



## Mr. Ortley Charles Jr.

June 1, 1935 - August 22, 2019

### Obituary

Ortley Charles Jr., 84, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 10:50 p.m., surrounded by family in Opelousas General Hospital. Finally, he achieved the divine rest he fully deserved after years of battling debilitating illness. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, August 31, 2019 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas, LA. The family requests viewing be held from 8:00 AM until the time of service, also at Holy Ghost Catholic Church. Interment will be in Bellevue Memorial Park. Father Lambert A. Lein, SVD will officiate at the Mass of Christian burial.

Ortley, affectionately called “June” by his family, was born on June 1, 1935, in Prairie Laurent to the late Ortley Charles, Sr. and Mandy Ross Charles. He was the eighth of thirteen children raised in a disciplined household where working hard was the expectation.

During his spare time, he enjoyed dancing, which was one of his favorite things to do! He was also said to be one of the best-dressed in town and would sometimes wait until he made it to the door of the dance before slipping on his white shoes just to keep them clean.

On April 26, 1958, he married the love of his life, Amilda Ann Clark and was blessed with two lovely daughters from this union.

Ortley completed his high school education and perfected his skills in mechanics after attending Trade School. He worked as a Gas Station Attendant prior to accepting a job with National Tea Company where he began his professional climb and devoted thirty years before retiring to start many more chapters of a very full life.

He was a fierce advocate for the civil rights of all and volunteered numerous hours of service at his church and in his community. He was a mentor and role model for many young people growing up in Opelousas as he lived, led and taught by example.

He was a treasured member of a vast variety of organizations, serving as Union Steward, Vice President and State Board Executive for UFCW Local 21; President of A. Philip Randolph Institute Local State Chapter; Secretary of the Plaisance Water System Board, AARP National Committee, and a loyal member of the Knights of St. Peter Claver, Fr. John Council Court #8, to name a few.

Ortley and his notable spirit is survived and cherished by his devoted wife of 61 years, Amilda Ann Charles; two daughters, Dr. Norma J. Charles-Brown (Nathaniel) of Fort Gordon, GA; Donna Charles Badon (Dwayne) of Brusly, LA; two granddaughters, Daisha Christine Badon of Brusly, LA, and Dara Michelle Badon of Cambridge, MA; two sisters, Mary L. Charles-Roberts (Lee) and Martha L. Charles-Eaglin (Vincent) both of Pearland, TX; three brothers, Preston Charles, Sr. of Opelousas; Lawrence Charles of Lake Charles, LA; and Alexander Charles, Sr. (Corine) of Houston, TX; loving in-laws, Eleanor Donatto (Merlin), Octavia Redmond both of Opelousas, LA, Murphy Clark Sr. of Marrero, LA, Orelia Carter of San Francisco, CA and Sidney Clark of

Douglasville, GA; four special Godchildren, Harry James Clark and Michael Marcel of Houston, TX; and Rickey Marcel of Leonville, LA; and Tanisha Dixon of Opelousas, LA; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Helen Charles, Evelyn Charles Auzenne, Gladys Charles Tyler, and Anna Rose Charles Butler; three brothers, Joseph Wallace Charles, Earnest Charles and Louis Charles; two special sisters-in-law, Catherine Manuel Charles and Leona Charles; and two special brothers-in-law, Vincent Clark and Harry Clark, Sr.

Share words of comfort with the Charles family at [www.williamsfuneralhomes.net](http://www.williamsfuneralhomes.net)

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Ortleby Charles Jr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Charles family, just received the news about his death. Upon reading his obituary I felt very blessed to have known him during my lifetime. I have so many fond memories of him and his beautiful family. May the Good LORD Bless & Comfort all of you! 🙏❤️*

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**Shirley Ann Roberts McGinty** - September 08, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ *May peace and comfort be with you and your family at this difficult time.*

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**Sheriff Bobby J. Guidroz** - September 04, 2019 at 03:07 PM

DC

“ Thank You. Your post is now pending approval.

*Good Morning Daddy. God Bless you, Love you and Keep you. Miss you so much but will pray and talk with you daily. You are now my most significant Guardian Angel here on earth. Hope you witnessed just how loved you are and approved of your beautiful "going home celebration with your Lord and Savior, In Jesus name.*

*Amen*

*Love You So Much!*

*Norma*

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**Dr. Norma J. Charles-Brown** - September 01, 2019 at 09:44 AM

DC

“ *Good Morning Daddy. God Bless you, Love you and Keep you. Miss you so much but will pray and talk with you daily. You are now my most significant Guardian Angel here on earth. Hope you saw how loved you are and approved of your beautiful "going hoe with your Lord and Savior, In Jesus name.*



*Amen*

*Love You So Much!*

*Norma*

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**Dr. Norma J. Charles-Brown** - September 01, 2019 at 09:37 AM

BT

“ *Barbara W. Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ortley Charles Jr.*



Barbara W. Thomas - August 31, 2019 at 12:16 PM



“ *Sympathy Fruits Abound was purchased for the family of Mr. Ortley Charles Jr..*



August 31, 2019 at 11:52 AM

MV

“ *Condolences and prayers to Mrs. A. Charles, Norma, Donna and the Charles family. Rest in Peace with our Lord, Mr. Charles.*

Mary Lynn Ventress - August 31, 2019 at 05:54 AM

MV

“ *Mary Lynn Ventress lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ortley Charles Jr.*



Mary Lynn Ventress - August 31, 2019 at 05:46 AM

GS

“ *Georgia Harris Stevens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ortley Charles Jr.*



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**Georgia Harris Stevens** - August 30, 2019 at 10:27 PM

AR

“ *Mrs Ann, Norma and Donna, we are deeply sorry for the passing Mr. Ortley. We have some of most fondest memories of him back from the days we all lived on Pete St. He will always be in our hearts.*

*Love Always,*

*Rose, Alice, Gwen, Glen and Caffery Jr. Duhon*

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**Alice Duhon Ross** - August 30, 2019 at 06:38 PM

WF

“ *SHARING YOUR LOSS*

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**Williams Family** - August 29, 2019 at 10:02 PM

BL

“ *M*



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**Beverly Lewis** - August 29, 2019 at 09:47 PM

BW

“ *Ann, Donna, and Norma, you are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Thanks be to God for all the wonderful years you shared with Ortley. I remember the happy times we were all together. He is now resting in God's hand. Be encouraged.*



*Brenda Weber*

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**BRENDA L WEBER** - August 29, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Ortley Charles Jr..*



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August 29, 2019 at 05:00 PM

GM

“ *Mr Charles was the number one dancer at Norma's 50th birthday celebration. He danced light as a feather. What a beautiful memory I will always have of him dancing with my dear friend. God's grace and love be with the family at this time.*  
*Gloria McWhirter from Florida.*

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**Gloria McWhirter** - August 29, 2019 at 01:01 PM

GM

“ *Gloria McWhirter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ortleby Charles Jr.*



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**Gloria McWhirter** - August 29, 2019 at 12:57 PM

SH

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Charles family*  
*-Sherie Davis*



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**Sherie** - August 29, 2019 at 12:45 PM

LS

“ *My condolences to Norma and the Charles family. May the Lord's peace be with you and your memories of Mr. Charles keep him in your hearts.*

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**Lilia Santiago** - August 29, 2019 at 09:37 AM

TP

“ *Deepest condolences to Mrs. Charles, Norma Jean, and Donna Gaye. My prayers are with you in the loss of your loved one.*



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**Teresita Prince** - August 28, 2019 at 10:25 PM

NB

“*Mr. Ortley Charles Jr., has been a blessing to me as my father-in-law, the best a man could ever acquire. He has always stood beside me and given me good advice regarding life. I love him dearly and will truly miss him. God Bless you Daddy for welcoming me into your family and for blessing my marriage with your daughter Norma. You are man of God. Rest in peace now that you are with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Nathaniel Kendrick Brown - August 28, 2019 at 09:56 PM

AB

“*My prayers and condolences to Mrs. Amilda, Dr. Norma, Donna, and your extended families. May he rest in Heavenly peace.*



Andrea Brisco - August 28, 2019 at 07:54 PM

CB

“*To the Charles family (Ms. Ann, Norma and Donna)... it is with extremely heavy hearts that we send out our sincerest condolences and prayers in the loss of Mr Ortley! Our families were always so closely connected due to the love of you Ms. Ann and our mom Velma. We share so many wonderful memories of the Charles family! Mr. Ortley was always the kindest heart! He will be missed and we pray that God will comfort your hearts. You all are in our thoughts and prayers! Hold on to God's unchanging hands; He will never leave or forsake you! God Bless you and we love you. Rest in Heavenly Peace Mr. Ortley 🙏❤️  
#the bowman family*

cheryl bowman - August 28, 2019 at 04:19 PM

BR

*To the Charles Family. We will always remember Mr. Charles as a dear gentleman who loved and was devoted to his family. He was an exceptional person who was engaging and knowledgeable on so many subjects. He will be missed. May the angels be with you and may God continue to comfort you all during this difficult period and the days to come.*

*Blessings. Much Love Rahim and Brenda*

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**Brenda Chambliss and Rahim Reed** - August 29, 2019 at 01:06 AM

YD

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Charles family.*

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**Youlonda Donatto** - August 28, 2019 at 02:59 PM

AS

“ *Allen Gradnigo Sr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ortlely Charles Jr.*



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**Allen Gradnigo Sr** - August 28, 2019 at 12:38 PM