



Charles Joseph Colgan Jr.

March 28, 1949 - October 20, 2020

Charles Joseph Colgan, Jr., (Chuck) passed away after a long illness in the comfort and care of his daughter's home on October 20, 2020, surrounded by his family.

Chuck was born in Washington, D.C., on March 28, 1949, to Charles and Agnes Colgan. After the family settled in Prince William County, Chuck graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in 1968. Enlisting in the United States Army, Chuck was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, serving in Vietnam as a combat photographer in 1969 and 1970.

Upon his discharge, Chuck returned to Prince William County, where he was hired by Commonwealth Telephone Company and retired from the Verizon Corporation after a 30 year career. He then went to work for the family business, Colgan Air, as Director of Recruiting where he spent ten years.

Chuck was active in veteran causes, and was a member of American Legion Post 10, where he had served as Post Commander, he was a founding member and President of The Freedom Museum and helped raise funds for the war memorial at Freedom Park at the McCoart Complex in Woodbridge and he was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents, State Senator and Mrs. Charles J. Colgan, Sr.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Patricia Jones Colgan, three children - Charles Colgan III and wife Wendy, of Nacogdoches Texas, Shannon Colgan Diaz and husband Diego, of Manassas, and Virginia Colgan Rose and husband Patrick of Gainesville, and 11 grandchildren, Sarah, Fletcher, Paris, Thomas, Noah, Angela, Annabelle, Allison, Alonso, Olivia, and Dominic. .

The oldest of eight children, Chuck is also survived by his seven siblings. Ruth Willis (Robert) Michael Colgan (Julie), Ray Colgan (Lisa), Mary Finnigan (Pat), Dorothy Chaplin (James), Patrick Colgan, and Timothy Colgan (Colleen).

There will be a viewing at Pierce Funeral Home on Sunday from 3-5 pm and Mass of Christian Burial at All Saints Catholic Church at 10:00 am on Monday, with burial at Stonewall Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Freedom Museum, 10600 Harry J Parrish Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110

Cemetery Details

Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 368-4500

Graveside Services

OCT **26**. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Stonewall Memory Gardens
12004 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

Tribute Wall

LH

“ My name is Lloyd Holder. I was a combat medic with the 4th Infantry Div in Vietnam. I am trying to track down an old photo that Vietnam Combat Photographer Chuck Colgan took in late 1969 or early 1970. There was an article with the photo. I have both but very faded over the years so am trying to see if there are any better copies out there somewhere. The title on the photo is "His Wounds Are Treated." The title of the article is "Kit Carson Scout Aids in Weapons Cache Find." If there is any chance of duplicating the article and photo I would be forever grateful.

LBHolder99@gmail.com
916-768-3421

Lloyd Holder - February 03, 2023 at 08:53 PM

PJ

“ Chuck was a really nice guy. My late husband knew him in high school and talked about what a nice guy he was. I got to know him when his brother married my sister. Rest In Peace, Chuck.

Patti Johnston - October 26, 2020 at 06:20 PM

PJ

“ Patti Johnston lit a candle in memory of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr.



Patti Johnston - October 26, 2020 at 06:14 PM

DC

“ *What stands out to me about Chuck was he was a kind person! Ready to take a picture of an event and years ago showed me the many pictures of things at work which was at his home just happen to stop by and enjoyed going through them and this was many years ago! Enjoyed that very much and the picture you took of my daughter of her holding a yoyo at the company picnic! Thanks, Chuck! Donnie Edward Carter and family! GOD, COUNTRY, AND FAMILY! GOD BLESS YOU!*

Donnie Carter - October 25, 2020 at 09:53 AM

JP

“ The following is from Chuck's dear friend, Jim Porter:

My Friend, Chuck Colgan Jr.

When I was notified that Chuck had died, I was struck by feeling of sadness and loss I was not expecting. I have always known Chuck in the context of his signature accomplishment, the Freedom Museum. As I reflect on our friendship, I realize our experiences transcend our work at the museum and I am drawn to those things that reveal on the size of his generosity and big heart.

Chuck's world view was shaped by the love of his father, his family, and his Viet Nam Service. When I first met him, we were at the dedication of the Prince William military memorial, in 1998. My function was to provide the JROTC color guard for the ceremony and I did not realize until later that Chuck worked on the research for the names on the memorial. Chuck cared that these men were remembered for their service and sacrifice. For him it was an act of patriotism and loyalty. As a soldier himself, he experienced the loss of friends and acquaintances and he felt a personal responsibility to the greater Manassas families that their fallen loved ones should be memorialized.

It was in this patriotic spirit he created the idea and assembled the personnel and money to startup the Freedom Museum. Chuck knew how to mobilize the assets of the community and focus them on his idea of creating a museum that honored the servicemen and women that lived here.

In spite of all his health challenges He called me almost every week to see what he could do to promote the museum by using his contacts, his ideas, his time, and his talent. He never gave up and he persevered to the very end. One of his last requests was to visit the museum that he loved one more time. Accompanied by his family, pushed in his wheel chair, he traveled up and down the isles of the museum, stopping in the Viet Nam section and looked at his correspondents camera displayed in the case there, and the pictures that he took so long ago. He revisited the memories, the

pictures of his mom and dad and the friends he served with in the museum.

When Chuck and I last met in the basement of his daughter's house, I asked him if we could pray together. He could not speak by then, but he crossed himself and nodded that he was ready. I prayed a short prayer that asked God for His peace for Chuck. When we were finished and said amen, he crossed himself again, smiled and nodded his head. I believe Chuck was a good Christian and he did find peace in the end. He loved his family and all who knew him will miss him. He was a good dad, a good family member, a good friend, and a good man.

James Porter - October 25, 2020 at 09:45 AM

“ *My Friend, Chuck Colgan Jr.*

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Mary Finnigan - October 25, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 25, 2020 at 08:44 AM



“ *RIP Chuck. Many good memories - all include mischief and laughter.*



Jo Bauserman Duke - October 24, 2020 at 07:28 PM

PJ

“ *Patti Johnston purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



Patti Johnston - October 24, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 24, 2020 at 11:59 AM

JG

“ *Charlie and family,
I'm so sorry for your loss. Deepest sympathy to all of you. Your Dad was a great man. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.*



Julia Geris-Light - October 23, 2020 at 11:08 PM

RB

“ *Robin Corle Bast lit a candle in memory of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr.*



Robin Corle Bast - October 23, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 23, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 23, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 23, 2020 at 09:57 AM



“ *Colgan family*
So sorry for your loss. I remember working with Chuck at the phone company and had many memorable times with him. He took the picture of the lineman up the pole that won him an award . I remember well that cold and windy morning in Nokesville. And I remember he had a plaque on his wall at the phone company about his pot. About his helmet from the army days. My condolences to his family.

A Jay Lowe - October 23, 2020 at 09:49 AM

EK

“ *Colgan Family:*

I and Chuck graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School (Class 68). A great Man! A Great Friend! Great American! Service his Country when it wasn't popular! Play Football & Wrestling @ Stonewall Jackson High School! Very special person for his time!

*Eugene Kiser
1968*

Eugene Kiser - October 22, 2020 at 06:48 PM

MB

“ *To Pat, family and all Colgan. This must be a very difficult time for all of you. I remember how much fun it was for my family to visit the Colgans or have them visit my family when we were young. Sometimes I felt like a big sister not just cousin.*



Mary E. Beck - October 22, 2020 at 02:29 PM

LH

“ *Love, Richard, Joy, Kori and Austin Hill purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



Love, Richard, Joy, Kori and Austin Hill - October 22, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 22, 2020 at 02:07 PM



“ *Dear Pat and family, I send thoughts and prayers to you all. I pray also for Charles that he may now Rest In Peace. Cousin Kathryn*

To my Colgan Cousins, I remember our visits as children and the great love that existed between your Mother Agnes and her brother Joe (my Dad). I know what it's like to lose a sibling, no matter how ill they were. I send my love and prayers to each of you. Kathryn Ann

Kathryn Footen Ekstrom - October 22, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ *To the Colgan Family, We are sorry to hear of the passing of Chuck We hope you take great pride & joy in his service and all he has accomplished and all the memories you hold of him. I know we will. You will be in our thoughts and prayers, that God will give you his peace and comfort in this hard time.*

Kevin & Alice O'Donnell - October 21, 2020 at 05:34 PM

KW

“ *Mary,
Our deepest condolences to the family!
We pray Gods comfort, strength and peace as you celebrate the life
and memories of your Brother.*



Kevin & Meschelle Williams

Kevin & Meschelle Williams - October 21, 2020 at 03:26 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the
family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 21, 2020 at 03:07 PM

MG

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Colgan family. You are in our thoughts
and prayers.*

Maury & Vera Gerson

Maury and Vera Gerson - October 21, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..*



October 21, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Joseph Colgan Jr..* ”



October 21, 2020 at 02:28 PM