



Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier

October 27, 1924 - September 23, 2018

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 1:00 P.M. at Holy Ghost Catholic Church, 732 N. Union St., Opelousas, LA for Charles Clifford Chenier, 93. Charles Clifford Chenier was born October 27, 1924 in Opelousas, Louisiana to his loving parents Theodore and Alberta Chenier. He was called home on September 23, 2018.

Charles lived an amazing life; one full of love, lifetime experiences, and family. He is most remembered to the public as one of the last surviving “Red Tail” Tuskegee Airmen who served in the 332nd Fighter Group during World War II. For his service he was recognized by the President of the United States with the Congressional Medal of Honor, by the United States Congress, the Governor for the State of Alabama and a host of local organizations. Charles would often recall that even while he fought for his own country, he was still in a battle for his own civil rights. In fact, he was responsible for transporting students and community members from Tuskegee to countless civil rights demonstrations throughout the State of Alabama. His passion was demonstrated by his sense of service to his home communities of both Tuskegee and Opelousas.

Over his lifetime, Charles served in various leadership and administrative positions. He began his professional career as a physical education instructor and basketball coach at D.C. Wolfe High School. He also worked within

governmental agencies such as TICEP, the State Health Department, the Tuskegee Job Corps, and was instrumental in the creation of the Alabama Head Start Program. He was also a master welder who instructed Veterans in the art of welding at the Veterans' Trade School prior to his post-secondary education.

Charles maintained an undying love for all things sports. He was an avid fan of Tuskegee University Football, served as an honorary coach and was also the team's official time keeper. He coached basketball for St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School and could always be expected to know the latest NFL, MLB, NBA and College Sports Statistics.

If you know Charles, you know that he is a proud graduate of Tuskegee Institute and that he received his Master's Degree +30 at New York University. Despite those accomplishments his greatest pride was his three loving daughters. Charles was married to Margaret Develle Wright in 1951 and from that union Deborah, Brenda, and Lois were born.

All of this was witnessed most evidently at the many church and civic functions that Charles attended. He was a parishioner, usher, and member of the Son's of St. Joseph at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Tuskegee and helped to spearhead several fundraising efforts for the congregation.

Upon the death of his first wife, Charles returned to Opelousas and later married Sonja Robinson where he embraced the role of step-father to Sonja Ann Gennuso.

It was often said that Charles "never met a stranger," and could talk about anything under the sun, including his love for music. He attended Holy Ghost Catholic Church and was active in the local chapter of the Knights of St. Peter Claver. Charles was an active member of the Opelousas community until his

health declined in his twilight years. Even during his bouts of sickness, Charles was a shining example of love, laughter and life. He had an uncanny sense of humor and would keep those around him lifted up with laughter. The family requests visiting hours be observed on Friday, September 28, 2018 from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M., at Williams Funeral Home, Inc., 817 E. South Street, Opelousas, LA, 337.942.2037. Visiting hours will resume on Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:45 P.M. Share words of comfort with the family of Charles C. Chenier on his Permanent Life Tribute Page at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife of forty-nine years Margaret Chenier and his daughter Deborah Hughes (Samuel, deceased). Charles will be remembered fondly by his family: his wife of sixteen years Sonja Chenier; daughters, Brenda E. Washington (Aaron), and Lois M. Chenier, step-daughter Dr. Sonja Gennuso Bradford (William), granddaughter Jessica H. Bennett (Eric), great-grandson Eric Samuel Bennett, and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins and loved ones.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Wounded Warrior Project in memory of Charles C. Chenier.

https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/default.aspx?tsid=10201&campaignSource=ONLINE&source=BS18011&gclid=Cj0KCQjwuafdBRDmARIsAPpBmVXnmDkk835pl1dJyer91D48nUw-NjyUm6nXL_iLo-ssFL3Zi0gh0RUaAtYvEALw_wcB

Cemetery Details

Serenity Memorial Park

7231 Hwy. 31
Opelousas, LA
jacquelyn_a@yahoo.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **28**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Williams Funeral Home - Opelousas
817 East South St.
Opelousas, LA 70571
(337) 942-2037
williamsfuneralhomes.1932@gmail.com
<https://www.williamsfuneralhomes.net/>

Visitation

SEP **29**. 8:00 AM - 12:45 PM (CT)

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817 East South St.
Opelousas, LA 70571
(337) 942-2037
williamsfuneralhomes.1932@gmail.com
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Service

SEP **29**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Holy Ghost Catholic Church
732 North Union Street
Opelousas, LA

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Uncle Charles you will be missed and never forgotten. Thank you for your bravery and accomplishments.*



Kimberly Harrison - October 04, 2018 at 03:20 PM



“ *Uncle Charles, you will truly be missed. You were such an amazing man and always knew how to put smiles on the faces of everyone around you. I know you are in a better place now and I'm honored I was able to call you my uncle. Love Jay*

James Roberts - September 29, 2018 at 10:35 AM



“ *I Met Mr. Chenier when was a student at Tuskegee Institute. I played basketball for coach Oscar Catlin and Mr Chenier was always around. He was a guy that kept you laughing all the time and all the football and basketball players loved to be in his company. He was also the guy that many of us went to when we had problems. In many ways, for some of us, he was a surrogate father. We all loved him and loved the stories he told. Many of us never knew he was a Tuskegee Airman because he rarely talked about himself or his accomplishments. Rest in peace coach. We will always remember you.*

Reynauld Smith - September 28, 2018 at 11:38 PM

VC

“ VICKIE COMEAUX lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier



VICKIE COMEAUX - September 28, 2018 at 09:52 AM

WF

“ SHARING YOUR LOSS

Williams Family - September 27, 2018 at 08:10 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier.



September 27, 2018 at 05:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier.



September 27, 2018 at 11:17 AM

DS

“ *Dr. Jessie Broussard & Staff purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier.*



Dr. Jessie Broussard & Staff - September 27, 2018 at 10:05 AM

MI

“ *Cousin Charles was a wonderful man I remember when I was in college in Arizona and traveling across country and didn't have much money . I stopped in Tuskegee to rest . I asked the workers at the Holiday Inn if they knew Charles Chenier . When I spoke his name everyone in the hotel said “oh yeah “ we know him. I looked up his phone number in the phone book. I called him and he immediately knew who I was when I told him my name. He told me to stay where I was and he would come and get me. Cousin Charles not only took me to his house he gave me a place to sleep and fed me. We had a great conversation and I met my cousins Brenda and Lois . We just talked and talked and talked. This was just one example of how great Charles was and I will always cherish him in my memories. I introduced my wife Cookie to Charles when he came to visit in Washington DC. Cookie and I both Extend our condolences to the family. We will always have a special place in our hearts for Charles . May God bless all . Love you.*



Cookie and Michael Turner

Michael - September 26, 2018 at 05:34 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier.*



September 26, 2018 at 03:34 PM



“ *William T Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier*



William T Watson - September 26, 2018 at 01:09 PM



“ *Fred Singleton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier*



Fred Singleton - September 26, 2018 at 11:41 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family.*

Marguerite Moore



Marguerite Moore - September 26, 2018 at 08:56 AM

RM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I will always remember fondly the Chenier home in AL where there was always love, laughter, a welcome respite for weary pledgees and a warm meal. I was then and am now deeply indebted...Sisterly, Love Soror Roz*



Roslyn Morris - September 25, 2018 at 07:19 PM

VT

“ *For the past 50 years my family and Charles and his family remained best friends. Our relationship began at Fla. State University and continued until his demise. However our families will continue the beauty of our friendship. Charles will always be remembered for his kind, gentle and friendly personality, it is true he never met a stranger and engaged in conversation with all those he met no matter the topic. I will truly miss is fun loving jokes, his encouraging words and his words of wisdom. I never expected to see this day, but I do believe that he is in the Holy place that God has prepared for all who trust in Him, and one day we will join him there. Rest in peace my Dear Friend. Voncille*

Voncille H. Thomas - September 25, 2018 at 07:03 PM

RM

“ *Rosalie Meullion lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier*



Rosalie Meullion - September 25, 2018 at 06:17 PM



“ *Connie Keys sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Clifford Chenier*



Connie Keys - September 25, 2018 at 05:45 PM



“ *"Grief never ends, but it changes. It is a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith, it is the price of Love."*

*Johnnie Ware-Barnes
Richardson , TX*

Johnnie Ware-Barnes - September 25, 2018 at 04:38 PM



“ *Lois & Family--*

My heartfelt sympathy. Im praying that you will remember all the wonderful memories.

Diane Moon

Diane Moon - September 25, 2018 at 03:07 PM