



Charles R. "Chuck" Kuester

February 18, 1950 - January 9, 2024

Our friend and brother Charles R. ("Chuck") Kuester had the good fortune to die peacefully In Christ on January 9, 2024 while at home with his best friend and wife of forty-two years, Carrie Hatchett Kuester.

Chuck played many roles in the lives of those he knew, loved and encountered. First and foremost, however, Chuck loved Jesus and professed his faith to all he knew and met. Even more importantly, Chuck confessed his faith acknowledging that he was a sinner saved by Grace. He routinely expressed the joy that salvation brought him and delivered him into the waiting arms of Jesus last Tuesday.

Chuck was born in Helena, Montana on February 18, 1950 to Richard Kuester and Emily Hamill Kuester. Raised in the State of Washington, Chuck's sensibilities and manner of speaking were as refreshing as they were direct in the Southeast where he lived for the last five decades. Chuck proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was a combat veteran in Vietnam for the greater part of four years. A true patriot, Chuck's service to Our Country was reflected in his love for Our Homeland but also in his thoughtful assessment of the Union following his years of service.

He met and then married Carrie on March 17, 1981 and lived in Savannah for a time before following Carrie to live together in Hendersonville, North Carolina in 1982. While in Hendersonville and at the age of forty-four, he became a psychiatric nurse and with tenderness and empathy, took great care with his patients who were often marginalized or misunderstood. In

Hendersonville he and Carrie enjoyed splitting time between their condominium downtown and their delightfully rustic mountain cabin near the Big Hungry River. While in Hendersonville, Chuck and his good friend Lug were mainstays on Main Street where they enjoyed long walks punctuated by frequent stops along the way allowing Chuck (and particularly Lug) the opportunity to maintain Lug's local celebrity status with adoring fans. Chuck experienced his conversion that would define the last decades of his life in Hendersonville on September 26, 2004. Chuck became an active and steadfast member of Covenant Baptist Church and loved his pastor and fellow congregants. He also loved serving others through Baptist Disaster Relief while in North Carolina.

Valuing the relationships with his family as he did, he again moved with Carrie to Baxley in 2016. While in Baxley, Chuck quickly endeared himself to an entirely new segment of people who were fortunate to know him. Chuck and Carrie attended First Baptist Church where he served as a past deacon and Sunday School teacher. Chuck volunteered as a greeter and assisted with Vacation Bible School. As with Covenant Baptist, Chuck was a welcoming member and constant presence in the church and loved and supported his pastor together with those in his congregation.

In Baxley, Chuck fully embraced his expanding role as a representative of and helper for Santa Claus, volunteering to frequently stand-in for his look-a-like during the Big Guy's busiest time of year. In this role, Chuck relished the opportunity to encounter the children of Appling County both in their schools and at Winter Wonderland where he met many children who had no other opportunity to convey their Christmas wishes to Santa in person.

Chuck was a self-styled "bon vivant" in his later years. A pioneering proponent of free-range escargot, he enjoyed sumptuous foods prepared by Carrie and his family and a libation on occasion. He also found great enjoyment in sport preferring to watch hockey and little boy baseball over more frivolous contests.

Preceding Chuck in death are his parents, his mother and father-in-law Pat

and Robert Hatchett of Deland, Florida, nephews Thomas and Grant Hatchett of Brunswick, and his previously-identified famous furry friend Lug, Chuck's beloved Welsh corgi.

Carrie survives Chuck sorrowfully while assured she will see him again. He is also survived by his sister Pat Lively, brothers-in-law, Tom (Cindy) Hatchett of Baxley, Russell Hatchett of Cocoa, Florida and Marty (Susan) Hatchett of DeBary, Florida. Surviving him also are nieces Cristen (Graham) Floyd of Baxley, Caroline (William Nicholson) Hatchett of New York City, and nephew Russell "Rusty" (Sandra) Hatchett, Jr. of Cocoa, Florida. He was thankful to have special cousins Laurie Ryan and Bob Ryan living in Baxley and they too survive him. Important to Chuck were his surviving grandnieces and grandnephews including Camille Floyd, Robert Floyd, Eliezer Hatchett, Rebecca Hatchett and Chuck's very close companion and confidant, grandniece Charlotte Floyd.

A service celebrating Chuck's life will occur on Tuesday, January 16. The family will host visitors from 1-3 p.m. with the service following at 3 p.m. that same day. Both will take place at First Baptist Church in Baxley. Following that will be an interment at the Georgia Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Glennville on Wednesday, January 17 at 10 a.m.

Scheduled officiants include Chuck's longtime pastor, Branton Burleson of Asheville, North Carolina, his current pastor, Fred Anderson, and a convocation of Reverends: Donnie Butler, Steve Meguiar, Joe Ferguson and Robert Wigley.

Active pallbearers are Tom Hatchett, Marty Hatchell, Russell Hatchet, Bob Ryan, Graham Floyd, and Robert "Bob" Tanner. Honorary pallbearers include the members of the Charles Hart Sunday School class and the staff of the VA North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System

Carrie asks that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to a charity of your choice or to Samaritan's Purse (www.samaritanspurse.org) which provides spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world, a cause near to

Chuck's heart.

Tribute Wall



“ Nobles Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles R. "Chuck" Kuester



Nobles Funeral Home & Crematory - January 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Condolences to you Carrie and family. I just watched the video and what a beautiful tribute. I worked with Chuck and Pardee Hospital as a fellow RN from 93 to 95. My fondest memory was when Santa Clause came to visit us at a large Christmas party at our home in Weaverville, NC. There were many kids and they were so excited that he had come to see them. One older girl pulled hard on his beard (to see if it was real, Ouch!). He was a good man and I'm sorry to find out he left a few months ago before we could re-connect. Take Care, Doug Spires

Doug Spires - May 28, 2024 at 02:53 PM

NE

“ I cherish the times that Chuck and I shared together in psychiatry and just being friends. I will remember him with his beloved Carrie and Hendersonville's downtown ambassador, Lug. My love and prayers are sent to you dear Carrie.

Noreen Elshaw - January 20, 2024 at 03:33 PM

LR

“ My grandchildren adored Mr. And Mrs. Claus. And to think they are our cousins. My youngest is 17 and she will go neck and neck if anyone tells her there is no Santa. Because our whole life there has always been one. I asked chuck "what do I do about children who don't believe, he said he would answer any letter sent to him. He believed everyone should be a believer and have hope in their life. I will miss him. Laurie Ryan

Laurie Ryan - January 16, 2024 at 07:40 PM

JS

“ Joe Scarlata has purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Charles R. Kuester

Joe Scarlata - January 15, 2024 at 10:00 PM

JS

“ Carrie, my family is saddened by the news of Chuck's passing. Sad because he will be missed. Chuck was one of a kind. Chuck was a humble and gentle soul, he was encouraging and gracious, yet, never compromised the truth of God's Word. The last time I saw Chuck was this past summer, we both knew it would be our last. I am thankful to God for you both. Chuck is no longer in pain. He absent from the body and present with his Lord. Chuck was a gift.



Joe Scarlata - January 15, 2024 at 09:41 PM

DD

“ Chuck will be dearly missed , he and Carrie were and are dear friends and always be. We have many fond memories including Chuck being Santa Clause and Carrie and Chuck being a big part of First Baptist , always involved in the activities and services .



Duncan and Brenda Dukes - January 15, 2024 at 04:03 PM

KS

“ Kaye Tefel Care Solutions has purchased Essence of Heaven for Charles R. Kuester

Kaye Tefel Care Solutions - January 12, 2024 at 04:55 PM

KT

“ Hi this is Kaye. Everyone here at Chuck's old place of work that became lifelong friends are just so sad for us but happy for the Heavenly journey that we know Chuck is on. I am so blessed to know that he is a child of Jesus and that I will definitely see him again one day. Carrie we love you and the family and are holding you up to the throne with prayers. We will definitely donate to the Samaritans Purse but don't be surprised if you get flowers too. We could never do enough to express our love and loss.

Kaye Tefel - January 12, 2024 at 04:47 PM

KC

“ Prayers for the Family! So sorry for your loss! Praying God's comfort over you during this time



Kansas Crosby - January 11, 2024 at 10:41 PM

JC

“ Carrie I'm sorry to hear of Chuck's passing.
Praying for you and your family Love Janice



Janice Craven - January 11, 2024 at 05:32 PM

PL

“ Oh my dear brother, If anyone could get a rise out of me it was you. If there was a laugh to be had you could find it. Although we lived very different lives from a distance, our phone check-ins were filled with reminiscing about our shared childhood and antics. One of my favorite memories was when I visited you and Carrie in Asheville at your cabin. You and I were sitting on your porch, it was raining and the sound was luscious. You had the music turned up (Etta James) and your parrot, Dorian, was dancing. You put your hands behind your head rocking in your rocking chair and almost at the same moment we both said: "This is the life". Love you, Sis

Pat Lively - January 10, 2024 at 08:00 PM

PL

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If anyone could get a rise out of me it was you. If there was a laugh to be had you could find it. Although we lived very different lives from a distance our phone check-ins were filled with reminiscing about our share childhood and antics. One of my favorite memories was when I visited you and Carrie in Asheville at your cabin. You and I were sitting on your expansive porch, it was raining and the sound was luscious. You had the music turned up (Etta James) and your parrot Dorian was dancing on the railing. You put your hands behind your head rocking in your rocking chair and almost at the same moment we both said: "This is the life". Love you, Sis

Pat Lively - January 10, 2024 at 07:51 PM

RD

“ Ryan & Jenn Deal has purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Charles R. Kuester

Ryan & Jenn Deal - January 10, 2024 at 04:21 AM

KS

“ We send our love and prayers for strength and peace to the many who love sweet Uncle Chuck. We are so privileged to have known him and blessed to carry forward such wonderful memories of him.

Kristin, Gemma & Stella - January 10, 2024 at 02:12 AM

LS

“ Love, Kristin, Gemma & Stella has purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Charles R. Kuester

Love, Kristin, Gemma & Stella - January 10, 2024 at 02:09 AM

ST

“ Even though we were not blood relatives you will forever be Uncle Chuck. Always there for us with a laugh, smile, and that Chuck wisdom. Michael and I will always be grateful for passing on the Cox camper, boy did we have some good times camping. You will be forever missed and I know Lug is glad to have his Dad again. Love you Uncle Chuck!

Stephen Tanner - January 10, 2024 at 02:05 AM

MT

“ MK2 Michael Lee Tanner has purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Charles R. Kuester

MK2 Michael Lee Tanner - January 10, 2024 at 01:25 AM

MT

“ *There's not much a coastguards man can say to a marine without him smiling, but at the end of a few bourbons we both know the pain we all endure. Thank you for everything you have done for me, our family and this great country. I'll be there to salute you one last time so I can feel that smile shining down and we will all have a bourbon on pitty pat lane and watch the planes fly over. Love you uncle Chuck.*

MK2 Michael Lee Tanner - January 10, 2024 at 12:58 AM