Ernest C. Starker Memorial Athletic Scholarship
being established at UVa-Wise

Fellow Highland Cavaliers Kent M. Grant ’97 and Rodney D. Stanley ’97 have teamed up to raise funds to establish a scholarship fund in honor and memory of their dear friend and classmate, Ernest C. Starker. Starker passed away unexpectedly on May 1 after a short illness. At the time of his passing, Ernest lived in Largo, Fla. and had been making a difference in the lives of young athletes who affectionately referred to him as “Coach E.” His good work will live on in the lives of the student-athletes who have been inspired by his coaching skills and his nurturing nature.

Ernest was a member on the College's inaugural 1991 football team and the 1995 NAIA National Playoff team. While a Cavalier, he made his mark as a defensive back, but wowed the fans with his electrifying punt returns and even set a single game rushing record in 1993 while playing running back. In addition to an impressive football career, Ernest was also a two year starter on the Cavalier basketball team.

In a letter to UVa-Wise friends and alumni, Grant and Stanley write, “We are all saddened by the loss of our dear friend and are rallying together to establish a scholarship at UVa-Wise to honor his legacy and captivating spirit. The Ernest C. Starker Memorial Athletic Scholarship Fund will benefit deserving student athletes.”

This scholarship will memorialize Ernest and will forever be a tribute to him. There is no greater way to honor him than to help future generations with a scholarship bearing his name.

Those wishing to contribute to the fund can do so in a number of ways including online, monthly by bank draft, credit card, cash/check, or by pledge which would be billed as directed by the donor. Checks should be made payable to UVa-Wise Foundation, Ernest C. Starker Memorial Athletic Scholarship and mailed to UVa-Wise Foundation, 1 College Avenue, Wise, VA 24293. To make a gift online, go to: http://www.uvawise.edu/giving/online

For more information, please contact UVa-Wise development staff members Valerie Lawson (276.376.4523) or Bill Wendle (276.376.3434).