



Mr. Rufus A. Charles

October 12, 1933 - April 4, 2025

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. at Mohorn Baptist Church for Mr. Rufus A. Charles, 91. who entered eternal life on Friday, April 4, 2025, in Opelousas General Health System surrounded by family and loved ones.

Interment will be in the church cemetery. Rev. Nicholas Thomas, Pastor of Mohorn Baptist church will officiate the Celebration of Life.

On October 12, 1933, in Washington, LA, Rufus was the first-born of Russel and Mary M. Charles -- he and his brother Philip were reared in a Christian household and baptized at the Mohorn Baptist Church under the late Rev. Sam A. Crowder. Rufus seriously accepted the role of big brother to many -- his parents often took in family, friends, and sometimes strangers - helping to feed, shelter, and rear -- a trend that continued with his own family. A lifelong member of the Mohorn Baptist Church, he served as Superintendent of Sunday Schools, a deacon, trustee, and choir member.

He was educated in the St. Landry Parish School System graduating from Plaisance High School. Following high school, Rufus enlisted in the Army where he served for 2 years. Upon receiving an Honorable Discharge, he enrolled at Texas Southern University.

During his college days, Rufus married the love of his life, Mae Resa White -- on June 28, 1958. Their families had been friends all of their lives. Their 66-

year marriage produced five children, Pamela S., Paul D., Vickie E., Karla A., and Carmen M.

Rufus had a long career in the insurance industry. He was from the old school where your insurance agent made house calls – selling and collecting premiums from customers' homes. Many times the phone rang at home from a customer reminding him to “not forget to come collect my money.” He also spent some time as a substitute teacher.

Ever civic /social justice-minded, Rufus was engaged in many Civil Rights activities, civic organizations, and Masonic organizations. He was a member of the NAACP; He held leadership roles in Ghadur Temple #161 Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine; RB Jones Sr. Consistory #298 United Supreme Council 33rd degree; Charlie E. Lewis #82 Holy Royal Arch Mason; He was a lifetime member of Keystone Lodge #196 Prince Hall Masons. In celebration of his lengthy service, a local Lodge was named after him and his close friend – Charles - Guidry Council #5 Royal and Select Master. He was also a member of American Legion Post #514. He was an original signer of the Home Rule Charter for St. Landry Parish, and he also ran for Alderman at Large in Opelousas.

Rufus spent a lot of time with youth. He served many years as a Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 166 and Cub Scout Pack 385 with substantial assistance from Mrs. Anabelle Winfrey. He served as PTA president at all of his children's schools – and continued to serve even after they had moved on. People always commented how Rufus had impacted their lives and many talked about how he had gotten them jobs – even before helping his own children gain employment.

He was also a lover of the outdoors – an avid hunter and fisherman he also loved to tell tall tales about those successes.

Rufus leaves to treasure his memory his beloved wife, Mae Resa, his children Pamela, Paul, Vickie, Karla (Ron Gauthier), and Carmen (John Guilbeaux, III); Nine grandchildren – Andre' P. Charles (Laqwanda); Christian S. Taplin-Hills (Kelvin), Charles Omar Taplin (Gabrielle), Anastasia K. Charles, Ashley T. Taplin, Christopher M. Taplin, Evan A. Antoine (Rachel), Maya L. Guilbeaux, John A. Guilbeaux, IV.; Twenty-three (23) great-grandchildren, and a host of great-great-grandchildren. His Sister-In-Law Ollie Charles and nieces Charmaine and Raichelle and his brother- and sisters-in-love; his sister-cousin Ellar Louise Lavine Arvie; his beloved God-daughter Emily (Lionel) Sam; and a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, brothers and sisters-in-law and extended family and neighborhood Children. He also considered the children of their friends – Joseph and Hilda Guidry -- as bonus children after their parents died. He never met a stranger, so this list could go on forever – 91 years worth of relationship building.

The family requests visiting hours be observed on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 817 E. South Street. Visitation will resume on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Mohorn Baptist Church from 10:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M., 219 Cosay Road (Plaisance Community).

Share words of comfort with the family of Rufus A. Charles on his Permanent Life Tribute Page at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net. Be the first to post your most treasured memory of Rufus. Show your support by sharing a personal message or story, meaningful photo or video, or record a video message using your webcam. On behalf of the family, we encourage you to share your personal experiences and preserve the memory of Rufus A. Charles for future generations to come.

Final arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas,

817 E. South Street, 337-942-2037.

Cemetery Details

Mohorn Baptist Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 5:00 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/>

Masonic Burial Rites will be rendered at 8:00 P.M.

Visitation (Plaisance Community) @ Mohorn Baptist Church

APR 12. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Mohorn Baptist Church
219 Cosay Rd
Opelousas, LA 70570-0956

Celebration of Life

APR 12. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Mohorn Baptist Church
219 Cosay Rd
Opelousas, LA 70570-0956

Military Honors

APR 12. 12:45 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mohorn Baptist Cemetery

*Flag Fold, Taps, Salute & Presentation ***Approximate time****

Tribute Wall

KF

“ My condolences to the Charles family on the loss of Mr. Rufus Charles. It was always a pleasure to speak with him. Such a kind and gentle spirit and how he loved fishing. My prayers are with the family at this time.
Keith A. Firmin



Keith A. Firmin - April 13, 2025 at 08:09 PM

BR

“ Mae Resa I am so sorry to hear about Rufus. You and he were long time friends of Mom and Dad, and all of us. When we had any questions or concerns about anything, we could count on you for advice. Mar Resa, the same said of Rufus goes for you as well. We loved y'all and y'all friendship was highly cherished by Mom and Dad. Thanks again. Rufus will be missed. I extend my deepest prayers and condolences to you and your family. My prayer also is Almighty God bless you all with Comforting and Strengthening Grace to aid you all in a time such as this. RIP Rufus. Mae Risa 💔🙏🙏🙏🙏💔💔 I got y'all in prayer .



BrendaGreen - April 13, 2025 at 02:40 PM

KW

“ My memories of Deacon Rufus Charles revolve around Vacation Bible School at Mohorn Baptist Church when we were growing up. He welcomed us and played a big part in our participation in VBS return for many summer sessions. God Bless Sis. Mae Resa and family. We are praying for you all during this difficult time. May you hold on to his memories and the love he shared with each one of you. With Love, *Kassandra Malone Williams*

Kassandra Williams - April 13, 2025 at 08:26 AM

MB

“ Our condolences go out to the family of Mr. Charles. He was always instrumental in getting our father to come and sing to Mohorn. We thank him for that. He was definitely one of a kind. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you. The family of the late Albert Miles.

Marilyn Boutte - April 12, 2025 at 02:35 PM

MC

“ *Wilmer Charles Family Wilmer, Melody, Jacqueline and Glenn. In the loss of your Father we send Mae Resa, Pamela, Paul, Vickie, Karla, Carmen and Family Our Deepest Sympathy, Thoughts and Prayers. Our heart will always be with you and Family*



Melody Charles - April 12, 2025 at 08:46 AM

MC

“ *Melody Charles lit a candle in memory of Rufus Charles*



Melody Charles - April 12, 2025 at 08:35 AM

BT

“ My deepest condolences to the Charles family. May the Lord strengthen the family in the loss of your loved one.



Barbara W Thomas - April 11, 2025 at 09:16 PM

CT

“ Children of Minerva Tizeno-Captain purchased the Sweet & Savory Snacks Gift Basket for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



Children of Minerva Tizeno-Captain - April 11, 2025 at 06:30 PM

CC

“ Children of Minerva Tizeno Captain purchased the Sweet & Savory Snacks Gift Basket for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



Children of Minerva Tizeno Captain - April 11, 2025 at 06:25 PM

CC

“ Children of Minerva Tizeno Captain planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.

Children of Minerva Tizeno Captain - April 11, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ Mae Risa, Pam, and my Charles family. My buddy Rufus will be sorely missed, and I can't believe he won't be at this year's reunion. Rufus was all about family, and he made sure to bring us all together.



Yvonne Captain - April 11, 2025 at 06:15 PM

AJ

“ Our sincerest prayers and condolences are sent to the siblings, family, and friends of this amazing man. Rufus A. Charles , In The Name of Jesus!
May The Lord of all Comfort cover each of you with His Amazing Grace throughout this Bereaved Season.
Children's of the Annie Mae Johnson Jones
Ronald Jones
Steve Jones Jr(class of 78)
Ardinia Yvette Jones(Class of 79)
Odessa Annette Jones Coleman(Class of 80)

ardinia jones - April 11, 2025 at 05:45 PM

AJ

“ My sincerest prayers and condolences are sent to the siblings, family, and friends of this amazing Man .
In The Name of Jesus!
May The Lord of all Comfort cover each of you with His Amazing Grace throughout this Bereaved Season.

ardinia jones - April 11, 2025 at 05:31 PM

BL

“ Beverly Lewis lit a candle in memory of Rufus Charles



Beverly Lewis - April 11, 2025 at 11:46 AM

LF

“ Lewis family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



Lewis family - April 11, 2025 at 11:44 AM

WD

“ To Karla, the family and friends of Mr Charles, we offer our most sincere condolences. Rest assured knowing that in our time of need, God is and always will be in our midst.

Wayne & Carol DartzBatiste - April 11, 2025 at 11:38 AM

VS

“ Val, Arnita & Sheila planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.

Val, Arnita & Sheila - April 10, 2025 at 05:46 PM

JF

“Joyce Thomas Sharpe and family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



Joyce Thomas Sharpe and family - April 10, 2025 at 03:42 PM

NH

“NRCDC FAMILY IN HOUSTON planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.

NRCDC FAMILY IN HOUSTON - April 10, 2025 at 11:57 AM

NH

“NRCDC FAMILY IN HOUSTON purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



NRCDC FAMILY IN HOUSTON - April 10, 2025 at 11:57 AM

JT

“Joseph Toussaint purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



Joseph Toussaint - April 10, 2025 at 02:41 AM

LA

“ *Deepest Condolences to Mrs. Carmen Charles Guilbeaux and the rest of your family on the loss of your loved one.*



Leisa Anderson - April 09, 2025 at 10:49 PM

AM

Cousin Mae Resa, Nell & I send heart felt sympathy & condolences to you. Lost of a loved one is always a strain on the family, but news of the passing of Mr. Rufus was a especially heart braking. Best Wishes to you & yours!!

*Arthur & Sonja Miles
Cypress, Texas*

Arthur & Sonja Miles - April 12, 2025 at 06:00 PM

MF

“ *Mary Walker and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.*



Mary Walker and Family - April 09, 2025 at 10:24 PM

TF

“ *The John Valery White Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.*

The John Valery White Family - April 09, 2025 at 08:50 PM

TF

“ *The John Valery White Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.*



The John Valery White Family - April 09, 2025 at 08:50 PM

DG

“ *Darrell and Robbin Gradnigo purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.*



Darrell and Robbin Gradnigo - April 09, 2025 at 07:16 PM

DC

“ *Damian & Raquel Charles purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.*



Damian & Raquel Charles - April 09, 2025 at 01:03 PM

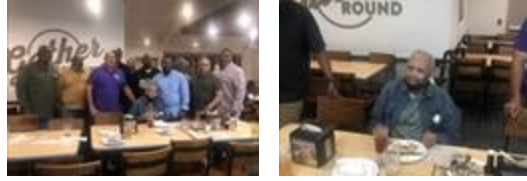
KM

“ *Prayers for a remarkable life lived. May God bless and comfort your loved ones with His peace.*

Kirstie Myvett - April 09, 2025 at 12:52 PM

RM

“ Celebrating Brother Rufus birthday at his favorite place Golden Corral



Ronald Milburn - April 09, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



April 09, 2025 at 11:40 AM

DS

“ It is an honor to have called you my cousin. May The Most High be pleased with your soul.



Danielle Sandifer - April 09, 2025 at 10:57 AM

B1

“ BTR 21 Beta Gamma Fall 1984 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



BTR 21 Beta Gamma Fall 1984 - April 09, 2025 at 08:47 AM

B1

“ BTR 21 Beta Gamma Fall 1984 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.

BTR 21 Beta Gamma Fall 1984 - April 09, 2025 at 08:47 AM

EM

“ Eric, Charlene and Heather McKee purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.



Eric, Charlene and Heather McKee - April 09, 2025 at 08:12 AM

MG

“ Mr Rufus Charles better known as Pops to our family the children of Joseph and Hilda Guidry. Take your rest Sir Well done thy good and faithful servant. Well done

Monica Guidry - April 09, 2025 at 02:51 AM

MG

“ Monica Guidry lit a candle in memory of Rufus Charles



Monica Guidry - April 09, 2025 at 02:45 AM

RF

“ Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers goes out to the Family! So sorry for your Family loss! Mr. Charles will definitely be missed 😭 R.I.P Mr. Charles 🙏🙏



Rita Pickens & Family - April 09, 2025 at 01:00 AM

RM

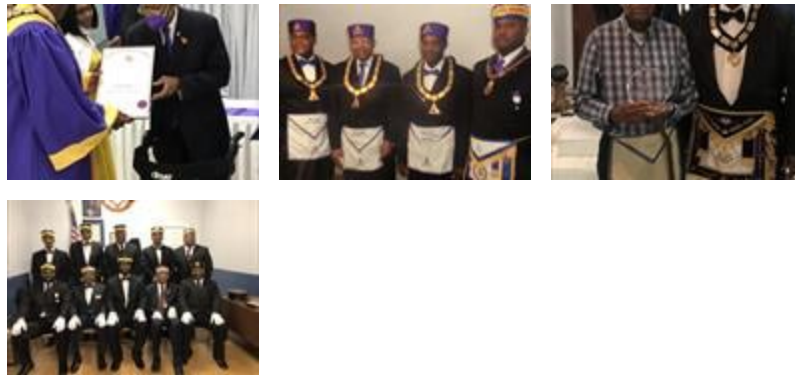
“ Being Honored as the First High Priest of Charlie E Lewis #82 Holy Royal Arch Mason



Ronald Milburn - April 09, 2025 at 12:37 AM

RM

“ Mr Rufus being honored by his Peers in his Masonic Family



Ronald Milburn - April 09, 2025 at 12:34 AM

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ronald Milburn - April 09, 2025 at 12:30 AM

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ronald Milburn - April 09, 2025 at 12:27 AM

DL

“ My condolences to Sis. Charles, Vickie, Carmen, Karla and the entire Charles family during your time of bereavement. 🙏🙏🙏



Delbert T. Lewis - April 08, 2025 at 11:34 PM

KM

“ Mrs Mae Resa Charles & Family, We're Sooo Sorry To Hear Of Your Husbands', Mr Rufus Charless' Death! Heartfelt Condolence & Prayers To You, Your Family, & Friends. May GOD Bless You All With The Strength, Courage, & Comfort You Need During Your Time Of Grief & Sorrow! 🙏🙏🙏

Kathy Meullione - April 08, 2025 at 11:21 PM

HP

“ Although i only met Mr.Charles once, Vickie is a good friend and i know how much her loving family has been influenced by her wonderful parents; I know so many people will cherish the memory of this special man.

Harriet Palmer-Willis - April 08, 2025 at 11:04 PM

HP

“ Harriet P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rufus A. Charles.

Harriet P. - April 08, 2025 at 10:59 PM

RJ

“ Truly heartfelt condolences from the Joubert Family, of which he was a lifetime friend. (My father was Harry Lee Joubert) I remember the generosity, kindness and Godfearing demeanor of this great pillar of St. Landry Parish. On the night of my high school graduation in May of 1976, my vehicle broke down while I was out on a date with a special friend. I called my father, and he said to call Rufus to see if he will lend you his car. He had a little navy-blue Maverick at the time. He let me borrow that car to finish up my date and return the young lady safely home. I have never forgotten that. Thank God for his long life of service. Those touched by him have much to be thankful for. RIP Mr. Charles. The work you've done has spoken for you.

Roosevelt Joubert - April 08, 2025 at 10:52 PM

SG

*To my co-worker Ms. Vickie Charles. You have my deepest sympathy. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Psalms 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
Sincerely,
Shelita*

Shelita Gould - April 10, 2025 at 11:15 AM

BT

Mrs. Mae Resa Charles and family, please accept my most sincere and deepest condolences for the loss of your loving husband, and my cousin, Mr. Rufus. We only found out a few years ago at a Tezeno family reunion that we were related. I, and the citizens of Ville Platte will always remember Mr. Rufus Charles for offering services regarding insurance needs. He was instrumental in providing insurance to so many. Mrs. Charles, your husband wasn't only present in the lives of the citizens here, you will always be cherished and remembered by so many students at James Stephens High School as our home economics' teacher. In addition to that, you and Mr. Rufus were always present at all of our school reunions; and church affiliations with 7th district. Take your rest in God's arms Mr. Rufus, until we all meet again.

With love and His grace,

Brenda Pitre Toston

Brenda Toston - April 11, 2025 at 11:45 AM

VH

To my beloved family, it was a honor to call Cousin Rufus a friend, as well as family.

He was the same every time we met. He was like my uncle the late J.C. Joubert, who knew all the family and he would tell me "Van this is your cousin " and I thank God for his knowledge of family. I was so proud to have him in Plaisance Community

Choir, so on behalf of Plaisance Comunity Choir and the entire Joubert Families, we extend our deepest condolences to you; Cousin Mae Resa, Pam, Paul, Vicky, Carla, and Carman, just know that we are here for you and we love you. If you just need a listening ear we are here. God doesn't make a mistake. Remember how blessed you all were to have him in your lives all of these 91 yrs. It's nothing wrong with shedding tears, because tears are just a release of pain , sorrow and grief. God's word tells us that earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot. heal. We love you all.

*Vanessa, Gregory, Irene, Cornell (Mark) Joubert
(Hayward and Emma Lou Clan)
and the Plaisance Community Choir.*

Vanessai Joubert- Hammond - April 11, 2025 at 03:34 PM