

A Homegoing Celebration for
Larry Charles, Sr.



Alpha
March 27,
1954

Omega
January 27,
2018

“Dance Now”

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Wake: 9:00am–11:00am

Service: 11:00am

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

346 Butternut Street

Middletown, CT 06457

Bishop W. Vance Cotten, Sr. / Pastor / Eulogist

Reverend Dr. Kim L. Cotten / Co-Pastor / Officiant

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Visitation: 9:00am–11:00am

Service: 11:00am

St. Luke Baptist Church

1098 Bayou Dularge Road

Houma, LA 70362

Elder Philip Ruffin, Sr., Pastor / Officiant

Bishop W. Vance Cotten, Sr. / Pastor / Eulogist

The Life and Legacy of Larry Charles, Sr.

March 27, 1954 – January 27, 2018



The city of Hartford, CT has lost a Legend, Houma, La has lost a hero and the World Has Lost a Leader. But we all were witnesses of God's Demonstration of Triumph over Adversity, Unconditional Love, Unrelenting determination, and sacrifice for the betterment of his family, the community and world in which he lived, through our friend, brother, father, Uncle, and family member Larry Charles, Sr. After 63 years of living the native of Houma, Louisiana and resident of Hartford, CT, departed this life on Saturday January 27, 2018.

He began his assignment on March 27, 1954 as the youngest of 8 children born to Benjamin Charles Sr. and Sadie Westley Charles, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Rev. Daniel Brown in the bayou in front of St. Luke Baptist Church baptized Larry an experience that served as the foundation of his faith and later would later land him a prominent role in the music artist Billy Joel's River of Dreams music video. He grew up on Bayou Dularge, a community south of Houma where his condition with asthma kept him sidelined for a lot of the fun as a youth but gave him much time to develop his mind. When he did finally get the chance to join the children in the community his brilliance quickly revealed to him some of the injustices he dedicated his life to rectifying. One instance was when he and other children from the neighborhood found oh so irresistible wet cement in a bridge that had been poured near their home. He and a few

others took a moment to show off their artistic skills but while others were making holes and images Larry the young visionary thought to himself I'm going to leave my mark here for my son to read and being the only one of the children who knew how to spell his name wrote his name and address into the bridge. A short time later, after some serious forensic investigation, a deputy arrived at his school and took him and the other children for a ride down town in the back of his patrol car. All of them were in tears thinking of the unimaginable, pre adolescents facing time in jail, when he noticed that not everyone who wrote and played in the cement were being taken to jail. He said he asked the deputy, "what about the others", and in a instant the deputy whipped the car around, rocks and dust flying like a scene from dukes of hazard, and pulled out his pen and pad waiting for Larry to tell him who else. When he gave the names of the others like Boudreaux, Robicheaux, the deputy slammed his pad down and sped off down the road. He felt the sting of discrimination and instantly stopped crying realizing what was happening and wanted to be an instrument of change. He returned to Mechanicville Elementary determined to become a lawyer. Larry was recognized by his teachers as a leader and proved them to be right as he was elected student body president of Mechanicville Elementary. He loved his teachers and was also loved by them. Mrs. Vera Williams and Mrs. Irma brown remember Larry as the smartest boy in the entire school. As time went on, he vowed to keep in touch with his teachers whenever he would return home.

From there he attended, Houma Jr. High where he continued exemplify and develop his leadership skills holding offices in many clubs and organizations within the school. Student Council, National Honor Society, Kiwanis Club, Debate Team. He also competed in Extemporaneous Speaking. In one of his competitions after delivering a note worthy performance of his own recognized that a fellow competitor had been snubbed of a well-deserved first place trophy. He approached the gentleman and handed him his trophy with the remarks now you have two.

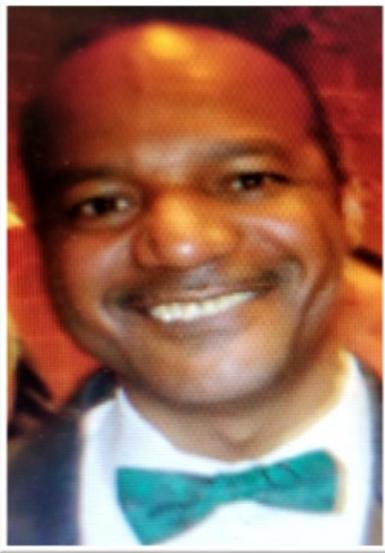
In the 10th Grade while attending Terrebonne High School, he began working at The Houma Courier as an editor and reporter. He was assigned various tasks including reporting the history of all of the black Baptist Churches in Terrebonne Parish for its Sesquicentennial celebration. At Age 16 he earned enough money to buy his own car but could not drive it because he didn't have a license. From an early age he was known as an organizer, a hard worker and lover of helping people. While still in high school he organized a fair that generated funds, which were used to set up the church's first bank account. Prior to that the church treasurer kept the money at his house.

In 1972, Larry Graduated High School and went to work offshore for superior oil. He had scholarship offers to attend college but had no intentions of accepting them as he felt comfortable with the handsome salary he was making offshore. At the end of the summer he decided to pursue a career in the oil and gas industry and forgo college, a decision that did not go over well with Sadie Charles, his mother. She was adamant about him furthering his education and he was also unyielding about the idea of working to earn money to better his family. Sadie Charles threatened to discipline if he did not go and he removed his belt and told her with all due respect I will take the discipline and after it's over he would still not go to college. She dropped the belt and wept. Larry said he also went into his room and wept because of the pain he was causing his mother and again called on God to guide him because he did not know what to do. When he woke up the next day to go work Sadie Charles had went into town and gotten him new work clothing, bread and lunchmeat, and had it all organized, pressed and prepared for him to begin his career in the oil field. He went back to work and told his boss his dilemma and was given an ultimatum by his boss "Either you go, or you're fired". He was shocked because he was a good worker and did everything to the best of his ability. He weighed his options and decided it was best to go to college but in true Larry Charles fashion he made sure the position was filled with a competent and deserving candidate who would be just as good if not better, His older brother Benjamin Charles who was in need of an opportunity. When he told Ben about the Job he did not believe that 1. His little brother had that much influence to get him a job by word of mouth and 2. He would be making that much money. But he took the job and was able to remain with the company throughout the years and retired as an honored and respected employee of Exxon/Mobil.

Larry Charles left the job in good hands and returned home to deliver the news that he would accept the scholarship. He'd not only convinced Superior Oil to hire his brother Ben, but he'd won a scholarship from Superior as well. He often would say it wasn't until this time that he knew his sister, once believed to be his arch nemesis, loved him. They were the last two in the house only a few years apart and would engage in the normal sister and brother quarrels. That weekend he had to be in New Orleans to take his placement exam and he woke up to a hot breakfast and freshly pressed clothing compliments of his "favorite" and only sister Judy.



The Life & Legacy of Larry Charles, Sr.



Larry entered Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO) in the fall of 1972 and immediately began to thrive as leaders and organizer. Upon entering, his organizational skills were evident and he began to make immediate impact. He was elected Student Government Association (SGA) president as a sophomore and served 2 terms. He introduced a bill and lobbied the state legislature winning \$1.75 Million in his Jr. year for the student union and again in his Sr. year winning \$1.54 Million for campus improvements. SUNO had no student union at all prior to that. He was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards as Charter Member of Southern University's Board of Supervisors and also Appointed by the Governor through Executive Order as Founding Chairman of The Louisiana Commission on Student Affairs. He was elected statewide by peers as President of Louisiana Student Lobby Association and Appointed by Governor as a "Louisiana Colonel". Larry Also joined the ranks of many other profound individuals in history by becoming a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and was Elected Chapter President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the 1976 Regional Alpha College Brother of the Year (LA, TX, AK, OK). He finished Southern University New Orleans in 1976 with Degrees in Business Administration and Economics.

After College, Larry went on to work for Xerox in Rochester, NY. From 1976 -1990 he was a Data Center Specialist, a Technical Support Specialist, a Data Processing Instructor, worked in Corporate Personnel Systems and worked Manhattan Major Accounts Integrated Systems Sales. He scheduled and executed financial programs for the corporation. He also automated the job submission process eliminating batch card submissions. Within two months, he negotiated acceptance of corporation's national cash management system into the production after 2 years stalemate. Larry increased systems analysts, programmers and data center operations staff enrollment in technical classes by 300% in his first year as instructor. At Corporate Head Quarters, he designed, defended and installed the national Balanced Workforce system to drive and report Xerox Affirmative Action goals/performance for every division in the United States of America. At the request of the Corporate Vice President, he transferred to systems sales and became the top integrated systems sales representative in America.

In 1983 Larry and his wife moved to Norwalk after he was appointed to corporate manager, affirmative action and equal employment opportunity, and moved into North America regional sales. He began to devote more time to the Alpha Phi Alpha organization and winning souls for Christ. He began to take a closer look at what his purpose in life was. During this time his faith became stronger. He was able to Serve as Chief of Staff of the Alpha National \$Million Fund Drive where he raised \$1.2 Million for the NAACP, National Urban League and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). He would travel every year to the alpha convention and share with his brothers and sit down for hearty conversations with Dr. Charles H. Wesley, the alpha phi alphas' historian. However of all the many great things Larry has done, Larry would say his greatest accomplishment came in the fall of 1984, September 1st when he became the father of Larry Charles Jr. None of his accomplishments made him more proud than this one.

Larry then moved to Connecticut and began working for the state of Connecticut as Executive Assistant to the commissioner in 1990. He led an emergency effort to absorb a 40% reduction in program funding through the statewide automation of the energy assistance program. He completed the project under budget and ahead of schedule. He would later transfer, in the same position, to the Department of Administrative Services. Holding two positions at once, in different offices, Larry split his days between two locations. He participated in all policy meetings, served as spokesman for the Commissioner on various issues and served in the second office as project manager of the warehouse automation project.

Larry later became the Deputy Commissioner of The Department of Administrative Services where yet again he exemplified his innate ability to lead and was in charge of a \$50 Million operation with 300 unionized employees. While serving as Deputy Commissioner he saved \$11 Million on a \$50 Million budget in 6 months without a single grievance and with enthusiastic support. By this time, the Nieces and Nephews in the family were graduating high school. This was one of the many ideals Larry Charles stood for. He would often say you must finish high school and finish college. Many of them were battling decisions about college, a stage in life that Larry knew all too well. Not only did he have some tough decisions to make about college but himself, but his position as the youngest uncle and insight from being at the forefront of the great shift into the technology, gave him insight to be able to guide the next generation into the future industries that would dominate the American landscape. His nieces and nephews would often seek his advice on what field of study to pursue at the collegiate level. So much so that it became a family tradition to "Ask Larry" what you should go to school and major in.

He wanted to change the world and if he couldn't do it alone he would put someone else in position to help advance that agenda vowing to "Keeping God First" and "Dancing the whole time" along the way.

In 1993, Mr. Larry Charles became the Executive Director of O.N.E. / C.H.A.N.E INC. It was a community non-profit in turmoil at the time that he took lead. In the face of a \$100,000 challenge on a \$300,000 budget, Larry immediately spent \$25,000 automating the operation and retraining staff; he hired new a staff manager, and gave all staff a raise while finishing the first year with a surplus. He was able to substantially expand operations in all program areas while achieving a budget surplus in 9 of the 11 years with him at the helm. Organized over \$21 Million in development (housing, day care, social, etc.) with 100% minority General Contractors and 95% minority workers from the neighborhood where projects existed. He would later Open Offices in South Africa and Houma, La. He operated the South African Development Initiative for the Environment for 5 years thanks to supplements from private funding and efficiencies in operations.

In Houma, LA, Along with the help of his Brothers (Robert Charles, James Charles,) and at the invitation of the United Way for South Louisiana, He operated a summer camp program funded in year one at \$20,000 serving less than 100 kids. In year two he expanded the summer camp to a nearly \$400,000 annual operation with over 70 staff members serving over 800 kids through seven camp sites throughout Terrebonne Parish. At request of the Parish President, integrated the Federal Foods program feeding over 1,000 kids daily across five feeding sites. It received the highest rating ever given to this program in just its first year. Larry Reserved all youth leadership positions for youth currently enrolled in college providing great role models for the campers and creating well paying meaningful experiences for the college youth.

While living in Hartford he met and later married Teri Millings who assisted him in his latest ventures like the reorganization of the Kiwanis club and Boy Scouts of America in Hartford, CT. She truly became his helpmate in his time of need and supported him with the many enormous tasks he would often undertake.

Some how in the midst of the numerous hours devoted to the betterment of mankind, Larry was able to find time to organize and implement strategies to help various, local, state and national candidates achieve at all levels. Larry Charles Sr. was very significant and intricate figure in the election of 44th President of the United States of America, Barack Hussein Obama. His personal plan that organized over 100,000 Community leaders across America changed the face of history and unlocked life paths that for some were unconceivable.

He leaves to cherish a wealth of memories to his beloved wife, Teri Millings Charles of Hartford, CT, a son of whom he was extremely proud of, of Newport Beach, CA, 2 brothers, James (Bernadine) Charles and Leroy (Rhonda) Charles; an only sister as he would jokingly refer to as his "favorite " sister, Joyce "Judy" Bolden, All of Houma, Louisiana; 3 Aunts, Margaret Fields of Moreno Valley, CA, Rosalie Charles, and Francis Westley of Houma, LA; Sisters – in – law, Louvenia, Gustavia.

Larry Charles has gone to be with the Lord; his parents; his brothers; Donald, Sr., Rinard, Benjamin, Jr., and Robert, Sr.; his maternal grandparents, Eddie and Rebecca Neville Westley; his paternal grandparents, Edmond and Marth Harding Charles.

Proclamation

Governor's Office



Dannel P. Malloy
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

February 3, 2018

***Homegoing Celebration Service For
Larry Charles, Sr.***

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to speak of the life and accomplishments of the late Larry Charles, Sr. as a longtime friend and associate. I would first like to offer my deepest sympathies on behalf of my family and the State of Connecticut to the Charles family and their friends who are here today to celebrate the life of an exceptional husband, father, and friend.

In the time when Larry worked on my gubernatorial campaigns in 2006 and 2010, I developed a deep admiration for Larry and his consistently excellent work as my statewide urban strategist. Long before I had the pleasure of making Larry's acquaintance, however, he had already established himself as a widely respected and vocal activist for environmental and social issues across the nation. It was through Larry's unwavering commitment to his community and to his values that he was able to yield significant strides in the lifelong initiatives and garner the respect of many.

No words of mine could truly convey the life and work of Larry Charles, Sr. and how it has manifested and touched each of our lives. The undeniable impact Larry has had on the lives of many is the fondest memory we can all share – and perhaps, that is what says the most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dannel P. Malloy".

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

DPM/kj

Proclamation

Mayor's Office

City of



Hartford

Connecticut

Proclamation

By

The Honorable Luke Bronin, Mayor

WHEREAS, Larry Charles, Sr. was born in New Orleans, graduated from Southern University, and worked for Xerox Corporation for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, He served as Chief of Staff for the Alpha National \$Million Fund Drive through which \$1.2 million was raised for the NAACP, the National Urban League, and the UNCF; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles came to Connecticut to serve as Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services for the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, Mr. Charles served for eleven years as the Executive Director of ONE/CHANCE where he developed more than \$21 million in housing and community development projects in North Hartford; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles also has a strong commitment to environmental justice and has served as a member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and chair of its Subcommittee on Engaging Affected Communities; and

RESOLVED, That I, Luke A. Bronin, Mayor of the City of Hartford, along with the Court of Common Council and the citizens of Hartford, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 2, 2017 as

*Larry Charles Day
In the City of Hartford*




Luke Bronin
Mayor

Proclamation

Southern University

Resolution

WHEREAS, Larry Charles, a native of Houma, Louisiana, a Business Administration and Economics graduate of Southern University at New Orleans and the first Student Member of the Board of Supervisors of the Southern University System was called home by the Almighty God on Saturday, January 27, 2018 to dwell with him in the glories of Paradise; and

WHEREAS, Larry Charles served this earthly kingdom with devout to this community and friends with the spirit of humility. He possessed many talents and abilities and truly had a zeal for life and sharing with others; and

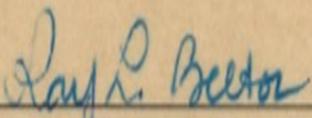
WHEREAS, Larry Charles in recognition of his tenure of faithful and commitment, committed public servant, a positive role model and a dedicated family member that has brought recognition and honor; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Members of the Board of Supervisors, joined by the Administration, Faculty, Staff and Student Body, hereby expresses and extends sincere condolences to the Larry Charles family and friends with whom we share this great loss.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this testimonial of condolences be forwarded to his family as an expression of the Southern University System's heartfelt sympathy, and a copy be placed in the historical records of the Southern University Board of Supervisors in recognition of Larry Charles whose memory will be ever honored and cherished by the *Jaguar Nation*.

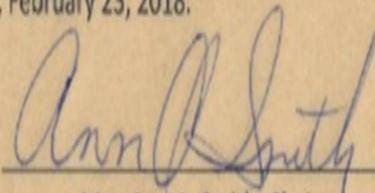
Certificate

We the undersigned and duly appointed officers of the Southern University Board of Supervisors do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution to be approved by the Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on Friday, February 23, 2018.



Ray L. Belton, Ph.D.

President-Chancellor, Southern University System



Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Chair

Southern University Board of Supervisors

May the work I've done speak for me



May the work I've done speak for me.

When I am resting in my grave,

There's nothing can be said,

May the work I've done speak for me.

May the life I've lived speak for me.

When the best I've tried to live,

My mistakes He will forgive

May the life I've lived speak for me.

May the service I've rendered speak for me.

When I've done the best I could, and

My friends misunderstood,

May the service I've rendered speak for me.

The work I've done, it seemed so small,

To me, it seemed like nothing at all,

But when I stand before my God

I want to hear Him say, "Well Done".

May the work I've done, speak for me.

Order of Service

Hartford, Connecticut

February 3, 2018

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” -Matthew 25:21

The Musical Prelude

The Processional

Clergy

The Opening Selection

The Shiloh Centennial Choir

The Old Testament Reading:

Reverend David Hendricks

Psalm 90

The New Testament Reading:

Reverend David Hendricks

Matthew 25:35-40

The Prayer of Comfort

The Selection

The Shiloh Centennial Choir

The Reading of the Resolution / Obituary

The Duet

Wilisha Jones/Jamicia Payne

The Reflections

Honorable Thirman Milner

(first black Mayor in the New England area)

Reverend Lois Adams

Norm Forrester

James Charles

Jarlin Pink

Cynthia Jennings

Linda King-Corbin

Ron Harris

Rep. from Boy Scouts

Larry Charles, Jr.

The Solo

Sister Corinne Collier

“I Won’t Complain”

The Eulogy

Bishop W. Vance Cotten, Sr.

Pastor

The Recessional

Repast: Dr. Lorenzo Woods Fellowship Hall (located in the church)

Order of Service

Houma, Louisiana

February 10, 2018

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” -Matthew 25:21

The Instruments Speaks

The Processional

The Selection

Old Testament

New Testament

The Congregational Hymn

The Prayer

The Chant

The Selection

The Pastoral Remarks

The Presider

The Selection

The Words of Comfort

The Church Condolences

Musical

Family

Friends

Fraternity

The Solo

The Eulogy

The Acknowledgements of Ministers

The Parting View

The Closure (Immediate Family Only)

Pastor Philip Ruffin & Family

St. Luke Baptist Choir

Minister Darren Boykin

Psalm 90

Minister Harold Moses

Hebrews 11:1,6

“Near the cross”

Pastor Ronald Washington

“I need thee” - Choir

St. Luke Baptist Choir

Pastor Philip Ruffin

Dr. Donaldo Batiste

THS Classmate of 1972

St. Luke Baptist Choir

Apostle Peter Alvis

Rev. Louis Clark

Brother James Charles

Tributes

Harmony

Larry Charles, Jr.

Jarick Pink

Silas Payne, Jr.

Sheriff Jerry Larpenter

“The Classmates”

Darren Boykin

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Michael Maryland

Bishop W. Vance Cotten, Sr.

Reverend Kirkland Aitken

What I Will Miss



Honestly, in this short time since his passing what stands out as the biggest void is the fact that we can no longer talk to each other. Not a day passed before glory, where I didn't have a missed call or text from my father, checking in on me just to ask how I'm doing or what he could do to help me. The comfort I have though, even now, is I hear all his lessons in my head whenever the events they refer to occur and I hear them in his own voice. The psalms, sayings and mantras that he wanted me to live by, the impression he left on me is everlasting and I know I will always hear his voice of guidance every day. Bittersweet.

Larry Charles, Jr.

I will miss every single thing about you...and more! Your smile, enthusiasm for everything! Your resilience and absolute ability to see the good in everyone. To put it simply, I will miss you dearly.
Love always, Teri

I'm going to miss the many conversations we had and all the help you gave me. Most of all I will miss Thanksgiving, Bayou Classic and our Birthday Celebrations. I wish I had known that Thanksgiving 2017 would be our last time together, I would have let you eat any and everything you wanted. Love you LARRY, Your Sister Judy

Wilisha Pink-Jones
Uncle Larry,

You and I have always had a special bond. One that we've had since I was a very young child. I'd call you my favorite uncle and you'd call me your favorite niece. When Larry Jr. asked me to write a few things that I will miss about you, I said sure that's easy, but as I put the pen to paper to write what I thought would only be a few words, those words became an entire letter. I think I acquired that part from you. I will miss so many things; our lengthy conversations about life, my dreams and aspirations, and the guidance you'd give on how and why to be sure to obtain them. I have to admit, I tried to shorten those conversations quite a few times because Lord knows you were extremely long-winded, but I never succeeded. You'd share wisdom and give encouragement every time we talked.

I will miss your frequent visits to Louisiana and you driving down the bayou looking for Oysters every time you came home. I will miss seeing you interact with your great nieces and nephews; giving them the same wisdom you gave to us. They would listen of course and help you with whatever you needed. That's partially because they knew one thing; Uncle Larry paid generously. They thought they were working for a little spare change, while all the while you were teaching them life long lessons about how to have good work ethics, how to work hard for what they needed and wanted, to give their best in whatever they set out to do, and to complete whatever they started. We'll make sure these lessons will never be forgotten. I will miss seeing you every year at the Bayou Classic sporting your Southern University and Alpha Phi Alpha gear to show your loyalty, appreciation, and support to the organizations that helped you become the great man and the great leader you were.

I could go on and on about the things that I will miss, but I'd rather end this letter expressing my gratitude. I'm grateful for you teaching me leadership skills and how to serve my community by introducing me to the Kiwanis Club; encouraging me to run for president of Key Club while in high school. I had you and Uncle Robert as campaign managers so of course I won each time. You taught me how to be courageous. You also taught me the importance of diversity and education when you put me on my very 1st flight to Hartford to visit you and Uncle Donald and to attend Suffield Academy for a summer enrichment program sponsored by O.N.E C.H.A.I.N in 1998. You helped me make my very 1st gumbo that summer to show the students at the Academy just how we do it in Houma, LA. We drove all around Hartford trying to find everything we needed to put in our Seafood Gumbo. Even though we had to use snow crabs, and didn't have Zatarain's, or Tony Chachere's, or File` our gumbo was still on point! I think that was the most tasteful meal those poor children had the entire summer. There wasn't a single drop left to bring back to Uncle Donald and boy was he disappointed.

Lastly, I'm forever indebted to you for having me write a letter of explanation to Southern University School of Nursing after applying and being put on a waiting list for the Fall semester of 2007. You called the Dean and reiterated that even though I was 26, a single mom of 3 small children, and working a full-time job, I was ambitious and intelligent with attainable goals. One of those goals was to become a nurse. You promised the Dean that I'd be successful in the program and guaranteed her I'd graduate. She trusted you and a few weeks I received my acceptance letter for Fall 2007. No way was I going to let you down. Three years later you flew all the way from Hartford to Baton Rouge to watch me cross that stage to obtain my Bachelors Degree in Nursing. Even though you were still recovering from a stroke at the time, you wouldn't dare miss sharing that moment with me and the rest of our family. You said repeatedly "Lee-Lee God is here, so dance now" with a huge smile on your face. When I got ready to sit for State Boards and was nervous, fearing I wouldn't pass the 1st time, you said, "Lee-Lee God is here, Dance now." I passed that 1st time just as you said I'd do. You were so proud of my accomplishment; seeing the manifestation of the influential role you, as well as many others, played in my life.

Gratefully and thankfully, while you were still here, I cherished all those moments. Moments which have now become memories that I will keep with me forever. I promise to continue to strive for excellence because you expected nothing less. Thank you for being my hero and for being the best Uncle a girl could ask for. I will miss you greatly. As I told you a few days before your departure, I love you! I will remember that God is always here with me so I will continue to dance even in the midst of sorrow. Your favorite niece, Lee-Lee

What I Will Miss

What I will miss most about Uncle Larry is what I will also strive to embody as a man extraordinary zeal for justice, His unmeasurable love for family , His ability to have more faith in you than you have in yourself. and having someone who will listen, hear and move on your behalf. ~ *Jarlin Pink*

What I'm going to miss most about my great Uncle Larry is his positive attitude, his motivation and most importantly all the wisdom that he has shared with me all the 16 years that I've Been on This earth. I really do love and appreciate him for that . ~ *Silas Payne III*

What I miss most about Larry is seeing his big bright smile, hearing his deep vice and being around a humble man with a confident disposition. He walked with kings and did not lose his common touch, he walk with others but none too much. I will miss the road trips to Washington, DC with the Boy Scouts or for our Fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. conventions. I will miss the ability to just pick up the phone and dial my favorite 860 number, and talk about anything, listening to what he was working on next, or sharing my goals, my struggles, and accomplishments with him. But most of all I will miss my friend, an honorable man, a man of courage and integrity, a peaceful man. And as he would say as his highest compliment to others "that's a good person" -till we meet again -rest in peace Larry Charles, from Houma La, "You are a good man!" Norm Forrester

"His Genius, His Outlook on life, His belief and trust in the Lord. All are three qualities I loved about him. I loved being his Nephew" ~ *Shawn Charles*

Mr. Larry Charles Sr. better known to ya as "Uncle Larry" when I say us I mean myself and all of my cousins and their children. When I hear my uncles' name I first think JOY and I see his radiant smile that brighten every room and heart it had chance to see and touch. Even when he was upset which I can only remember a couple instances he still was sort of smiling never a distorted face. My Uncle Larry was know far and wide for his business savvy intellect, from confounding ONE CHANE TO HELPING THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN SEE VICTORY. Uncle Larry loved food and all types from that what I used to call Vampire steak due to his love for RARE still mooing steaks to his love of seafood. Which reminds me of that time my father, Jarlin and I were in Connecticut n we went on a road trip to NYC my first time in the Big Apple. I was so excited to go to New York finally and uncle Larry decides we "NEED" to stop n get oysters n clams, I was like uncle Larry we live in Louisiana he laughed n said "boyeeeh, this is the best in America" I said okay Uncle Larry as he is puttin a whole sack of clams in the trunk yes in the trunk least to say I don't think he thought it out and I was upset cuz it was cutting space for my shopping I planned to do. So we get back on the road it's hot and we off back down the road to NYC next stop basketball hall of fame which he n my dad fussed about something I forgot what exactly it was but Jarlin n I sat in back seat laughing at them two going at it. We finally arrive in NY and we are all over town if u know anything about Hartford drivers and my drivers they are one in the same ..my dad was on edge the whole time uncle Larry was driving around like a wild man n we were in the back enjoying the roller coaster ride....Every now and then uncle Larry would look in rear view and wink at me because he knew he was irritating my dad on purpose.... Great times, so we tour the town then head back to Hartford Get home pooped to find out the next morning that what ??? Uncle Larry forgot the whole sack of clams in the trunksmh only Uncle Larry lol but he was such a great man and so humble that one wouldn't even know the accolades he possessed. In our family my uncles were all great in the community and in their given fields we as their offspring just thought that greatness was ordinary because it's all we knew... As we got older we realized that all they did was just thatGREAT !!!! Making us all proud to be of the Charles bloodline. What I will miss most about My Uncle Larry was in his encouraging Words he always gave me an emotional boost always would say "Ryan u missed your calling" referring to my sense of humor...he was always building us up to be great !!! I love you Uncle Larry. I know u up top arranging panels and business boards while eating clams and crawfish with the MAN ~ Ryan Charles

Here we are at the time of our family chain being broken, these are my thoughts of that Missing Link. He was courageous, intelligent, understanding, helpful and a peaceful man with a lot of integrity. He lived for the rights to bring people together with a smile and a kind word. My thoughts of Larry are so deep and in my heart of what I feel and have experienced being around him. Sharing his gifts and his knowledge he taught me a lot. Those are the things I'm going to miss from a dear friend. You could talk and lean on Larry and sometimes it would be hard for him to explain or tell you what he's thinking and what he's talking about but if you were close you would be interested in what he had to say and understand him completely. So I take this time out to send you my love and missing a good brother who is hard to find. Larry is going to be deeply missed from my heart. God bless you and may God comfort you that we may be able to meet him again on that glorious get up morning Amen, Rev. David Hendricks

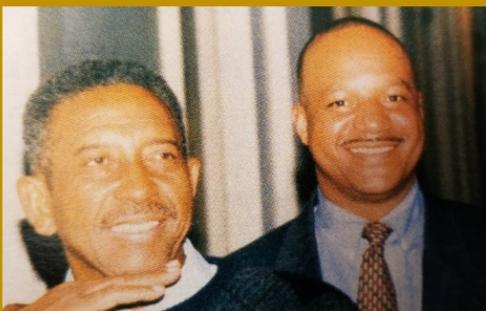
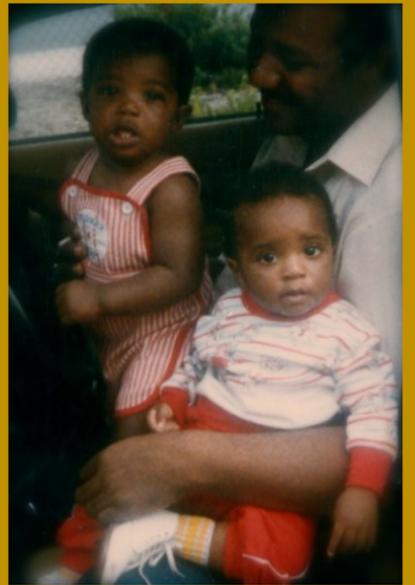
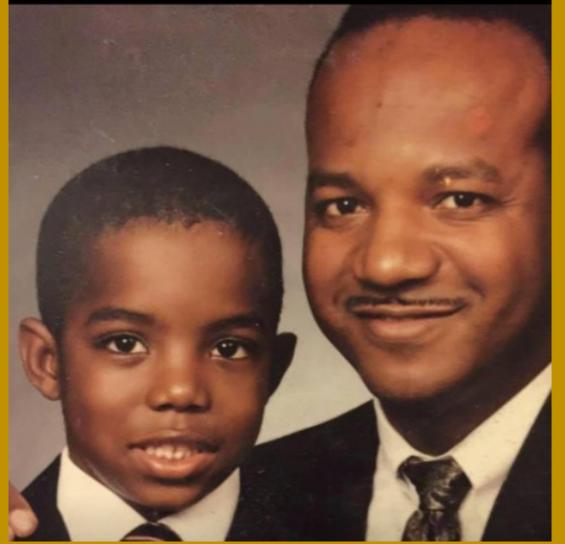
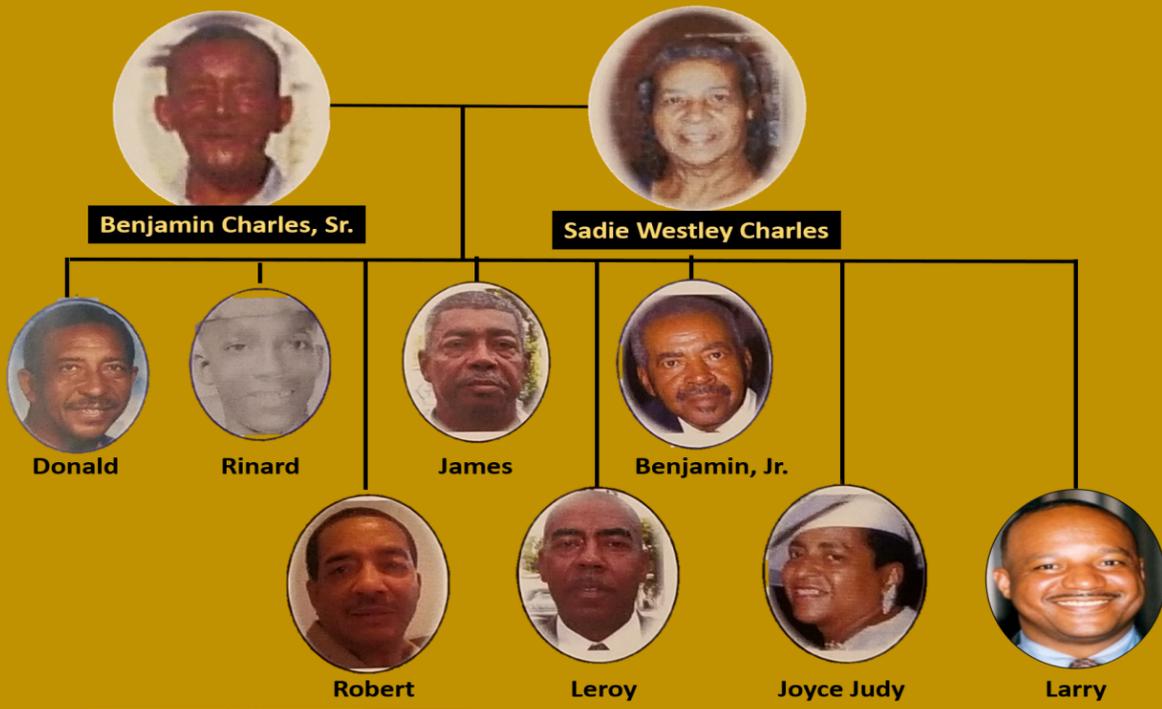
We will miss YOU Larry...immensely. Robert & Duchess Horn

My God Father, Uncle Larry....I often wondered as a little boy why I never received money from My God Father during holidays or birthdays when other kids would receive gifts. As I got older I asked him and he always replied with a laugh and a smile saying: "I am giving you much, much more." As a kid he made me help him shuck oysters every time he came home and as we shucked the whole sack of oysters eating them with hot sauce as we go he taught me many life lessons. Ironically today oysters are one of my favorite foods and as an adult when he returned to Houma and I was home we would see who would get the oysters from Wilson's first Uncle Larry or me; I later realized he let me win that one race often. Larry Charles Sr. Uncle Larry taught me many life lessons the two I teach the most to my children are how to shuck, clean, and eat oysters and Commitment. He taught me through his long conversations shucking oysters about commitment; even better than that he demonstrated that commitment in his everyday life to us all. Commitment is being willing to give it all up, the willingness to sacrifice everything for what you believe in. Larry Charles Sr was always willing to sacrifice himself, his time, his peace, his sleep, parts of his life for the benefit of others because he was committed. He would give it all up, for you and your success and happiness. Jarick Pink

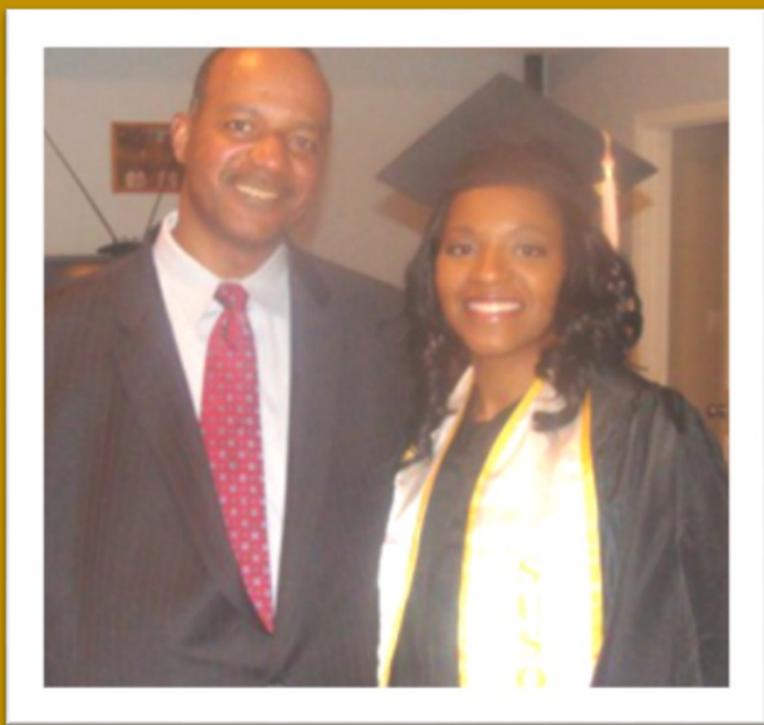
My journey with you in Connecticut was paved with many ups and down, but what a great journey it was. The ups were filled with gratifying and triumphant moments, while the downs were character building, faith strengthening and often provided opportunities for greater adventures. In the face of great odds you used to tell me "God is still in control" and inevitably you'd smile with a there-he-goes-again-look, point to the air, and say "God you are something else." "You think you're slick." I will miss watching you step to a podium and grasp full attention of a crowd as you infused courage, optimism and a spirit of action into it. I will miss the energy you brought to a room with your humor. I will miss witnessing your unwavering faith, your love of family, your loyalty to friends and how you'd take the time with every child you came into contact with to speak life into them and challenge them to be great. You have definitely made an impact in this world, and I will miss many things, but what I won't miss is the impact you made in mine. You showed me what it means to own what life throws at you, as you often put it "doing the best I can with what I got," and to walk fearlessly in your own truth. Rest in peace Larry and may your truth live on. Love, Kelvin C. Verrett, Jr.

I can't count the number of times you smiled at me and my husband and said "I'm so proud of you" in such a sincere way that I couldn't help but believe you meant it. And because you believed that I had done something worth being proud, I felt obligated to push through my circumstances and live a life that would make you, my family and community proud. You had that way about you. You could believe so hard and dream so big that others had little choice but to do the same. Tamara Verrett

Family



Family





Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity



Community



Active Pallbearers

Honorary Pallbearers

Darren Boykin
Boy Scouts of America (Troop #2)
Antoine Britt
Renard G. Charles
Robert Charles, Jr.
Ryan Charles
James F. Clement, Jr.
Gerald Fullwood
Ron Harris
Shawn Harris
Dwayne Jones
Kai Milling
Silas Payne, Jr.
Jarick Pink
Jarlin Pink
Bernard Stove
Joe Ray
Jarvis Washington

Larry Charles, Jr.
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.
Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Mu Chapter
Apostle Peter Alvis
Willie Bolden
Davon Charles
James Charles
Leo Charles
Leroy Charles
Rinard Charles
Shawn Charles
Norm Forrester
Thirman Milner
Nicholls State University
Silas Payne, III
Marion Pinckney
Ahmad Pink
Amar Pink
Gerald "Jake" Stove
Ray Thompson
Charles Westley, Jr.

Acknowledgements:



On behalf of Larry Charles Sr., The Charles family wants you to know we greatly appreciate you for every moment of prayer, thought and support toward making sure we take time to give our best to Larry as he countless times gave his best to us. Special thanks to Thadora "Duchess" and Robert Horn for the production of this Program Booklet and making it "Not almost, but PERFECT!"

Interment:

St. Luke Cemetery, Houma, Louisiana

Professional Services Entrusted To:

~ Howard K. Hill ~

319 Barbour Street, Hartford, CT 06120

