



Allen J. Burch

March 6, 1946 - July 25, 2015

Allen J. Burch Sr.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland in March 1946. Allen spent four years in the Air Force. Most of the rest of his life he worked for the government, retiring as Chief Engineer for the IRS Television Studio. Allen leaves behind a wife, Lucinda, two children a daughter Rebecca and son in law Michael of Leesville, Louisiana and a son Allen Jr. of Hoboken, New Jersey, six grandchildren and two brothers, Lawrence and Robert both living in Baltimore, Maryland. During his life he greatly enjoyed gardening, computer technology and working on antique clocks.

Donations may be made on line to LaMancha Animal Rescue or mailed to LaMancha Animal Rescue Box 656, Unionville, Pennsylvania 19375.

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *My brother was always a gentle person. Growing up a positive influence in my life. We were altar boys together at St. Michael's parish with Larry my oldest brother. He encouraged me in my decision to join the Air Force where he was already serving. I will miss him and am comforted knowing he's with Mom and Dad.*
Robert Burch

bob burch - August 16, 2015 at 03:39 PM

MD

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mark Davis - August 16, 2015 at 10:18 AM

MD

Mark Davis and Allen on "the courtroom set" at the new Crystal City studio.

Mark Davis - August 16, 2015 at 10:34 AM

MD

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mark Davis - August 16, 2015 at 10:16 AM

MD

Allen and Larry Holmes in the control room of the original studio in the mid-seventies.

Mark Davis - August 16, 2015 at 10:33 AM

MD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mark Davis - August 16, 2015 at 10:09 AM

MD

The Original Crystal City TV Crew - Rick Jackson, Joe Hood, Mark Davis, Larry Holmes and Allen Burch

Mark Davis - August 16, 2015 at 10:31 AM

MD

“ I met Allen in 1975. Graduating from high school the previous year, with an interest in television production, and the good fortune to get a job with the IRS TV studio, I was filled with questions. Allen's patience and kindness were genuine. He took the time to explain things and teach not only me, but anyone that was inquisitive of the technology and studio operations . I remember he also loved gardening, and shared his knowledge, and the produce of his green thumb as well.

We worked together for 11 years, and during that time we outgrew our two room studio in the basement of building six in Crystal City Virginia. It was an exciting time when we moved into our new studio in Crystal City in a different building at street level. Allen's guidance and great sense of humor made the task of wiring the studio and new control room, building new control consoles and mounting the equipment an experience that was fun and enlightening.

We would occasionally travel to produce training videos at other locations such as the Brookhaven Service Center on Long Island, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia and others. Packing, shipping, unpacking and setting up the equipment and lighting at these various locations was quite a chore. And forgetting a piece of equipment or even a cable could be disastrous given our tight time constraints. Allen was fastidious with his checklists every step of the way guaranteeing another successful production, with nothing left behind.

There were the extracurricular, non work activities as well. My wife Louise (Peach) and I had the pleasure of attending many after work get togethers with Allen, the rest of our crew and other IRS coworkers. It really was like a big family. We joined Allen and other coworkers on a camping trip in Pennsylvania where we went Whitewater rafting. He and I chatted over our CB radios during much of the trip. Somewhere I have a picture of Allen at a Halloween party dressed as a bunch of grapes from the Fruit of the Loom commercial that was running at that time!

And he made stuff. I still have a little circuit board mounted in a plastic box that Allen built and gave to me. When you connect it to a battery it emits an inaudible sound that repels mosquitoes. Another time he built a variable delay module and helped me connect it to the windshield wipers of the first car I ever owned. Back then cars didn't come with windshield wiper delays. It worked like a charm.

While we didn't hear about the retirement party in time, I feel so fortunate to have been able to visit Allen on his last day before he retired. Peach, Jon Gausman (another member of the Crystal City studio crew) and I had a wonderful time. Allen gave us the complete tour of the New Carrollton studio and introduced us to his coworkers. We enjoyed reminiscing about the "good old days", how the technology has changed, his son Allen, and daughter Becky who I met when they were kids. He also spoke joyfully of Lucinda, and about their island in Canada.

I gave Allen a hug when we left, making loose plans to stay in touch, and to get together again, as people often do. I regret missing that opportunity. He was such a kind, and gentle man. My thoughts and prayers go out to you Lucinda, Becky, Allen and loved ones.

Mark Davis

Mark Davis - August 16, 2015 at 09:55 AM

LA

“ *I would like to send my prayers and condolences to Allen's family. I worked with Allen many years ago at IRS in Crystal City. I have nothing but great memories of him.....he was a kind and gentle soul. May he be in peace with God!*

*Laura Askew
Former Co-Worker*

Laura Askew - August 07, 2015 at 12:05 PM

LO

“ Lucinda and family,

What a wonderful man, Allen Burch. As so many have said before me, Allen was such a kind gentle soul, very diplomatic and with an understated, hilarious sense of humor. We all learned so much from him...patience, dedicated work, have fun while getting the job done, calmness under fire, and so much more. We loved him for his complete goodness.

Even though I missed his retirement party, my good fortune was that Allen emailed me and a couple of other folks a few days before he left to let us know he moving on to greener pastures! Allen and I scheduled to get together so I could wish him well and say goodbye. I surprised him with my husband, Mark, and another former studio colleague, Jon Gausman, when we all showed up at the studio. We had a wonderful visit, a thorough tour of the studio and lots of talk about the things he had been working on, the good ole days, Lucinda and family and your island in Canada. He showed us his retirement party video and he just glowed...he loved it, we did too!

Lucinda, I am so sorry to hear of Allen's passing and hope wonderful memories will sustain you and the family now and always. I am so thankful I crossed paths with Allen in my lifetime and will always hold fond memories of him and our 'TV crew' from back in the Crystal City studio days.

Louise aka Peach

Louise - August 04, 2015 at 08:09 PM

LH

“ I had the pleasure to work as Allen assistant at the IRS Television Studio until 1985, and then I became the Engineer at the Dept. of Agriculture. I know for a fact that it was Allen’s guidance that helped me to grow into the position I have today, I still used some of the skills I learned from him. He will be truly missed.

Larry Holmes - August 04, 2015 at 03:29 PM

IH

“ To the Burch Family:

I am offering my deepest sympathy after hearing of the passing Allen. I also was an IRS employee at the time I met Allen in the 1970’s along Rick Jackson. As an after school employee, I would be asked to go to the G-1 level and work in the studio on projects. It was Allen’s calmness and reassurance that put me at ease while; I was learning and working the teleprompter and other equipment.

I also had the pleasure of spending after work hours with Allen, Joe & Mary Hood, Larry, Louise & Mark, and other co-workers after a long week of working. Great camaraderie we had as a group. Allen’s warm smile, charismatic always were present. AB was a great man to have known. I will treasure all the fond memories I have of Allen.

Family, May all your wonderful memories of your loved one stay with you Today, Tomorrow and Always!

Ida Highsmith

IH - August 04, 2015 at 11:07 AM

LH

“ *Larry Holmes lit a candle in memory of Allen J. Burch*



larry holmes - August 03, 2015 at 08:02 PM

CF

“ I met Allen in 1978 when I started working for IRS while I was still a teenager in high school. My real job was the receptionist for the Methods, Media and Services Branch located in CP-6 in Crystal City, Virginia. However, my best days "at work" were always those that involved interaction with Allen, Mark, Joe, Larry, Bob, Roger, Dave, Louise, Barbara, Frances, Jack and so many others I have since forgotten. I loved to venture over to the TV Studio -- that crew was nuts! But it was guaranteed laughter and comraderie always! I learned to catalog the huge rolls of film; I learned to run the teleprompter; I think I was even an extra in a couple of the training videos. Allen was super cool, calm, collected, nice, sweet, kind, friendly and always willing to help!!! When my boss told me that I was being moved to the downtown DC office, I cried and cried... I didn't want to go... Fast forward 25 years ... I became the servicewide program manager and had a need to again interact with the IRS TV Studio -- which had long ago been moved from Crystal City to New Carrollton, Maryland. Imagine my surprise and my joy to discover that a part of my past was still around! It was absolutely wonderful to reconnect with Allen. He loved to tell others that he had known me since I was a kid!!! :-) He was still the same calm, kind, gentle, always willing to help soul that I met oh so long ago! I was sad as I found out about his illness and extremely joyful as he returned to work feeling great! I had mixed emotions when he decided to retire, but I was happy for him as he decided to leave on his own terms! Lucinda, and family - Thank you for sharing him with us! He was a gift indeed and I am better because I got to know him! Charmaine (Thrower) Franklin

Charmaine Thrower Franklin - August 03, 2015 at 02:05 PM

DO

“ Lucinda, I am so sorry for your loss and hope you are comforted in the fact that he had so many friends and co-workers that loved and respected him. More than almost anyone I have known, he had a love for life and for dealing with people that few could match.

Allen was probably the first person I ever met in the TV Studio - I talked to him about this job announcement in Crystal City in 1987 and decided to apply and my life changed forever. We spent hours over the years talking about anything and everything - he was just such a nice guy. He had the kindest disposition of anyone I've met - I have never seen him close to raising his voice. No matter how many odd requests for technical help or information I had, he was patient in his advice and so knowledgeable. He basically built that TV Studio in Crystal City and New Carrollton and he and Carl were like Batman and Robin in keeping that place going, no matter what kind of insane deadlines or requests would come in for production services. There would be no TV Studio if it weren't for him.

He loved his gadgets and was the first to buy digital cameras, the latest computers, and knew intuitively how they worked and could give you advice on buying and fixing them. He loved his wife and would talk about her often. His eyes would light up when talking about his beloved Canada home and how he basically built and maintained it - I could tell he took great pride in that and couldn't wait to get up there each summer - it seemed to be his happy place. He was such a well-rounded guy - I admired the hell out of him and will miss him greatly.

I'm sure I speak for everyone, co-workers past and present, and just anyone that interacted with him, in saying this is a terrible loss personally and professionally. Saying he will be missed is an understatement.

Don - July 31, 2015 at 11:42 PM

JO

“ I will always remember Allen as a quiet, soft spoken, gentle soul, who chose his words carefully, and always extended his friendship. You could just look at his facial expressions and reactions, and know exactly how he felt about someone or some problem, without him speaking a word.... and all the while he maintained his polite "Allen" demeanor. Allen would be the first one at the television studio in the morning, holding his morning coffee. If you even hinted that you were curious about his coffee, he'd offer to make you some. If you needed a napkin, or a fork, or just about anything...rubber bands, Whiteout, sugar, Allen had it. He was his own "general store", willing to give anything he had, including his time, including his smile, his friendly encouragement. I was blessed to know such a wonderful soul man, and one day, we shall meet again. My condolences to his family. May your grief be eased by the recollection of all the memories he left for you.
John ONeal

John ONeal - July 31, 2015 at 04:28 PM