



Mr. Charles Wesley Robinson Sr.

January 7, 1931 - August 16, 2019

Charles Wesley Robinson Sr., affectionately known as “Charlie,” was born Wednesday, January, 7, 1931, in Harrisburg, PA. On Friday, August 16, 2019, God called Charlie into eternal rest.

Charlie was the youngest of seven children of the late Delaney Robinson Sr. and Veda Robinson. He was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, Delaney Jr., Lewis, Maclver/Amir, Eleanora Campbell, Cecilia Hargis and Charlotte Arrington.

At an early age, Charlie attended his family’s church, Capital Presbyterian, 14th and Cumberland Streets, Harrisburg, PA. He also attended Harrisburg High School where his great interests were running track and playing drums.

Upon his high school graduation in 1949, Charlie attended percussion school in Chicago, IL, between 1949 -1951 and became a trained to read music Percussionist. He was able to perform in symphony orchestras, ensembles and bands. Playing drums would be the love of his entire life.

In 1951, he was drafted into the United States Army and served until 1953. Upon his discharge from the army, he went to college on a G.I. Bill and attended Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA. While attending Virginia State, Charlie met a Virginia State student named Sue Cooley Kenney while playing drums on weekends at a club in downtown Petersburg. On December 18, 1954, they were married in Jackson Ward, Downtown Richmond Virginia’s Black Historical District.

In 1955, when college friends invited them to caravan together across the country to San Diego, CA, they both jumped at the chance to start their new married life in California. They lived in San Diego from 1955 to 1963.

While living in San Diego, Charlie landed a job at IBM. In addition to work, he helped put together a band known as the “Three Aces and a Spade,” where he was the Drummer/Percussionist. The band was so good that when country music star Johnny Cash came to town and needed a band for a few nights, the band was selected to play as Cash’s emergency back-up band.

Between 1957 - 1960, Charlie and Sue had three children born in Mercy Hospital, San Diego County: Robert/Amir, Cecilia Kathleen and Charles Jr.

In 1963, Charlie and family returned to the East Coast. Charlie spent decades going back

and forth between Richmond, VA, and Harrisburg, PA, being a father, husband, son, brother, brother-in-law, friend, activist, nurturer, worker, pop, grand-pop and Uncle Charlie. In Harrisburg, Charlie lovingly nurtured and supported his best friend Barbara Walker, her children and grandchildren.

Additionally, a few endeavors Charlie accomplished throughout the decades were Group Counselor at Hanover School for Boys in Hanover, VA; Youth Leader for the Y Indian Guide of the YMCA, Richmond, VA; employment at U. S. Steel, Steelton, PA; entrepreneur Painter/Carpenter in Harrisburg and in Richmond; Drummer/Percussionist in various churches in Harrisburg.

Charlie was preceded in death by his wife, Sue Cooley Kenney Robinson in 1993, and his son, Charles Wesley Robinson Jr. in 2013.

He leaves to cherish his memory a son, Amir Rahim (Khadija); a daughter, Kathleen Robinson Collier (Trotter); step-granddaughter, Keisha Collier; best friend, Barbara Walker and her family; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and community friends.

Lovingly Submitted by the Family of Mr. Charles Wesley Robinson Sr.

Interment will be August 30, 2019 at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 4000 Pilots Lane, Richmond, VA 23222

Events

AUG **Flower Delivery** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.

106 Agnes St, Harrisburg, PA, US, 17104

AUG **Gathering of Family and Friends** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

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Comments



“ Barbara Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Robinson Sr.



Barbara Walker - August 23, 2019 at 01:48 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Wallace Funeral Directors - August 23, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ I remember once about 28 years ago my father sat next to me in church in Washington DC, my hometown at the time. When the choir started singing a new hymn, I whispered to dad that I wasn't going to sing it because I didn't know the tune. Dad took the hymnal and motioned with his hand all the notes (pointed his finger up when the notes were high, and pointed his finger down when the notes were low). He also used his hand to count the number of beats per notes, fast and slow. And singing, too. I exclaimed "how do you know when they sing that way?!". Dad said, "I can read music!". And he was on time through the entire hymn. All those years and I didn't even know he could read sheet music.
But I knew he could play those drums! God bless his soul. Love you forever dad

Kathy Robinson Collier - August 22, 2019 at 06:42 PM



“ God praise Charles Sr.

Amir Rahim - August 22, 2019 at 07:55 PM



“ Hello Cousins,

Wanted to express my love to you both as you mourn the loss of Uncle Charlie.

Every family has a "cool uncle"... and Uncle Charlie was ours.

We always enjoyed his laughing ,tall tales and all around good nature.

My late twin brother Mike and I were always telling are friends that our uncle played drums with THE WORLD FAMOUS RAY CHARLES BAND back in the late 50's and early 60's.

Uncle Charlie was blessed with talent ,good looks(he was in two HOLLYWOOD movies) and had that " ROBINSON FAMILY SMILE ".

He is at peace, the last of eight siblings to enter God's kingdom to be with our grandparents.

He lived a good life, fought the good fight and loved you both.

GOD BLESS,

Cousin Steve

STEVEN E. CAMPBELL - August 23, 2019 at 09:57 AM



“ I grew w/ Kathy, Amir & Charles Jr. in Henrico, Va (just outside of Richmond). They were the coolest family on my block, and Mr. Robinson was the coolest Dad. He could always bring a smile to your face, and had a way of talking to you that made you feel kinda 'important', too. I loved to sit on their porch while he told stories from his life - always very funny! He lived a great life and did it a long time; I doubt he had any regrets!! RIHP, Mr. Robinson. The world is a better place 'cuz you were in it! My sympathies to Kathy & Amir in the time of your loss...

-tim kizzie

Tim - August 23, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ My deepest condolences to you and your family. May God bless you all with wonderful memories of your father. Gwen Gibbs Loftus and Tom Loftus

Gwen - August 23, 2019 at 01:44 PM



“ Ernestine Robinson Merritt

Hello my dear cousins. My sincerest condolences to you, Kathy & Amir. We will miss our "cool" Uncle Charlie. I'll always remember how he made me smile. He was such a gentle soul in his own special way. ya, Erni.

Ernestine R. Merritt - August 25, 2019 at 09:03 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Wesley Robinson Sr..



August 22, 2019 at 04:43 PM