardell*

Jill W Wardell - March 23 at 08:04 AM

LD

“ Chère Jackie, cher Freeman,

Je vous adresse mes plus sincères condoléances. Je suis très triste d'apprendre la disparition de votre fils.

Je n'ai jamais rencontré Éric, mais j'avais l'impression de le connaître un peu à travers les histoires et anecdotes que Freeman racontait sur lui avec beaucoup d'affection.

Je sais que le français occupait une place particulière dans votre relation et dans vos échanges. Je trouve cela très beau et touchant. Le fait qu'Éric écrivait de la poésie et que vous aimiez apprendre des poèmes en français donne à ce lien une résonance encore plus forte. C'est une magnifique preuve d'amour de faire de cette langue un espace de rencontre.

J'ai aussi une pensée très émue pour EJ, que je n'ai jamais rencontré non plus, mais dont les histoires, ainsi que les poèmes que vous récitiez tous les deux, m'ont donné le sentiment d'une présence proche.

Jackie, j'ai également une pensée toute particulière pour vous, et j'imagine combien cette épreuve doit être douloureuse.

Je vous envoie toute mon affection et je pense très, très fort à vous.

Avec toute ma sympathie,

Landry

Landry Digeon - March 22 at 08:51 PM

LG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



LORETTO GUBERNATIS - March 22 at 07:09 PM

LG

DEAR JAKCIE AND FREEMAN YOU ARE SO LOVED BY YOUR COMMUNITY. THIS IS MY WAY OF SHARING AND SUPPORTING ALL YOU DO. MY VIDEO TRIBUTE TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL SON. FROM LORETTO GUBERNATIS YOUR STUDENT.

LORETTO GUBERNATIS - March 22 at 11:25 PM

DS

“ *Dear Jackie and Freeman,*

My heart is with you as you grieve an unimaginable loss. What an unexpected blessing that you had such a special day with Eric before he was called home to rest.

It is my hope that you are wrapped in the memories of your best days together.

Though it must feel unbearably painful now, I hope that in time the very things that feel hardest—the memory of his touch, his laughter, even his familiar scent—will become sources of comfort and peace.

May those memories gently hold you in the days ahead.

Donna Hill Staton - March 22 at 05:13 PM

IR

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie - I am absolutely heartbroken for you and Elijah. I am so sorry for your loss and am here for you in any way I can be of support. It seems that too often the strongest among us are tested the most, and while I have no doubt that you all have the fortitude to carry on amid this tragic loss, do not hesitate to call. My heart is with you, and my whole family is here for you and yours.

Ian Ralby - March 22 at 03:39 PM

GB

“ Freeman and I grew up together in Birmingham, Alabama. He and I are like brother and sister. Jackie became a part of my family as soon as she and I met.

Eric was such a delightful child. I remember the visits with Freeman, Jackie and Eric in Baltimore when Eric was young. He always had such a beautiful spirit and always had my kids (Ron and Sonya) and me very often in stitches. There was the time when Freeman, my kids and I picked him up from nursery school after his teacher told Freeman Eric had bitten another student. I remember Freeman was so serious saying to Eric: son why would you bite someone? Eric looked so sad, cute and confused. After Freeman finished explaining the seriousness of the matter, my kids and I could only laugh. Just the innocent and angelic look on Eric's face made us all laugh. Also, while Eric and my son were young, we were out shopping. These boys decided to get on the floor and look under a mannequin's dress. We were all so shocked and told them to get up! Again, we could only laugh.

As I told Freeman, my thoughts were on Eric, him and Jackie the day he passed. The thoughts were so tender and I found myself smiling.

My prayers, love and support are always with you, Jackie and EJ. I hope and pray you continue to feel my love while you go through this very difficult time.

Your sister and friend,
Griselda Burroughs
Bloomfield, Connecticut

Griselda Burroughs - March 22 at 03:19 PM

AP

“ Freeman and Jackie please accept my condolences during this difficult time. My memories of Eric are of him questioning an adult of why he had to have on tennis white when there was no sign when he was playing tennis with my son. Of course, there was his excitement and beautiful smile of the renovations of your house in Windsor Mill. My prayers continue daily for you and your family.
Allee Pinderhughes

Alice Pinderhughes - March 22 at 02:56 PM

RR

Dear Jackie and Freeman. I am so deeply and profoundly sorry that tragedy has visited you in ways that are so undeserving. You who have given so much of yourselves to provide guidance, meaning and hope to so many young people. Providing them with opportunities which allowi them to individually shine and collectively enhance who we are and represent, have to suffer such a loss. My thoughts are with you. I hope the words of all those who are touched by your grief provide you both some solace and help you cope with such tremendous loss. You have made life incredibly meaningful to so many. I am so sorry for your loss. Ricardo D. Zwaig, Senior Maryland District Court Judge.

Ricardo Zwaig, Md. Dist. Ct. Judge, Rt'd - March 22 at 11:47 PM

DW

“ Deborah J. Walker lit a candle in memory of Eric Coleman Hrabowski



Deborah J. Walker - March 22 at 02:45 PM

DW

Freeman and Jackie.....Was shocked when Ann Jimerson (Kids in Birmingham 1963) shared through the Kids 1963 network about Eric's passing. I deeply feel your pain. Know that all who know Jackie and you as well as Eric's son send you much love and support. With loving arms surrounding you all! RIP Eric.

Deborah J. Walker - March 22 at 02:51 PM

LS

*Brother Hrabowski, my deepest condolences to your family, I remember meeting Eric as a teenager when the family visited Birmingham years ago.
Brother L.A. Simmons
Retired-Birmingham Civil Institute*

LeRoy A Simmons - March 22 at 05:17 PM

AB

“ Freeman and Jackie: There is no easy way for a parent to endure the pain of losing their child, whatever the circumstances. We are all wired to give our children unconditional love, support them, help them navigate life’s challenges and so much more. I know you have been giving and doing those things for Eric so ably his whole life, and you were loved by him and are loved by your grandson.

My heart hurts for your loss of Eric, your precious child, and for your pain enduring this unimaginable loss. I know losing Alex and living through that degree of pain would just about finish me off. So I hurt for you, just imagining how much losing my Alex would injure me forever.

I remember Eric as a young kid, in awe of both of you, especially you, Freeman, the way young boys look up to their dads. I hope that his spirit feels present in your hearts every day and that your spirits are able to have some bit of solace from the love that will always exist among you all, and EJ. I believe Eric’s love for you and yours for him outlasts everything - time, space and even consciousness.

Sending you love and strength to get through an impossibly difficult transition. And sending you many hugs and kisses. Alex and I love you all very much!!

Xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox

Anna Burns - March 22 at 12:46 PM

L2

“ Dear Mr. Freeman and Mrs. Jackie Hrabowski, losing a son or loved one is like losing a part of your heart and soul. I hope the wonderful memories of your son holds you firm as you mourn the passing of your son. I also pray our Lord above cradles Eric, as you once cradled your son, in His heavenly arms - L.T.Jr.

Leon Thornton, Jr., UMBC, 2017 - March 22 at 09:19 AM

EG

“ *My sincere condolences to the Hrabowski family.*



Evelyn Giebel - March 22 at 08:44 AM

GW

“ *Dear Freeman and Jackie, my heart aches for you and your family. Hope you can find peace in the memories you've shared. My prayers are with you as you mourn your son's passing.*

Gwendolyn (Armstrong) Williams - March 22 at 04:56 AM

HW

“ *Freeman and Jackie...though I never met Eric, His smile exudes a personality that was obviously precious . Sending my sincere condolences to you guys and the rest of your families. My thoughts and prayers are with you all -Herman Whitehead*

Herman Whitehead - March 21 at 11:29 PM

MH

“ *Freeman and Jackie- I am thinking of you and keeping you in my prayers. Wishing you moments of peace and comfort as you celebrate Eric's beautiful life lived.*

Ms. Bobbie L. Hoye - March 21 at 09:23 PM

MB

“ My dears—Freeman and Jackie, I loved Eric dearly and have loved him ever since he was a child. One of the great blessings of my life is to be “sister” to both of you and to have, therefore, been an aunt to Eric who was a gift from God to all of us. Although I know that EJ and both of you are in deep pain, I know also that Eric’s gentle spirit is all around you.

What an extraordinary juxtaposition of events—the day before his passing being such a joyful day with him reading the poem that he had written about his life and about the two of you, the hugs, tears and laughter—and then the shock of his passing the very next day. That day before was a gift for you but also, I’m sure, made his passing all the more painful and difficult—at least, for now.

God’s hand/God’s timing was in that day that you had together. Our Father is ever looking out for us, and eventually, your prominent memory will be of that wonderful day together.

Eric was a gifted poet. The poem that he read to you on the day before confirms that. It is so powerful, moving. He bares his soul and, in the process, touches ours. May his dear, sweet soul rest in peace. I know that you thank God every day for the other gift that he left you—our wonderful, gifted, love-filled EJ.

May both of you and EJ continue to receive strength and healing from the Lord. Hold to God’s unchanging hand—as I know you will.

*With deep and abiding love,
Mary K. Bush, your “sister”*

Mary Bush - March 21 at 08:55 PM

LG

“ *Freeman and Jackie*

Laird and I are thinking of you and praying the good times and memories will help you through this time.

Linda Gooden

Linda Gooden - March 21 at 07:56 PM

MM

“ *Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski,*

I am so very sorry for your loss. I am praying for comfort and peace for you and your family during this time.

Sincerely,

Martina Maslanik, Jackie Hrawbowski Scholar

Martina Maslanik - March 21 at 06:32 PM

TV

“ *Dear Dr. Hrabowski and Mrs. Hrabowski,*

On behalf of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, we honor Eric Hrabowski's life and legacy of commitment to family, community, and service. His example reminds us that meaningful impact is built through everyday acts of dedication, integrity, and care for others. We extend our deepest condolences to your family and all who were touched by his life.

Best wishes,

Thomas J. Vicino, MPP '04, PhD '06
Dean

Thomas Vicino - March 21 at 04:03 PM

AJ

“ *Holding you in the light,
-Ann Jimerson & Larry Klein, UMBC inaugural-class graduate*

Ann Jimerson - March 21 at 04:02 PM

RA

“ *Dear Jackie and Freeman,
Gloria and I and our entire family are so very saddened to hear of
the passing of Eric. Please know our hearts and thoughts are with
you. God will let Eric continue to shine a light in your lives. God
bless you both.
Rod, Gloria, and the Armstrong family.*

Rod Armstrong - March 21 at 02:27 PM

JM

“ *Dr. Hrabowski and Jackie,*

*I have been holding you both in my thoughts and prayers since
learning of Eric's passing. Though I knew Eric only through you, it
was evident in every word you both shared that he was a young
man of tremendous love, character, and promise.*

*The pride you carry for your son say you everything we need to
know about the young man you raised. And what I know of Eric tells
me that his life was well-lived and deeply meaningful.*

*May you find comfort in the memories you carry, and may Eric's
spirit live on in all who were fortunate enough to know and love him.*

With love and deepest sympathy,

Jim Martin, Chancellor NC A&T

James R Martin - March 21 at 02:16 PM

CS

“ Our hearts are broken with yours over the sudden loss of Eric. The warmth, kindness, and beautiful light he carried touched everyone fortunate enough to know him, and that light will never fade from our memories or from the lives he brightened.

Over nearly thirty years you have become far more than mentors and dear friends; you have truly become family to us. When my mother passed, your love, prayers, and steady presence helped hold us together and begin to heal. Now we long to offer even a fraction of that same comfort back to you.

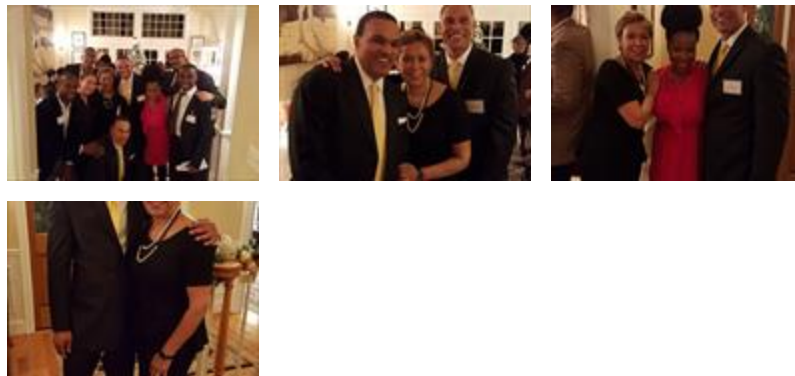
Please know that we are surrounding you and the entire family with our deepest love, our constant thoughts, and our earnest prayers. May God wrap you in His peace that surpasses understanding, carry Eric's gentle spirit close to you, and sustain you moment by moment.

With all our love,
Cylburn Soden and Family

Cylburn Soden - March 21 at 02:15 PM

GL

“ Sincere condolences on the loss of your son. I pray you will be comforted by your memories. God's blessings for your family.



Gayle Lomax - March 21 at 02:11 PM

SF

“ Dear Jackie and Freeman,
My heart aches with you and your family upon hearing this news. The only comfort is knowing to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. There is no better place to be. May God shower you with comfort and strength.

Sandra Fields - March 21 at 01:26 PM

JT

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

Please know that you both are supported by the UMBC community during this time, and always. Although Freeman's time at UMBC was before I was enrolled, I can imagine that the students, families, and staff before me had profound gratitude for his work. I did not know Eric personally, but losing a child must bring immeasurable grief. My deepest Condolences.



Jordan Tran, Current Student

Jordan Tran - March 21 at 01:07 PM

JB

“ There are no words that can ease the pain of losing a child, but please know that my thoughts and heartfelt prayers are with you and your family during this incredibly difficult time. May you find strength in the love that surrounds you, comfort in cherished memories of Eric, and peace in the days ahead.

With sincere sympathy,
JoAnne Blackwell

JoAnne Blackwell - March 21 at 12:57 PM

AS

“ Misfortune, yes, there was, and is. Nonetheless, the bright light shown on Eric with the great good fortune of having you, Freeman and Jackie, as his parents. I remember Eric as a little boy, a light in his eyes revealed the expectation that something magical would walk through the front door or fly by the window. It did, the poet walked in and the verse flew. How could he help but be a poet?

And that light shown on the two of you, in the years of joy being his parents and continues with EJ.

I wish you a smile, amid the tears.

Alan and Denise Shelton

ALAN SHELTON - March 21 at 12:03 PM

BG

“ Dear Freeman, Jackie and EJ,

It is at a time like this that we struggle with what to say and how to say it. We are so sorry and heart broken to learn of the loss of your beautiful son, Eric Hrabowski. We could witness enormous love, joy and happiness with your family. We really appreciate all of the beautiful and loving family photos. What treasures to have and refer to whenever you feel the pain of his loss. Please know that our hearts go out to you at this time and we pray for GOD's strength and His covering. Please know that we love you and we are here for you.

Betty J. Glascoe

Betty J Glascoe - March 21 at 10:38 AM

LS

“ Dearest Freeman, Jackie, Elijah and family, Our families came together in friendship and love when I was nine and I was blessed with becoming Eric's babysitter and a little brother / big sister bond was created as we grew up as family. Eric's energy, personality and love will continue to shine through Elijah and those impacted by just knowing Eric. May God continue to cover your family with strength, peace, comfort and great, loving memories.
Love, Lonnia, Tommy and Asia



Lonnia Sanders - March 21 at 10:06 AM

DA

“ Prayers and my sincerest condolences to the Hrabowski family. May the Lord be near your broken-heart... Psalm 34:18

Demetria Canada, UMBC Alum - March 21 at 09:20 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the Hrabowski Family. 🙏 May Eric's memory continue to be a blessing and may he rest in peace.



Mike Eaves - March 21 at 08:53 AM

DZ

“ Dr. Sara Z.Poggio lit a candle in memory of Eric Coleman Hrabowski



Dr. Sara Z.Poggio - March 20 at 10:34 PM

KG

“ *My condolences to the entire Hrabowski family.*

I am a neighbor from the Winter Hills neighborhood and while I didn't know Eric, my father always spoke very highly of him and his family as well.

Peace and blessings, and may his memory be an eternal light in your lives.

Keith Griner - March 20 at 09:34 PM

BE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Bernie - March 20 at 09:34 PM

“ A Poet’s Jubilee for Your Eric

Mon Frère adorerais et Sa Femme déesse,

I am in Costa Rica and only just heard of your heartache beyond my imagination. That this one of a kind son, your beautiful Eric, could give you and the world such a gift of last words, “I am renewed, imbued with the passion of rebirth. I am worthy and so are you” made be ache that I did not ever meet him. He would have so understood our poet Rumi Festival. Translator Coleman Parks just left earth, too, a few days ago. This complex, amazing son, gift and challenge to you, could only have come through to parents of such enormous spirit and heart. Now, what was most precious to him, Elijah, will thrive into his own best and highest good in your continued loving care. Here are words that have comforted me in loss. Praying they might be even a tiny solace to you three one day. They remind me so of your son’s sweet words in this year of his personal jubilee:

“How can part of this world leave this world?How can wetness leave water?” - Rumi

“When I die^[L]when my coffin^[L]is being taken out^[L]you must never think^[L]I am missing this world

Don’t shed any tears^[L]don’t lament or^[L]feel sorry^[L]I’m not falling^[L]into a monster’s abyss

When you see^[L]my corpse is being carried^[L]don’t cry for my leaving^[L]I’m not leaving^[L]I’m arriving at eternal love

-Rumi (From “When I Die,” translated by by Nader Khalili)

This place is a dream.^[L]Only a sleeper consiiders it real.^[L]Then death comes like dawn,^[L]and you wake up laughing^[L]at what you thought was your grief.

-Rumi (From “On Resurrection Day,” Translated by Coleman Barks)

You mustn’t be afraid of death^[L]you’re a deathless soul^[L]you can’t be kept in a dark grave^[L]you’re filled with God’s glow

-Rumi (From “Rumi, Fountain of Fire,” Translated by Nader Khalili)

And as Ram Das observed, that great truth, "We are each just walking each other home." May Eric know great joy with his beloved ancestors until you meet again.

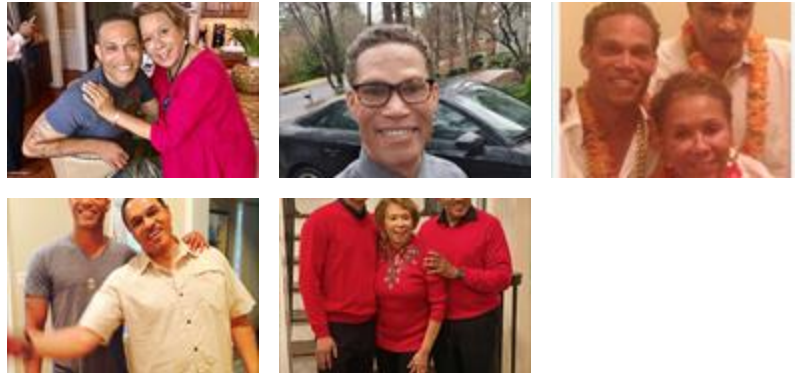
With all my heart, I am so sorry for your great pain. No parents could have been better or wiser companions along his way.

*With my love and enormous admiration for you both, Toujours,
Rebecca*

Rebecca Alban Hoffberger - March 20 at 09:24 PM

JH

“ We love you Eric 🙏🏻👼🏻”



Jacqueline Hrabowski - March 20 at 09:09 PM

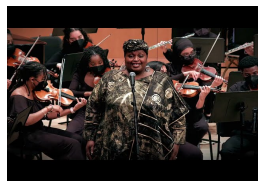


I remember living just down the street from Freeman, Jackie and and Eric in Windsor Hills. Absolutely wonderful neighbors. My deepest condolences to the entire family. Mario Griner

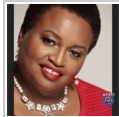
Mario Griner - March 20 at 09:20 PM

JJ

“ My deepest condolences to Freeman and Jackie, and the entire family. May God grant you the peace that passes all understanding during this time of bereavement. I pray that the love of family and friends, along with the sweet memories of Eric, bring you comfort in the days ahead. May God’s strength and abiding love uphold you. As a tribute, here is a recording of one of the families favorite hymns i recorded with me and the UMBC Jubilee singers share it here with love in Eric’s memory. Peace and Blessings Professor Janice Jackson



Janice Jackson - March 20 at 08:45 PM



Love, peace and blessings 🙏❤️Freeman and Jackie. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Janice Jackson and the UMBC Jubilee Singers and Gospel Choir

Janice Jackson - March 20 at 09:04 PM

GB

Absolutely beautiful 🙏🌹

Gloria Belton - March 21 at 10:01 AM

RS

Beautiful! What a Tribute.
Reuben

Reuben Brigety, Sr - March 21 at 11:04 AM

AT

We pray that the fond memories of Eric grow sweeter each day.
Sincerely, Lamar and Angela Taylor

Angela Taylor - March 21 at 11:35 AM

DM

This song was sung at Eric's fraternal grandmother's homecoming celebration, providing me with comfort then, just as it does now. This rendition is truly the best I've ever had the pleasure of listening to. God faithfulness and steadfast love endures forever. I pray it brings some measure of peace and comfort to the Hrabowski family and their extended family. There is a time for every season, a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn, a time to dance. Eric loved to dance, imagine that he is dancing and laughing. No more sadness for him, no more pain of any kind. Only Joy! We weep with and share your pain. Joy will come in the morning. 🙏🏻

Dorothy Galloway Mosby - March 21 at 06:18 PM

GR

To Jacqueline and Family members: I am sorry to hear about the passing of your beloved Eric. When I heard the rendition of GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, I was reminded of our community, Saint James Church, Warfield Elementary, JSR High School and more. Though our journey has taken us in different directions since our graduation, my thoughts remind me of you and your family. Take care of each other and comfort each other as Almighty God comforts and grants His Peace and Everlasting Love to each of you. May the Lord Grant you His Peace. Your classmate for many years, Grace Yancey

GraceYancey - March 22 at 08:05 PM

CH

Dear Hrabowski Family, We are so deeply sorry for the loss of your son. I can't imagine the pain you're carrying, but I hope the memories you all have shared with Eric bring you moments of comfort and peace. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything we can do to help you during this time, please let us know. With heartfelt sympathy, The Harris Family

Candace Harris - March 24 at 03:23 PM

“ I wrote this privately Freeman and Jackie. He asked I post it here in its entirety:

A Poet's Jubilee for Your Eric

Mon Frère adorerais et Sa Femme déesse,

I am in Costa Rica and only just heard of your heartache beyond my imagination. That this one of a kind son, your beautiful Eric, could give you and the world such a gift of last words, “I am renewed, imbued with the passion of rebirth. I am worthy and so are you” made be ache I did not ever meet him. He would have so understood our Rumi Festival. Translator Coleman Parks just left earth, too a few ago. This complex, amazing son, gift and challenge to you, could only have come through to parents of such enormous spirit and heart. Now, what was most precious to him, Elijah, will thrive into his own best and highest good in your continued loving care. Here are words that have comforted me in loss. Praying they might be even a tiny solace to you three one day. They remind me so of your son's sweet words in this year of his personal jubilee:

“How can part of this world leave this world?How can wetness leave water?” - Rumi

“When I die^[L]when my coffin^[L]is being taken out^[L]you must never think^[L]I am missing this world

Don't shed any tears^[L]don't lament or^[L]feel sorry^[L]I'm not falling^[L]into a monster's abyss

When you see^[L]my corpse is being carried^[L]don't cry for my leaving^[L]I'm not leaving^[L]I'm arriving at eternal love

-Rumi (From “When I Die,” translated by by Nader Khalili)

This place is a dream.^[L]Only a sleeper consiiders it real.^[L]Then death comes like dawn,^[L]and you wake up laughing^[L]at what you thought was your grief.

-Rumi (From “On Resurrection Day,” Translated by Coleman Barks)

You mustn't be afraid of death^[L]you're a deathless soul^[L]you can't be kept in a dark grave^[L]you're filled with God's glow

*-Rumi (From "Rumi, Fountain of Fire," Translated by Nader Khalili)
And as Ram Das observed, that great truth, "We are each just
walking each other home." May Eric know great joy with his beloved
ancestors until you meet again.*

*With all my heart, I am so sorry for your great pain. No parents
could have been better or wiser companions along his way.*

*With my love and enormous admiration for you both, Toujours,
Rebecca*

Rebecca Alban Hoffberger - March 20 at 08:32 PM

SL

“*To my "big brother" Freeman, Jackie, Elijah
and family, please know that we are praying
that God's loving arms of comfort and
strength surround you all both today and in
the days to come. Love always Sheryl Greene
Leverett, husband, Ulysses Bernard Leverett, and family.*



Sheryl Leverett - March 20 at 08:22 PM



“*Freeman, I remember sitting in your office one afternoon talking
about our sons, and it was so clear that Eric was deeply loved by
you. You encouraged me to hang in there through the teenage
years because the best was yet to come, and as always you were
right. I can't imagine how horrific it was when you realized you had
lost Eric,, but how fortunate that you were home together and he
was surrounded by love. I am just heartbroken for your entire family.*

Diane Auer Jones - March 20 at 08:03 PM

JW

“ *Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski, Elijah, and all who new and loved Eric -*

My deepest and most heartfelt condolences to you at this most difficult time. We thank God for the time you had together, especially that beautiful last day, and we pray that your shared memories and God's comfort will help ease the pain in time. Please know that we are thinking and praying for you all.

Jonta

Jonta Williams - March 20 at 07:51 PM


JM

“ *No words can ever be adequate at a time like this. My family holds precious memories of how you tirelessly mentored our daughter Naomi Mburu through the Meyerhoff program and to her becoming UMBC's first Rhodes scholar. We were all so elated, but you know that a few days after those news, we lost our 24 year old son Nick. Your presence and words of encouragement still ring in our ears as we continue to navigate our loss. "Hold on to your faith" you told us. Our prayers are that you and your family will be comforted with the same comfort you so selflessly provided us. Holding the family in our hearts as you navigate this very tough journey and trusting that the time will come when Eric's memory will bring a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eyes.*

Joseph, Joyce & Naomi Mburu.

Joyce Mburu - March 20 at 07:41 PM

CQ

“ Jackie and Freeman,  my Hamptonian big sister and brother, I only met Eric once, I was in my early 20s, a recent Hampton Graduate and Eric was a boy- maybe 10years old. My brother, mother and I were guest at your home for dinner. I remember Eric's light, his happiness and pure joy. I have been praying and sending you love. I know that the love you are receiving is and will continue to lift you infusing you will strength and a greater connection to Our Eternal Absolute. Eric is with you and his son, now even more than when he was here physically. God will hold and continue to Bless you both through and always. My Love is with you...
Cecelia Quarles

Cecelia Quarles - March 20 at 03:10 PM

KW

“ I was Eric's personal trainer for the better part of a year and he knew exactly what he wanted and would give me his best with every workout. Eric was funny, he was kind, and he was an excellent storyteller frequently having me doubled over with laughter. Eric was a great father always showing how much he cared for his son EJ and expressing his joy for how EJ is developing. Im thankful I got to work with Eric while he was still here and hope he is resting peacefully.



Kristoff Warsaw - March 20 at 03:05 PM

AW

“There are no words that can truly meet a loss like this, but I pray you both feel surrounded, covered, and carried in this moment and in the days ahead.

Eric's life mattered deeply, and his light will continue to live on through the love he gave and the lives he touched.

I am praying that God wraps His arms around you both, bringing comfort, peace, and strength when it is needed most.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” — Matthew 5:4

I am holding you in prayer and love. ☐ 🙏

Alicia Wilson - March 20 at 02:43 PM

“ A channeled message from Erik:
3/20/2026 - 15(6)

Dear Doc, I am writing to you as the mother of your "daughter," Hana El-Erian Flores. I know your heart is currently navigating the "unnatural order" of loss—a transition that defies the logic we usually find in the world.

You always said that Math is what gives you goosebumps. In the quiet of this moment, I looked at the numbers of Eric's transition on 3/11/2026. They resolve to 15, and then to 6.

*In the language of the universe
, 6 is the number of the Caretaker. It is built from the 1 (the Pure Essence, the beginning) and the 5 (the Dynamic Force, the movement of life). It is the mathematical proof of a life lived as a bridge between the soul and the world. Eric, the "gentle poet" and counselor, was the ultimate manifestation of that 6—a caretaker of the spirit.*

I wanted to share a poem with you that we have been reflecting on. It is the Fairouz version of Ahwak, but seen through the lens of our shared "assignments."

أهواك بلا أمل... وعيونك تبسم لي

"I breathe you—without the need for hope—and your assignments smile upon me."

To "Ahwak" is not just to love; it is the involuntary act of breathing.

We breathe because we must, just as you gambled on UMBC because you had to. My father, Mohamed Fathy El-Erian, gambled his career at Michigan and GM to return to Egypt because he had to. I gambled my career as a Chief Engineer at 50 to walk my neighborhood with a "Zero Trash" mission because I had to.

And now, Hana is gambling her MIT brilliance on ALS because it is

her breath.

We all "breathe without hope" (بلا أمل)—not because we are hopeless, but because our mission is so fundamental that "hope" is a redundant variable. It just is.

Eric's manifestations (ورودك) are all around us. He is the "gentle poet" in the "all-knowing dimension" watching his father continue to breathe life into those of us who carry your "Focus Focus Focus" mantra. Hana survived a harrowing 2025 because of that mantra. She is now the regeneration—the next evolution of our family's "wager."

Thank you for being the 1 and the 5 that created the 6 for so many of us. We are breathing with you.

With deep respect and a heart wide open,

Hala Flores, P.E.

UMCP Engineering Valedictorian, Class of 1995

Hala Flores - March 20 at 11:46 AM

BC

“*Thoughts and prayers to the entire Hrabowski family. I can only imagine how great a man Eric was knowing how impactful his father was in my life. Sending strength from the Cohen family to yours.*”

Branden Cohen - March 20 at 11:20 AM

GY

“ Freeman and Jackie,

We are praying that God's perfect peace and unfailing comfort surround you and your family, holding you close during this difficult time. We trust in His promises and take solace in knowing that Eric's soul has returned to Him.

I thank God for the precious and meaningful moments you, Jackie, and Elijah were able to share with Eric. These beautiful moments will forever be a blessing and a gift.

Please know that we are here for you. "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). We are continually lifting you up in prayer and surrounding you with love.

The Slaughter Family

Gymama - March 20 at 10:15 AM

KD

“ For each thorn, there's a rosebud...

For each twilight - a dawn... For each trial - the strength to carry on,

For each storm cloud - a rainbow... For each shadow - the sun.....

For each parting - sweet memories when sorrow is done.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

My condolences for your loss. "...Joy cometh in the morn"

KeiLyn Durrel - March 20 at 10:08 AM

BG

Dear Freeman, Jackie and EJ-

It is amazing how GOD works in mysterious ways. His wonders never cease. He gave you the most beautiful day of your lives before He took Eric home with HIM. He let Eric share with you , as only he could, how he was ready to handle his transition from this earthly place to his heavenly home. He had already met with the MASTER before leaving his earthly body. He knew that he had been redeemed because the FATHER had assured him. He knew that you loved him deeply and that EJ was exactly where he should be because your love for him is just what he needs and what you and Jackie need. Eric had a huge heart, because he learned from you at a very early age, to do GOD's Will, GOD's Work, GOD's Way.

Eric is at peace. He knows that there is still so much for you to do here, but when you leave this earthly place, he will receive you with open arms.

*Your Sister,
Betty J Glascoe*

Betty J Glascoe - March 20 at 02:51 PM

NC

“ *The Brothers of the Nu Kappa Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha send our most sincere condolences to the Hrabowski family. May his memory always be a light in your heart and may God give you some comfort in your time of bereavement.*

Nu Kappa Chapter - March 20 at 08:09 AM

JC

“ Dear Hrabowski family, I'm praying for your peace and comfort as you endure this tremendous loss. I did not know Eric, but am moved by the heartfelt memories and retelling of his final moments. May the Holy Spirit surround each of you with gentleness, hope, and love.

Julia Casselle
UMBC, 2018

Julia Casselle - March 20 at 06:48 AM

KA

“ *Hrabowski family*
My heart is broken for all of you. I can only imagine how difficult this is for all of you. My prayer is for healing through this difficult time.

Kalonji

Kalonji - March 20 at 06:46 AM

SF

“ Dear Doc, Mrs. Hrabowski (Jackie) and Elijah,

I have been trying to find the words but there are simply none that can adequately express the ache I have in my heart for your loss.

As a family you have given so much to so many. What I am praying for at this time is that as you grieve the loss of your beloved son and father that you feel held by the love of those whose lives you have touched so deeply. Freeman, I have been blessed to call you my mentor and friend and when I have experienced losses of loved ones you somehow knew just what to say. Although I am still figuring it out, I do want you to know that I am holding you, Jackie and Elijah close in my prayers and heart and hope that you can feel how much you are cared for and loved not only at this time but always.

May God continue to hold you, bless you and guide you.

Love

Sharon Fries-Britt

Sharon Fries-Britt - March 20 at 12:37 AM

SD

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

We are saddened to hear the news about Eric. The grief of losing a child, no matter of what age, is the most profound loss either of us can imagine. We did not know Eric but we understand the joy he and Elijah brought to both of your lives and the space that he leaves behind to be filled now with memories. We hope that you, who have lifted up so many others over the years both at UMBC and beyond, will now be lifted up by the warmth of the community of people who love you and will be there for you. May his memory be for a blessing.

Sandra Dzija & Andy Miller

Sandra Dzija - March 19 at 11:22 PM

KL

“ *Freeman & Jacqueline: Our hearts are broken for you and your family in the loss of your beloved Eric. As long time friends, we have witnessed the deep love, joy, and pride you have always expressed for Eric and we can only imagine the weight of this grief. Please know that we are holding you, Elijah and your entire family close in our thoughts and that we are here for you in whatever way friends can be during such painful time. Eric's life, spirit and gifts will remain with all of us who have been touched — directly or indirectly — by your family. Only the passage of time will ease the pain. With all of our love and sympathy,*

Kofi, Nahuja, Faida, Juba & Mbeja

KOFI LOMOTÉY - March 19 at 11:10 PM

JP

“ Dear Doc and Fam,

I am sorry for the loss of your son. Please know that the UMBC community is a part of the fam too and is there for y'all.

Jayden Paige

Jayden Paige - March 19 at 10:42 PM



“ Dear Doc and Family,

Words cannot express the depth of sorrow my family and I feel for all of you at this time. As a bereaved mother myself, I am all too familiar with what you may be going through. Please know that our thoughts and prayers remain with you as you navigate this journey. I pray the beautiful and blessed memories of your beloved Eric will comfort you and bring you a bit of peace in the midst of this storm. May God wrap you in His loving arms as only He can.

Alycia Marshall

Alycia Marshall - March 19 at 10:04 PM

FC

“ I am deeply sorry for the heartbreaking loss of your beloved son.

May God surround you and your family with comfort, peace, and strength in this difficult time. I pray that He sustains you as you continue to live a life that honors Him and uplifts others, just as you always have. Please know that you are loved, and you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Fow-Sen

Fow-Sen Choa - March 19 at 09:55 PM

GB

“ Dearest Jackie and Freeman,

There are moments in life when words feel far too small for the depth of what the heart carries. This is one of those moments. To love a child for 50 years is to build a lifetime of memories—of laughter, lessons, pride, and quiet, everyday moments that become treasures. Eric was not only your son; he was your companion in life’s journey, a reflection of your love, your hopes, and your enduring devotion. The bond you shared does not end—it lives on in every memory, every story, every piece of who he was and who you are because of him.

Grief of this kind is profound, because the love is profound. And while the days ahead may feel heavy, may you find comfort in knowing that Eric’s life mattered greatly. He was here. He was loved. And he will always be a part of you.

May you be gently held by the memories that bring you peace, supported by those who care for you, and strengthened by the enduring love that will never fade.

With deepest sympathy, love and heartfelt compassion.

Ronnie (Room) and Gloria Belton

Gloria Belton - March 19 at 09:47 PM

JM

“ Jackie, Doc, Elijah, and family,

My heart is heavy as I process the profound loss of your dear son and father. May the radiance Eric brought into the world continue to emanate through your love. I trust Elijah will reflect that brightness into the world in his own way and in his own time.

May the strength, inspiration, and humanity you have shared with so many of us, your extended family, carry you through this dark hour.

I am holding you close in prayer, praying for strength when the weight feels heavy and for grace in the quiet moments of grief, trusting that Eric's light remains with you, steady and unbroken.

Josh Michael - March 19 at 09:27 PM

BL

“ *Words can not express the sorrow I feel for the Hrabowski family. Eric was truly blessed to have such wonderful parents, who imbued in him the values and empathy we all admire and aspire to. My prayers for all those that loved Eric are to find some comfort in the days to follow. Bill LaCourse*

Bill LaCourse - March 19 at 07:02 PM

PJ

“ Dear Jackie and Freeman,
I am holding both of you and your grandson close in my heart and prayers in this time of what I know is overwhelming grief. I am so glad that you spent Eric's last day together with great joy, a memory that will buoy you in the years to come. You have given so much to so many and now is the time to be surrounded by the love we all feel for you.

With a heavy heart,
Paula Johnson

Paula Johnson - March 19 at 06:32 PM

AM

Dear Doc and Family,
Words cannot express the depth of sorrow my family and I feel for all of you at this time. As a bereaved mother myself, I am all too familiar with what you may be going through. Please know that our thoughts and prayers remain with you as you navigate this journey. I pray the beautiful and blessed memories of your beloved Eric will comfort you and bring you a bit of peace in the midst of this storm. May God wrap you in His loving arms as only He can.

Alycia Marshall

Alycia Marshall - March 19 at 09:54 PM

TN

Dear Ones,
I am holding you in the Light. Your dearly loved child knows a mystery that cradled him before his birth and comforts him now.

Tim Nohe

Tim Nohe - March 20 at 08:38 AM

JM

“ Jackie, Freeman, and Family

Thinking of you during this time. May the memories that you have of the fun times with Eric provide some level of comfort.

*Sincerely,
Jeannette Mills*

Jeannette M. Mills - March 19 at 05:56 PM

DW

“ *Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski, I am praying for your family as you grieve during this difficult time. Although I was not fortunate enough to meet your son, your message about your last day together makes me believe that Eric's spirit will continue to be a beacon of light to all the lives he touched. May God's grace and your beautiful memories sustain you and bring you peace. Deb Webb*

Deb Webb - March 19 at 05:54 PM

NT

“ *Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski, I want to offer my heartfelt sympathy for the passing of your soon. I pray that the kindness and love you have shown to many people, including myself, is given right back to you, especially during this tough time. May Eric rest in power and peace. With love and light, Nicole Telfer*

Nicole Telfer - March 19 at 05:42 PM

NI

*son**

Nicole - March 20 at 12:09 AM

DP

“ Dr. Hrabowski, I taught at UMBC for 30 years. Several years ago I retired. I want you and your wife to know that I too lost my only son in 2012. It was the most devastating experience of my life. I can only tell you one thing I have learned in the ensuing years. One day, you will think of him with a smile on your face, despite the absence in your heart. I promise you that will happen. For now, please accept my most sincere condolences and, I can say this, I know the depth of despair you are feeling. In Judaism we say that he will live on forever in your heart. May that be true. Diane Putzel

Diane Putzel - March 19 at 05:31 PM

PR

“ Sending my warmest condolences to Dr. & Mrs. Hrabowski as you grieve the loss of your dear son, Eric. May he rest in eternal peace.
- Paula (alumni), Mike and Gabriella Reible

Paula Reible - March 19 at 05:29 PM

KF

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie,

Please accept our deepest and most heartfelt condolences on the loss of your beloved son, Eric. The message shared of your last evening together, spent as a family with Eric and EJ, was filled with such love and warmth. We pray this beautiful memory sustains you and brings you comfort. We also hold EJ close to our hearts and pray that he finds comfort in the love that surrounds him.

We will continue to keep you all lifted and ask God to wrap His arms of Divine Comfort around you. Please know that you are loved and held in fervent prayer.

May Eric rest in eternal peace.

-Kara Freeman and Charles Ross

Kara Freeman - March 19 at 05:04 PM

DL

“ Dear Jackie and Freeman,

We mourn with you and EJ and hope you find solace with every heart that grieves with you. Eric's days here were too brief. His spirit, however, was loving, complete, and bright. You will find Eric in the best of memories, and they will bring you comfort. You will also find him wherever there is kindness, an open heart, and an ear-to-ear smile. He is alive in your love and in the hearts of all those who love you.

Hold onto your faith, dear friends. Foster opportunities to enjoy poetry, music, and beauty as you did together. Know you are held in the light of the Divine and that God's grace surrounds you. So, too, does our deep and enduring love.

With sincere condolences,

Diane Lee

Diane Lee - March 19 at 04:47 PM

MS

“ *Although I never met Eric, reading through the tributes, and knowing what amazing people his parents are, makes me wish I had. It's such an awful loss, and my thoughts are with you, Jackie and Freeman, at this difficult time. Manil*

Manil Suri - March 19 at 04:44 PM

JC

“ *There are no words to express how sorry I am about your loss. I never had the chance to meet Eric, but he sounds like an amazing human being. Sending you an electronic hug and much love.*

Jessica Contreras - March 19 at 04:32 PM

DK

“ *In my prayers*



Denise Kedzierski - March 19 at 04:25 PM

FO

“ *Dear Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski,*

I am so sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and your family. I pray that God will comfort your family during this difficult time, and may the memory of your son live on.

Feyi Ojo - March 19 at 04:13 PM

MB

*My precious Cousins Jackie and Freeman,
You were the best parents to Eric as you presented him with opportunities, explored his many talents and exposed him to possibilities, truly Eric was Blessed to have both of you as his parents as you kept his wants and needs first and foremost. I'm in Prayer for you and our family as we adjust to this great loss.
Every football season, he would cheer for his Ravens and I cheered for my Texans; needless to say.... His Ravens beat the brakes off my team! And... Eric had jokey jokes that we both laughed, Eric always could crack me up! The twinkle in his eyes when he had a riddle, or told a joke or simply gave me a hug will be missed.
Eric called me "Auntie" and I loved it! As a historian, we would debate historical context imputing our variables to change the end product. Eric had the most interesting context; I posed some of his questions to my Vanguard history class. Watching my class predict the cause and effect was fun to us! Eric loved history as much as I do! I'll miss his thought process as he weaved historical significant events. Eric had the biggest heart, and could relate to people in need like no other and helping them through tuff times with positive energy, giving them hope, was his strength,
His style of dress, his smile, his jokes, his beautiful eyes, his playfulness, and words of encouragement will be missed. We live thousands of miles apart, when he called me, we would start talking where ever we left off.
Eric; give my mom, Mrs. Patricia Geeter Butler, my aunt, your grandmother, Mrs. Maggie Geeter Hrabowski, and Mrs. Gracie Geeter Graham, our Great Grand mother big hug..... Eric, I love you forever, rest in peace! Until we meet again.
May you enter into heaven.*

*Your Auntie,
Val
Mrs. Valerie Butler-Harris and family*

Mrs. Valerie Butler-Harris - March 19 at 06:35 PM

AJ

“ Dearest Jackie, Freeman, and Family,

Please know that God is with you during this time of loss as you mourn beloved Eric. May God's love bring you comfort, His peace steady your soul, and His strength carry you gently toward healing —and gratitude for the life Eric lived here on earth.

*Peace to you always,
Anita & Everett Jackson*

Anita Jackson - March 19 at 04:00 PM

HI

“ Truly sorry for your loss, President Freeman Hrabowski, and Jackie Hrabowski!

Hugues

Hugues Iradukunda - March 19 at 03:54 PM

VJ

“ My deepest condolences to the Hrabowski Family. Sending you all prayers for strength and peace at this difficult time. Eric's poem's ending "I am renewed, imbued with the passion of rebirth. I am worthy and so are you." , brings forth the many treasures of the heart that he built. I hope the joy of Eric's life gives you strength at this time.

Vandana Janeja - March 19 at 03:53 PM

VT

“ My sincere condolences for Dr. & Mrs. Hrabowski as you grieve the loss of your dear son, Eric.

Vi B. Thorpe - March 19 at 03:43 PM

DS

“ My heart and thoughts go out to your family at this time. May the memories sustain you during this difficult period - keep the love alive .

Debora Fajer-Smith

D Fajer Smith - March 19 at 03:36 PM

RG

“ Very sorry for your loss.

ROBERT F GIGGEY - March 19 at 03:31 PM

KE

“ My deepest condolences to the Hrabowski family. May God guide you through this difficult time and bless you.

Kedy Edme - March 19 at 03:06 PM

RU

“ My deepest condolences. May God provide you with peace in your time of sorrow.

Ruth - March 19 at 02:58 PM



“ Sincere condolences to Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski for such a great loss. May you have peace in the memory of that wonderful day with your family to help carry you through.

Candy Cangialosi - March 19 at 02:40 PM

MH

“ To the family may he Rest In Peace condolences

Mitro Hood - March 19 at 02:40 PM

AB

“ *My deepest condolences are extended to the Hrabowski family and friends. May God provide you with peace in your time of sorrow.*

Adrienne Brown

Adrienne Brown - March 19 at 02:38 PM

PM

“ *Sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved son.*

Paul Monteiro - March 19 at 02:35 PM

TB

“ *My deepest condolences. Praying for the Hrabowski family and all impacted by this loss.*

Terrelle Burney - March 19 at 02:32 PM



“ *My condolences to the Hrabowski family.*

Jason Robinson - March 19 at 02:27 PM

JO

“ *Your family is in my heart.*

jolene - March 19 at 02:25 PM

GR

“ *My deepest condolences. May all the good that you have done for others lift you as you have lifted them. God be with you!*

Govind Rao

Govind Rao - March 19 at 02:25 PM

LF

“ Heartfelt condolences to you and your family from Tiffany and Linda Fleet

Linda Fleet - March 19 at 02:23 PM

AB

“ Please accept my condolences on the loss of your son. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. May your memories of Eric be a light during the dark moments.

Ann-Maria Beard - March 19 at 02:21 PM

BJ

“ What an amazing and God-filled final day for a man who such a beautiful and dedicated father, son and soul.

Ben Jealous - March 19 at 12:12 PM

AL

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie, On hearing this news, Abby and I sat together reading and rereading the article about Eric's life. Amidst the sadness and loss, I started thinking about the two of you and the remarkable way you share and magnify love and connection. Eric is part of that. There is so much in the account of your day and evening together, in your enjoyment of poetry, in your making and sharing a meal. Our thoughts are with you, your family, and, especially, with EJ. Our love to all of you.

Anthony and Abby Lane

Anthony Lane - March 19 at 11:09 AM

DH

“ My prayers and love go out to Freeman, Jackie, EJ, and all the many people that Eric's beautiful soul touched. May he rest in power and peace in God's kingdom. Godspeed Brother.



David L Heiber - March 19 at 06:32 AM

AB

“ Our hearts go out to Jackie and Freeman Hrabowski during this time of profound sorrow. Please accept our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved son, Eric.

In moments such as these, we are reminded that even in our grief, we are not alone. “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18).

May you find comfort in God's abiding presence, strength in the love that surrounds you, and peace in the cherished memories that will forever live in your hearts.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Aminta and Melvin Breaux and the Bowie State University campus community

Aminta Breaux - March 18 at 11:48 PM

MB

“ Rest peacefully, Cousin Eric. Your brilliance, your depth, and the light you carried will never be forgotten 🕊️🕊️

Monica Bell - March 18 at 11:03 PM

TW

“ Dear Jackie and Freeman,

Words cannot fully express the sadness of this loss, but we were so moved by the story of your final day together. To work side-by-side and then end the night with a poem of gratitude is the most beautiful goodbye imaginable. It takes a special kind of person to share their parents with so many others, yet Eric did so with such grace and humility. We are grieving with you and praying for you to have peace as you mourn his passing while celebrating his life and legacy. We're especially thinking of EJ. His courage and love for his father are so evident and we're holding him in our prayers.

14 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3

*We love you,
Donald and Talithia Williams*

Talithia Williams - March 18 at 10:46 PM

EG

Please accept my sincerest condolences 🙏... what a tragedy... May God take your family through these difficult Times

Elma Garway - March 19 at 02:21 PM

PD

“ *Philip Daniel*

My prayer is that God will anoint the Angel Eric and he will continue to shine in all our lives.

Philip T.K. Daniel - March 18 at 10:01 PM

YA

“ If you had the benefit of spending more than 5 minutes in a room with Eric, you'd know how bright his light shone. I don't remember a time not knowing my dear cousin. His zest for life was contagious with an empathy and kindness well beyond his age. While I'm sad that I will no longer laugh with him in the physical sense, he left me with a lifetime of shared memories & moments that highlight his charisma, emotional intelligence and love for his family. I am also grateful that I get to see that light continue in his son, Elijah, who like his father possesses compassion, empathy and humor beyond his young years. ❤️

Yancey - March 18 at 09:58 PM

OS

“ I recall a few decades ago at a social gathering at my home during one of Eric's annual pilgrimages to Birmingham for the summer and as I was grilling he politely but with absurdness offered up tips for success.(especially shrimp 🍤😎) I've adhered to his advice every since👍🍷. He definitely has exceptional Culinary skills beyond the average Brother❤️🍷👤🔍🔍🙏
He inherited it honestly from his Loving parents, Jackie and Freeman❤️🙏

Ordrell Smith - March 18 at 09:08 PM

TM

“ Dear Jackie and Freeman,
We stand with you in grief at the loss of Eric. In this time of profound sorrow, I want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Eric's spirit and love will forever live on in the heart of your dear grandson, EJ, who is so fortunate to have you both in his life. May you find comfort in the embrace of God's presence, knowing that He walks with you in your grief, offering peace and strength. Please remember that you are not alone; your faith and the love that surrounds you will guide you through this unimaginable loss.
With our love and deepest sympathy,
Ted Mitchell and Dru van Hengel

Ted Mitchell - March 18 at 08:06 PM

VB

“ Dear Jackie and Freeman ,
Louis and I saddened to hear about your loss of Eric. I still remember him as a little fellow riding on his skateboard at one of our class reunions. He was a sweet little fellow and I can't believe he's gone so soon. We always talk about our Hampton family and this feels like the loss of a family member. You are in our hearts and prayers. Love you much.
Van &Tex class of 70

Vanessa Hunt Blount - March 18 at 07:19 PM

SJ

Dear Freeman and Jackie,

You have my deepest and most heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved son, Eric. I know that the depth of pain that comes with losing a child is something only those who endure it can truly understand. Still, please know that I am praying for you both; that you will find the strength, faith, and support needed to carry you through the days ahead during this devastating loss.

My heart aches for you as you endure such profound grief. Please know that you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers, and that you have my unwavering love and support.

Eric touched so many lives through his kindness and genuine care for others. Not only will family and friends feel his absence, but the wider community as well. So many were blessed by his willingness to listen and lend a helping hand.

I smiled as I read about your last evening together. What a beautiful gift you shared, a joyful and meaningful time, enjoying dinner and poetry as a family. May those cherished memories bring you comfort in the days ahead. Hold on to his smile until, in time, it brings you peace and allows you to smile again.

*With much love, always,
Sharon Guyton Jones*

Sharon Jones - March 18 at 09:53 PM

AR

“ I only had a sighting of a young Eric in the Summer of 2000 when I, along with several summer students, visited the Hrabowski home. A handsome young man walked by our small study group and we noticed his focus and pep. We instantly knew that must be Dr. And Mrs. Hrabowski's son. The loss of a child is extremely difficult. May his memory be a blessing to you both, EJ and your entire family during these challenging days, and always.

Akua Bonsra Roach - March 18 at 06:12 PM



“ *The unspeakable loss of a child, regardless of age, inflict wounds incomprehensibly deep requiring a strength that can only be imparted by the divine. Though I never met Eric, but know both parents from college, I know that their deep and abiding faith will provide the solace mortal words or actions cannot. Chantal and I grieve with you both.*

As God opens his arms to welcome your son; they also support you and EJ. Always know that we are here to support you three in any and all ways.

John and Chantal Brooks

John Brooks, Jr - March 18 at 06:04 PM



“ *Rest in light brother... Known Eric since Mt Washington. You will be missed man. Gone too soon. Love and Light*

James Collins Jr. - March 18 at 06:03 PM

JL

“ *May every rainbow remind you of Eric's light. May God give you courage to hold on and to go forward. We love you!*

Eric

(for Freeman, Jackie and EJ)

*As delicate as a whisper sucking a breath that will not be exhaled
until the light has come and gone*

*Until there is no more time and every whiff is beyond smoke and
miles and worries and any pledge to make it better than it was*

Find a whimper in a raindrop and never let go of it until it spreads

*Find a puddle making itself into more than anyone could ever
imagine it would be...*

Find a moment of laughter turning around without a wing or a prayer

*Find answers to whys embedded in sounds refusing to trample a
wish*

*Find hope for a life that steps and repeats reaching up then
reaching out*

With a heart of gold

an imagination of dreams

a resolve of steel

And you will find a rainbow unbound

ready to take to where it belonged

from the beginning.

- Judi Moore Latta

Judi Moore Latta - March 18 at 05:26 PM

BT

“ Dear Freeman and Jackie, our hearts are with you as you mourn the loss of your dear son. We pray for your comfort and peace during this sad and difficult time. May the memory of your beautiful last day together as a family continue to sustain you.
Sending our love,
Beverly and Travis Tatum

Beverly and Travis Tatum - March 18 at 05:26 PM

BV

“ Our hearts are filled with tremendous sorrow and regret for your loss. While we never had the chance to know Eric personally, we know the fullness and light that he brought to all of those he touched with his personality and wonderful spirit. During this incredibly difficult time, we send our deepest condolences. Your family is continually in our thoughts and prayers.
The Vinson family—Ben, Yolanda, Brandon, Allyson, and Ben IV

Ben Vinson - March 18 at 05:03 PM

KC

“ I never got the pleasure of meeting Eric. But, recently I got the pleasure of meeting EJ, who absolutely lit up the room with his presence so I can only imagine the light his father must have shone. To Dr. and Mrs. Hrabowski, I am so sorry for your loss. I pray (on my knees the way my grandmother taught me) everyday that you find the strength to carry on and your days are filled with love and light and positive memories of Eric. You both have been sources of constant inspiration, encouragement, and mentorship for me throughout the years. There isn't much I feel I can offer beyond prayers right now, but if even the smallest thing comes to mind... please do not hesitate to reach out. - Kizzy

Kizzmekia Corbett-Helaire - March 18 at 04:33 PM

KG

“ Eric held a very special place in my heart my “little brother” in all the ways that truly matter. Not by blood, but by bond, by love, and by the countless moments we shared that made him family to me. I will always cherish the memories his spirit, his warmth, and his presence that could light up a room and make you feel seen and valued. There was something so genuine about Eric, something that made you want to protect him, root for him, and simply be around him. Those moments, both big and small, will stay with me always. My heart is especially with Freeman and Jackie. There are no words for a loss like this, but please know you are surrounded by love, prayer, and support. I am holding you close and lifting you up during this unimaginable time.

And I hold Elijah close as well. Eric’s greatest legacy lives on in him, and I know it is on all of us who love Eric to surround Elijah with care, guidance, and unwavering love. He will always have a village, and I will always be a part of it.

Rest peacefully, my sweet “little brother.” Your love, your light, and your memory will continue to guide us.



Kim Mumby Green - March 18 at 04:21 PM

MA

“ Freeman and Jackie, I am holding you both in my thoughts and prayers during this heartbreaking time. Although I did not have the privilege of knowing Eric personally, it is clear from the love with which you speak of him that he was a gentle and deeply cherished soul. May his memory be a blessing, and may you find comfort in the love of family, friends, and community. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings

Maya - March 18 at 04:15 PM

YM

“ I remember discovering what a profound writer Eric was when he began journaling daily on FB. I remember being so drawn into his words and feeling moved by his expressions. I not only read every entry but found myself checking his FB page for new postings. It was clear what his gift was to this world and I'm thankful that he was willing to share it w us. I am forever grateful for his generosity.

Extending my heartfelt condolences to the entire Hrabowski family in this time of loss.

Yvette Mozie-Ross

Yvette Mozie-Ross - March 18 at 04:01 PM

PW

“ I first met Eric when my husband, Switzon and our daughters, Jacqueline (JT) and Maggie, visited the family at their home in Baltimore. Eric was 5 or 6 years old; Maggie of the same age and JT, 10. It was a day filled with wonderful conversation and food as well as fun activities - including riding horses. The memory of that day, especially of Jackie and Freeman's warmth and gracious hospitality - - and of meeting the little boy with exceptional intelligence, curiosity and energy - - remains with me to this day. Eric, may you have restful peace.

Patricia Moss Wigfall - March 18 at 08:33 AM

AM

“ I nicknamed Eric, "Pumpkin" when he was about 2 years old. He had a smile that could light up a room and a mind that never stopped wondering and asking questions. Dear God, thank you for the gift of Eric. Love to the family.

Allegra F McCullough - March 17 at 10:38 PM

MC

“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love, and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Life Tribute Center - March 17 at 02:58 PM