



Charles Jarrett Patterson

February 14, 1926 - August 10, 2021

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It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved Charles Jarrett (Pat) Patterson. He died unexpectedly Tuesday afternoon, August 10, at his home in Manassas, Va. He and his wife were enthusiastically discussing plans for the day as well as the day's Washington Post. This was a daily ritual Pat thoroughly enjoyed (even if the news portion was not enjoyable).

Pat is survived by his adored and loving wife of over 41 years, Diane Elmore Patterson. He also leaves his beloved children from his first marriage; sons Sam and Doug Patterson and daughter Charlene H. Kuykendall. His grandchildren are Dena P. Pyle, Tiffany Patterson, Matthew and Adam Higginbotham. Pat was known as great-granddaddy to Claire, Lucy, Jillian and Bedane Higginbotham as well as Leah and Allison Pyle. All the grands and great-grands were dear to his heart. He was Uncle Bubba to numerous nieces and nephews in the family circles in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, and California.

Charles was a valentine from the day of his birth in Dothan, Alabama. He was the oldest child of Frank A. and Mary Lou Whatley Patterson. His brother, Franklin and sister, Mildred had difficulty saying "brother". Thus his nickname throughout childhood and in family circles was "Bubba" in sibling-speak.

Franklin Patterson and Mildred Patterson Andrews preceded their brother in death.

When Pat and Diane Elmore married on January 13, 1980 he became more than an in-law in her family. He was much loved and cared for by all of his new family. Over the more than 41 years of their marriage the many family and extended family bonds of love with Pat grew even stronger. Those grieving Pat's passing include Diane's brother Danny and his wife Delma Elmore, their son Brant Elmore and his wife Jaimie. Leighann Elmore was a special niece to Pat. He always told her how proud he was of her and that calling him "Uncle Pat" was his best Valentine Birthday greeting. Pat is also survived by great-nephews Logan and Benjamin Elmore.

In 1943 while in high school Charles volunteered for the school military delay program enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was called into active service in September of 1944. He had gunnery training on B17s, B24s, and finally as a tail gunner on B29s. He was awaiting assignment to the Pacific theatre when the war ended. Charles was always thankful to "Uncle Harry" for ending World War II. Prior to his honorable discharge in 1946 his duties included running the base newspaper. He was very proud of his 3 ½ years in the U.S. Army Air Corps in service to his country.

After military service Charles married Lucy Hartley. They and their 3 children were long-time Alabama residents. Charles and his family were active in The Church of Christ with him taking leadership and lay ministerial duties. He also was known for his beautiful speaking and singing voice. When Charles moved to the Washington, D.C. area he continued his connection with The Church of Christ. After Pat and Diane married and moved to their Manassas home they were active in Emmanuel Baptist Church for many years. They became associated with the Manassas Baptist Church and in the past decade added St. Thomas UMC to their church involvements. The associations and friendships formed in these over 41 years were special to Pat and Diane and they cherished them. Pat's faith was a constant in his life.

Charles appeared destined to become a newspaper man. He began his career in printing and newspapers at the ripe old age of 14. He worked part-time (after school, weekends, and summers) in his dad's printing shop. That

was the beginning of his life-long love of not only the printing process but the power of words well used. Reading was always one of his favorite pass times. Throughout his life he enjoyed learning and was a voracious reader interested in diverse subjects. Charles continued his education at Jefferson State Junior College with an Associate of Science degree in Management-Business. His career in the newspaper business began with his hometown paper, The Dothan Eagle, before he joined The Birmingham News where he spent the major portion of his career. After leaving Birmingham he worked for The Washington Post, The Miami Herald, and then The Washington Times until he retired at age 67.

Retirement not being his natural state, Pat started his second career as a volunteer with the Prince William County Hospital Auxiliary. He worked at Annaburg Manor and Prince William Hospital in various labors of love. With more than 27 years of service he was the longest serving volunteer with the auxiliary. He was looking forward to returning to active duty to work with the many dear friends he made there. All who met Pat or knew him recall his kindness, caring, and ability to entertain with stories. He was considered a true example of a southern gentleman. At the hospital everyone called him "Sir Charles". His wife "Lady Di" notes that he thrived on doing for others and the attention paid to him was a side benefit.

Pat did not create a "bucket list" as such, but he had a number of sayings he liked.

You can smile with your eyes even if you are wearing a mask.

Live as if you would die tomorrow. Learn as if you would live forever.

Be grateful. Be of service. Be kind.

Know joy in your life. Bring joy to others.

Love.

Charles Jarrett Patterson - a well-lived life as one of the Greatest Generation and an example of why that generation earned its name.

He is missed beyond measure, with love unending, Diane.

Thank you to all who are supporting the family with your expressions of sympathy, and most of all, your expressions of love for Pat.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **19**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JM

“ My heart felt sympathy goes out to Diane, their family and friends. Pat was a sweet, kind man and I know that he will be missed terribly. Sending prayers and love.

Janie Markley
Tracey Jenkins' Mother

Janie Markley - August 19, 2021 at 05:27 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Charles Jarrett Patterson.



August 19, 2021 at 09:43 AM

JK

“ We had the pleasure of 26 years with Sir Charles as a volunteer with the Auxiliary at Prince William Medical Center. Words cannot express how grateful we are for his dedication and service to our patients and staff. Sir Charles was an inspiration to us all and he will be dearly missed.

Jude Kelly - August 18, 2021 at 06:51 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Charles Jarrett Patterson.*



August 18, 2021 at 12:49 PM



“ *You will be greatly missed. We all have many fond memories of you as a neighbor and an extension to our family. Lots of Love & Blessings, The Flear Family*

Lisa Flear - August 18, 2021 at 09:24 AM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Charles Jarrett Patterson.*



August 17, 2021 at 01:54 PM



“ *Once in a while we are fortunate enough to meet someone in our lifetime that we know from the very first meeting that they are very, very special. For me that someone is you. You are special in more ways than I can describe. I send Prayers and Love to help comfort you Ann*

Ann Griffin - August 17, 2021 at 01:35 PM

MC

“ *The smell of pipe tobacco lingering in the air will always bring memories of Charlie working in the yard (of course, the pipe was needed to keep the mosquitoes away, lol). As newbies in the neighborhood over 30 years ago, Diane and Charlie welcomed us immediately with open arms as an old friend or family member.*

While his loss was not unexpected, the loss of a long time friend and neighbor reminds us that life is like a clock and no one has the power to know just when the hands will stop so live life as the hands will never stop....

The Catlett Family, Wayne, Mary & 'Sam'

Mary Catlett - August 16, 2021 at 09:39 AM