

## George Alfonso Rivers (1948-2022) Hometown Hero - 2020



George Alfonso Rivers was born November 13, 1948 to Harvey and Dorothy Bragg Rivers. He was the oldest of three children. His brother Jerome graduated from Howard University and retired from the State Police. His sister, Doreathea, is a graduate of Lincoln University.

George attended Mount Level Elementary and Southside Elementary Schools in Dinwiddie County. He began his high school career at Southside High School and transferred to Dinwiddie High School in 1965 as part of the *Freedom of Choice* initiative.

Following his graduation from Dinwiddie High School in 1967, George Rivers enrolled in Tri-State College in Angola, Indiana. He studied there for one year before returning home to help care for his mother who had fallen ill.

George's father was a boiler engineer on Fort Lee so when he returned home, George tended the family farm. When Sheriff Charles Mitchell needed a deputy, he approached George. This was during tobacco season and there was no way George could leave the farm, so he respectfully declined the offer.

In 1978, Sheriff Mitchell returned to the farm and offered George Rivers the position of jailor with the Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office; this time, he accepted. In 1986, after serving as a jailor for 8 years, Mr. Rivers graduated from the Crater Criminal Justice Academy and became a road deputy. It was this same year that George's mother passed, and he met Miss Magnolia Tucker. Magnolia was the daughter of a friend of his mother's and they met when Mrs. Rivers passed.

George and Magnolia were married in 1987. Together they raised a son, Harvey Jones and a daughter Dorothy Rivers. Mr. Rivers' step-son, Harvey, is a teacher in Petersburg and their daughter Dorothy Rivers Faltz works for Geico, and lives in Houston, Texas with her husband and two children Kingston and Mya.

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**Dinwiddie County**  
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In 1992, Deputy Rivers became one of the County's first DARE Officers. He taught the DARE curriculum to elementary school students throughout Dinwiddie County. When DARE was phased out, Class Action became the focus. This course was taught at the high school level and educated students on the legal process from start to finish.

In September 2002, George Rivers achieved the rank of Master Deputy. He continued to lead high school students through Class Action and served as a member of the Dinwiddie Youth Commission. He mentored sixth grade students through the Challenge 2000 program and made presentation to local churches the law, drugs and safety. Master Deputy Rivers was instrumental in establishing the County's first-ever Bicycle Patrol, which is still active today. He helped to establish and organize Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out activities in the County. In 2005, Master Deputy Rivers was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and placed in charge of Courthouse Security. Lieutenant Rivers retired from the Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office in 2016, after 30 years of service.

George Rivers is a member of Sharon Baptist Church and his pastor is Reverend Terry Norman. He is Chairman of the Diaconate Ministry and sings in two choirs. He continues to be an active member of the community and is a member of the TRIAD and the Southside High School Alumni Association. He volunteers with the Dinwiddie County Food Bank and feeds the hungry in Petersburg through the Benedict Club.

In his free time, Mr. Rivers enjoys traveling with his wife and enjoys watching westerns.

Sheriff D.T. "Duck" Adams nominated Mr. Rivers for this honor and in his nomination stated, "George Rivers' determination to make Dinwiddie a safer and better community is shown in his compassion and work ethic. We are forever grateful for George and his many years of service to our great community."

Mr. George Alfonso Rivers passed away February 10, 2022 at the age of 73.