

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Speaker 1 ([00:04](#)):

There you go, sir.

Chris ([00:05](#)):

Hey, how are you all doing? My name is Chris.

John Paris ([00:07](#)):

I'm John Paris.

Flip J Harris ([00:08](#)):

My name is Flip J Harris, everybody calls me Stacks.

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Group ([00:11](#)):

And we have 4722 Liberty Heights Avenue.

Flip J Harris ([00:14](#)):

The name of the store is Barbara's Groceries.

John Paris ([00:16](#)):

Barbara's Groceries, the cheapest prices in town. Make sure you get out here.

Flip J Harris ([00:20](#)):

Barbara, was my stepmother.

Chris ([00:24](#)):

She passed away.

Flip J Harris ([00:25](#)):

And we pay homage to our relatives who have passed away.

Chris ([00:29](#)):

To put their name on a billboard outside.

John Paris ([00:33](#)):

And that's just what we do. We just like to pay homage.

Chris ([00:36](#)):

So they'll never be forgotten, that's a beautiful thing.

Flip J Harris ([00:40](#)):

We put our funds together and...

Chris ([00:41](#)):

We just decided to take a chance...

John Paris ([00:43](#)):

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And we dug in and got it done.

Chris ([00:46](#)):

It's not even a job, this is my dream.

Flip J Harris ([00:48](#)):

It's a very refreshing feeling to be in control of your destiny.

John Paris ([00:53](#)):

Pride of ownership man, that's what it's about. Not have to really answer to nobody but us.

Flip J Harris ([00:58](#)):

We've lived a life to where we know how certain stories end, and we trying to write an end to a whole different story. We're not three Harvard graduates. We graduated from the streets of hard knocks. So that's a whole different program and if you can survive that program, you deserve to treat yourself to something like this and live the rest of your days comfortable not chasing something that is elusive and imaginary.

Thank you brother, you have a good one.