



Melvin Charles

September 7, 1934 - June 23, 2010

Mr. George Melvin Charles, Jr., age 75, passed away Wednesday, June 23, 2010. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 11 AM at the Gatewood School Gymnasium in Eatonton, GA with Rev. Mike Willard officiating. Interment will follow at 2:00 at High View Cemetery in Gray.

The Family will receive friends on Wednesday at the Gatewood Gym from 9:30 until the service hour.

Mr. Charles was a native of Gray, and grew up in Greensboro. He spent the majority of his administrative career as Headmaster and football coach at Gatewood School and Headmaster and President of Savannah Christian Prep. He retired in 2000, and spent the past 10 years with the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. He was the son of the late George Melvin Charles, Sr. and Margaret Bonner Charles of Greensboro, GA. He was a member of Liberty Chapel.

He is survived by his wife Sandra Lowe Charles of Eatonton; sons Chris (Lisa) Charles of Eatonton, Craig (Debbie) Charles of Cincinnati, OH, and Les (Carol) Charles of Albany; Grandchildren Katie Tucker, Kevin Charles, Jared Charles, Mary Margaret Charles, Christina Charles, Lindsey Charles, Haley Charles and Jenna Charles; and Great Granddaughter Claire Tucker.

For those who wish, Memorial Contributions may be made to Gatewood School in Eatonton, Hospice Care Options of Milledgeville or to the American Cancer Society.

Williams Funeral Home of Eatonton in charge of arrangements. (706-485-3303)

Tribute Wall



“ A truly good man of God and football coach...My brother Keith and the guys on his team thought the world of Coach Melvin Charles....Everyone who had a connection with Coach Charles is a better person for knowing him...

Charles Winslette - January 18, 2024 at 04:44 PM



“ I am a preschool teacher at SCPS in Savannah, GA.,I would like to offer my heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Mr.Charles.I did not know him well,but I know he was a man of integrity and honesty,he will truly be missed!##imported-begin##Lynda bird##imported-end##

August 31, 2010 at 06:23 PM



“ Our prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##btrosejr##imported-end##

August 18, 2010 at 03:43 PM



“ Mrs. Charles,

Our deepest sympathy at the lose of Mr. Charles. Please know that you and your family are in our prayers.

Love,

Cindy##imported-begin##Cindy Venne##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 05:30 PM



“ Coach Charles always stopped by to see me when I coached in Augusta. I played against his teams from Gatewood and Jonesco....He was a very good Coach but a greater person! I was blessed to have known him!##imported-begin##Bruce Lane##imported-end##

July 22, 2010 at 10:05 PM



“ Mr. Charles was a wonderful and kind gentleman who meant so much to all of us at SCPS. My son had the privilege of going to school under his leadership, and he hired me as a Spanish teacher in the Upper School. Please know how much we will all miss him and his smile, but he left no doubt at all about where he will spend eternity. Sherry Leblang##imported-begin##Sherry Leblang##imported-end##

June 30, 2010 at 09:58 PM



“ We are one of hundreds that were touched by Bro. Charles' ministry. What an awesome legacy he left to you and your children and to all who knew him, his life was a beautiful testimony of faith! May the Lord be glorified as we honor Brother Charles' life! We love you!##imported-begin##Steve and Ruth Larson##imported-end##

June 30, 2010 at 04:02 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time. May God's grace be with you all.##imported-begin##John and Alina Walker##imported-end##

June 30, 2010 at 01:29 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. Lisa##imported-begin##Lisa Fuller Marshall##imported-end##*

June 30, 2010 at 08:56 AM



“ *card4|family##imported-begin####imported-end##*

June 30, 2010 at 07:35 AM



“ *Mrs Charles, I want you how much I enjoyed knowing Mr Charles. I was a teenager when I went to church with you guys at Trinity downtown. I loved to hear Mr. Charles preach. It was like I was right there when he would tell a story and preach. I know Jesus welcomed him with open arms and I'm so thankful for his Christian example in my life.*
Much Love!##imported-begin##Meredith Page##imported-end##

June 29, 2010 at 09:54 PM



“ *Mrs. Charles,*
We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. Charles was a great man. Missy was at SCPS from the age of 2 yrs old through the Class of 2005. It was a pleasure to know both of you there.

Clyde, Jane & Missy##imported-begin##The Munn Family##imported-end##

June 29, 2010 at 08:56 PM



“ Craig, we are praying for you and your family. Thinking of you during this time and sending much love.

Love,
Kevin, Jen, and Carter###imported-begin##The Landreth
Family###imported-end##

June 29, 2010 at 11:36 AM



“ Ms. Sandra & Family,
We were so sorry to hear about Ms. Charles. Our deepest sympathy and thoughts and prayers go out to you in the weeks to follow. Praise God and take care of our Brother in Christ. We love you.###imported-begin##Van & Diane Hanson###imported-end##

June 29, 2010 at 06:51 AM



“ Sandra and Family, Our thoughts and prayers go out to each and every member of the Charles family. Mr. Charles will be greatly missed. My father grew up knowing him and my aunt was at Willow Run with Mr. Charles' mother. Margaret Charles enjoyed looking forward to my son coming and sitting with her and talking about school and listening to her stories about life. God needed another special angel and now he has 3 in heaven, Coach and Mrs Charles and Melvin. He is at peace.

Jan and David Hallman, Josh and Robert###imported-begin##Jan
Hallman###imported-end##

June 29, 2010 at 06:14 AM



“ *Mr. Charles was the very first principal under whom I taught. He made a very young, northern girl as nervous as the students, but I always knew what a great and caring man he was. I think of Mr. Charles every year at Christmas as I unpack the ornaments given to me by the staff at SCPS Middle School. I have fond memories as I hang the brass filigree church ornament from this wonderful man. And my favorite memories are of him walking down the hallway, carrying/returning my classroom bunny with a stern look on his face and a HUGE twinkle in his eye.##imported-begin##Jackie Pickering##imported-end##*

June 29, 2010 at 12:19 AM



“ *May wisdom and peace visit you in your time of loss, Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
We will remember Mr. Charles most for the wonderful son he raised Les Charles. Love Eric, Donna, D.B. & Darrius##imported-begin##The Brown Family##imported-end##*

June 28, 2010 at 11:42 PM



“ *Sandra and family,

I graduated from Greensboro High with Melvin and he was a good friend. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Love, Carolyn Bryan Taylor
Warner Robins, GA##imported-begin##Carolyn Bryan Taylor##imported-end##*

June 28, 2010 at 03:26 PM



“ Thinking of each of you and remembering you in our prayers. I am so sorry for your loss. I am thankful to have known Mr. Charles!##imported-begin##Rena' Mapp Pope##imported-end##

June 28, 2010 at 12:52 PM



“ Mrs. Charles, Know that my prayers are with you. Mr. Charles was the best boss that I have ever had. I worked for him from 1987-2000 . I am still working at the school,where I had the honor of knowing him and you. I know that Mr.Charles is in the portals of Heaven.With all my prayers.Patricia (Pat) Sikes##imported-begin##Patricia (Pat) Sikes##imported-end##

June 28, 2010 at 12:31 PM



“ The American Cancer Society would like to express its heart felt condolance on the passing of George Melvin Charles, Jr. Our hopes and prayers are with the Charles family in this difficult time.##imported-begin##American Cancer Society##imported-end##

June 28, 2010 at 11:23 AM



“ Dear Sandra & Family,

I'm sorry for your loss but I know Melvin is in heaven watching Mrs. Charles dance in her red high heels. He was a wonderful son to his mother. She told me he never missed calling her every day. Melvin said a prayer to bless Willow Run as a facility when he brought Mrs. Charles in as our first resident July 17, 1998.

You and your family are in the prayers of the residents and staff of Willow Run.##imported-begin##Judy Hodnett##imported-end##

June 28, 2010 at 08:38 AM



“ Thank you, Mr. Charles, for your wisdom, patience & caring. You touched my life in so many ways and I know that I am a better person for having known you.##imported-begin##Ann Cardwell Tyson##imported-end##

June 27, 2010 at 02:43 PM



“ 90-formation right; 8-23 cross-buck; and that vaunted 5-3 defense -- oh, precious memories. Little did we realize back then that the lessons you taught us on those hot August evenings and cool autumn nights would be so valuable. Thank you Coach for those lessons, the example you set, and for those wonderful memories.##imported-begin##Robert Tyson##imported-end##

June 27, 2010 at 02:36 PM



“ We are sorry for your loss. Mr. Charles was a great man and will be missed.

SCPS '91##imported-begin##Rick Ganas##imported-end##

June 27, 2010 at 09:57 AM



“ Mr. Charles will be truly missed by the whole Gatewood family. He really inspired each student in the Class of 2010 with his speech at graduation. He will be truly missed.##imported-begin##Michele Butts##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 10:43 PM



“ I attended Savannah Christian when Mr. Charles was the principal there. He was a good man and a blessing to every student. He will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Vickie Godley Decker##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 10:00 PM



“ Mr. Charles will greatly be missed. He was truly a respected man that earned his respect. I will never forget my days in his office and the serious looks that he gave. He was a hard Headmaster at Sav'h Christian but we all respected him. I am truly sorry to hear that he has passed. My prayers go out to the family.##imported-begin##Tiffany Metts-Gibbs##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 08:21 PM



“ To the Charles Family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Charles as my principle at Savannah Christian Middle School and then as headmaster at the High school for many years. He was a man who demanded respect and expected a lot from his students. I am grateful for that. My favorite memory is Wednesdays for chapel- he would start at the left of the gym and walk to the middle and by the time he got there, the entire place was silent. That is just one example of his silent strong authority. I know he was a man of faith, I hope he is at peace and has found comfort with God.##imported-begin##Lauren DePue##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 06:49 PM



“ Sandra & family, what wonderful testimonials to Melvin. I am sure that will bring you comfort in the difficult days ahead. Love, Anne & Charles##imported-begin##Anne Stewart Smith##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 01:30 PM



“ With Deepest Sympathy from the 1960 Class of Monroe High School. Sincerely, Charles Sanders, Class VP##imported-begin##Charles F. Sanders##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 10:47 AM



“ card5|family##imported-begin####imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 10:40 AM



“ He was Great Man and Will be missed##imported-begin##Roger Smith##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 10:14 AM



“ Les,
We're so sorry for your last and know you and your family are in our prayers.##imported-begin##Glenn & Beth Westberry##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 10:00 AM



“ Mr. Charles could say more with one stern look than others can say with hours of dialogue. Many students at SCPS strived to avoid being sent to his office where they would squirm under that unflinching glare. He was firm but fair and young people respected him, although they may not have realized it at the time.

He was a joy to work for and made all of the faculty feel like family. He always gave wise counsel and he was trusted, admired and much loved. I feel privileged to have known him.

May God bless you and your family Sandra. Please know that you are in our prayers and our thoughts.##imported-begin##Ruth H. Mathis##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 09:44 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family. I went to Savannah Christian from middle school - 10th grade. Mr. Charles was a wonderful man.##imported-begin##Susan Downs Ellenwood##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 09:25 AM



“ I have never met someone who is so motivating and loving!! There were some days that "non" of us wanted to come to school....but somehow Mr. Charles made it better...or okay!! He always had a smile and a helping word to get each of us through the day!!! GOD sent an ANGEL when HE sent Mr. Charles...and thank you GOD for Mr. Charles because he helped me every day!!!##imported-begin##Whitney Lane##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 02:44 AM



“ My three children went to Savannah Christian School under Mr. Charles. I hold him in very high esteem and wish his family well. We will remember you all in our prayers.##imported-begin##Gail E. Prevatt##imported-end##

June 26, 2010 at 02:11 AM



“ My Mom Ann T. Blanchard taught under Mr. Charles and admired him dearly. I too had the fortune of teaching under him at Sav'h Christian. He was truly a blessing to us both. Mrs Sandra you and your family have been in my prayers.##imported-begin##ANNETTE BLANCHARD##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 10:17 PM



“ Our sympathy goes to the family but we all remember Brother Melvin's dedication and love for the Lord and for people. Sandra know that we have you in our prayers. God bless you, keep you, make His face to shine upon you and give you peace.##imported-begin##Tony & Myrna Maddox##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 09:41 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was a great man, headmaster and above all a Godly man.

SCPS '96##imported-begin##Mandy Tramell##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 04:09 PM



“ We are so sorry about the passing of Melvin. He was such a tower of strength and friend to so many. He loved his high school classmates as we all did him. We are so glad that he was able to attend and thoroughly enjoy our double class reunion last year. May God richly bless and comfort you, Sandra, and the family at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Tom & Miriam McKinley##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 02:09 PM



“ He will be deeply missed...My best memory of him is the one Saturday he spent driving me to Macon to compete in a Regional Spelling Bee. We talked most of the way up and he bought us lunch at a Shoney's. At the time, I was a little upset about having to go there on a weekend, but as I grew up, I began to realize and appreciate what Mr. Charles said and did. He definitely 'talked the talk and walked the walk'. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Gerald Cook

SCPS '89###imported-begin##Gerald Cook##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 02:00 PM



“ Dear Sandra and Family,
I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Charles was such an inspiration to all he touched. He scared the kids (and me) to death, but we loved and respected him greatly because we knew that deep down under that tough exterior, he was a sweet, kind, spiritual man who loved as big as his voice. My two children, Mara and Jake, have turned out to be wonderful adults, and I give some of the credit to Mr. Charles. I will always remember the eagle picture in his office with the saying, "I AM smiling". I know he is smiling in Heaven right now. I love you! Diane###imported-begin##Diane D. King##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 01:46 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Charles and family,
What wonderful memories we have of Mr. Charles and his association with SCPS! That smile he tried to hide but it shone through his words and his actions. He was a truly leader of adults and children! He will be missed###imported-begin###Melodie M. Moore###imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 12:31 PM



“ Les,

Sorry to hear about the loss of your father. From his picture, I can definitely tell where you got your personality from. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

God Bless,
Steve Milani###imported-begin###Steve Milani###imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 10:40 AM



“ We will be there to celebrate your husband and daddy's life.....isn't it awesome knowing that he is talking to the Lord face to face....and no more pain...praises....he will be with you now more than ever...when you feel that "poke" you will know that it is him talking to you.....love to all!###imported-begin###Jimmy & Luann Williams###imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 10:15 AM



“ Please accept our sincere condolences during this time of loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.##imported-begin##Felix & Andrea Revills##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 10:04 AM



“ Mr. Charles was an inspiration to all who were lucky enough to be involved in his life. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you!##imported-begin##Vikki Lundy Drawdy##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 09:34 AM



“ He taught me well and will always be remembered fondly.##imported-begin##Beverly Bishop##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 09:01 AM



“ I never had the privilege or opportunity to meet Mr. Melvin, but I always heard great things about this man. If he set the life trends that his son Les follows, then he was an awesome man. Les, know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you during this time.

Love ya,

Bubba##imported-begin##Bubba Ivey##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 07:42 AM



“ I met Mr. Charles in the summer of 1984 between 7th and 8th grade when he was just starting at the middle school on Derenne. I recall his intimidating presence, yet kind demeanor and felt like he was the type of person that wouldn't let a student stray too far from what he considered to be "the right thing to do." In fact, he wouldn't let you stray at all.

During our sophomore year, we were notified that Mr. Charles would be taking over as Headmaster and we collectively groaned because of his strict principles. Over the next three years we developed what I believed to be an improbable, mutually respectable relationship. Mr. Charles frequently sought me out over the homeroom speaker in his most distinctive voice, "Matt Too come to the office." Typically to ask questions about "who broke the bus window?" or "how many days do you seniors need off to keep from rolling the school with toilet paper?" He bargained for "one tree and one day." While he didn't necessarily think that I was or would be the culprit, he understood that I likely knew who the culprits were. I believe that because he had known me since the first day he walked onto campus he could trust me although I would not always have the answers he wanted.

During football season, he would give us inspirational pep talks that focused on sportsmanship and personal improvement. "Hit 'em and help 'em up" " The difference between Champ and Chump is yoU" I still remember these words and the moments that he said them. As kids we would joke about these talks but as an adult they have come be to guiding words of wisdom that I keep as a reminder of what I consider to be "the right thing to do."

I admire Mr. Charles for his courage, devotion, and commitment to his family, friends and students and will truly miss him.

With Sympathy and Respect,

Matt Toole###imported-begin##Matt Toole###imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 04:05 AM



“ To a great man, coach, and mentor turning us boys into men you will be well missed sir. Our prayers will be with all the family members God Bless from the Collis family as coach would call me SPANKY.##imported-begin##Jimmy N Collis##imported-end##

June 25, 2010 at 01:22 AM



“ card3|fh##imported-begin####imported-end##

June 24, 2010 at 10:39 PM



“ To the entire Charles family,
We were so sorry to hear about Mr. Charles's death. What an amazing life he led and the impact that he has had on so many lives is astronomical. He is sitting on the right hand of our Lord now and what a wonderful picture that is. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you!##imported-begin##Mike and Kerry Chambers##imported-end##

June 24, 2010 at 10:16 PM



“ Sandra & Family: We are so sorry to learn of Rev. Charles passing. We pray the love of God embraces you during your time of sorrow and may the love of family and friends be of comfort. Sending heartfelt sympathies, love and prayers##imported-begin####imported-end##

June 24, 2010 at 04:29 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Mr. Charles was the headmaster of JHA when I was in kindergarten. On the 1st day of school, my twin brother was crying so he held our hands and walked us to our building.##imported-begin##Elaine Osborne Page##imported-end##

June 24, 2010 at 03:52 PM



“ Sandra and family, You are in our thoughts and prayers. We feel so deeply for your loss. God bless you.##imported-begin##Sarah & Richard Powers##imported-end##

June 24, 2010 at 03:28 PM