



Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.

December 18, 1936 - December 27, 2016

Charles Howard Dysart, Jr. passed from death to life on Tuesday, December 27, 2016, surrounded by his family, at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, Michigan. Charles was born on December 18, 1936 in Shelbyville, Tennessee to the late Charles Howard Dysart, Sr. and Sarah Smith-Dysart.

Charles was born into a segregated South, and his father died during Charles' early childhood. With his father gone, Charles sacrificed often for the sake of his mother and two older sisters. He would forego clothes, shoes, and other necessities to help his family make ends meet. As a child, Charles attended the local African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Charles graduated from Bedford County Training High School, the all-black, K-12 school in Shelbyville, Tennessee. He was a star athlete there, particularly in football, but was unable to parlay this talent into a college career due to his family's meager means. But Charles remained throughout his life a persistent worker. Charles worked for a period at the local airfield, where he was able to tag along on brief flights with pilots. During this time, he met the love of his life, Martha E. Cleveland, and they were married on October 21, 1957. Early on both Charles and Martha worked at the Tyson Foods processing plant in Shelbyville, but their desire for better opportunities led them to relocate to Albion, Michigan, making them participants in what is today known as The Great Migration of black workers from the United States' agricultural South to its industrialized North.

Upon moving to Albion, Charles, Martha, and their four young children stayed briefly with his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Joann and Lloyd Mitchell, who had already made Albion home. Charles found employment at the Albion Malleable Iron Company, and Martha in the food service department at Albion College and local retail stores.

In 1968, Charles began work at General Motors' Fisher Body plant, just outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in Comstock Township. In 1976, he moved his family westward from Albion to Kalamazoo to be closer to work. While at General Motors, he completed

classes and training for a skilled trade which enabled him to receive his Journeyman Card as a Pipefitter, and Martha was hired at the Upjohn Company. He worked for 30 years and retired in 1998, after which he and Martha traveled frequently; he worked on his golf game; and they enjoyed the fellowship of family and friends. Charles and Martha celebrated 50 years of marriage on October 21, 2007.

While at General Motors on a lunch break in 1972 he was led to Christ by friend Doris Chatman and since that time has served the Lord. After joining Grace Temple Church of God in Christ, Charles remained a strong supporter of the ministry. He and his sons volunteered in the construction of the church's new sanctuary, and he and his grandsons volunteered in landscaping projects at the church. He served on the church's executive committee under the late Supt. Robert L. Brown, Sr. and current Pastor Stephen C. Williams.

He was a man of few words, but many good works. He was never one to complain, even while going through various health challenges, but was always observant and possessing a sense of humor. He was a devoted husband, great father, and beloved grandfather. He wanted his children and grandchildren to grow into productive, kind, and responsible adults. He treasured spending time with his family, traveling, gardening (esp. tomatoes), watching sports, dressing nicely, maintaining his lawn, servicing his vehicles, and retreating to the golf course. He was an avid and talented golfer whose friends and competitors affectionately referred to him as "The Bear." In fact, Charles hit a hole-in-one on the 5th hole at Red Arrow Golf Course in Kalamazoo, MI while golfing with his grandsons on July 12, 1998.

Charles was fond of telling family and friends to "hang tough" when ending a phone call or departing a location. His life is a testament to hanging tough for God, family, and friends.

His memory will forever be cherished by his wife of 59 years, Martha, and his legacy will continue through his daughters, Alfredia (Ernest) Dysart-Drake, Albion, MI; Princilla Roxanne Dysart, Lansing, MI; sons, Derrick D. Dysart Sr., Lake Orion, MI; Randall (Candice) Dysart, Powder Springs, GA; grandsons, Garrett Brown, Albion, MI; Gavin Brown, Albion, MI; Derrick D. Dysart, Jr., Lake Orion, MI; and numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws and special friends.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Sarah; sisters Josephine Dysart and Dorothy Dysart; and daughter-in-law, Robin Dysart.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery-Albion, Michigan

Albion, MI

Previous Events

Family Hour

JAN 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Temple Church Of God In Christ
711 Grace Street
Albion, MI

A Homegoing Celebration

JAN 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Temple Church Of God In Christ
711 Grace Street
Albion, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.



Harper Funeral Home - January 05, 2017 at 07:56 PM

FL

Continued prayers for your family. I enjoyed seeing the beautiful memorial video of his life. God bless you during this difficult time!

Fredia Flack Lusk - January 06, 2017 at 11:15 PM



“ Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Harper Funeral Home - January 06, 2017 at 08:17 PM

BD

Sincere sympathies to the family from the Draine family of Shelbyville

Barbara draine - January 09, 2017 at 07:08 AM



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



January 06, 2017 at 03:56 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr..*



January 06, 2017 at 03:11 AM

SB

“ *To Martha and Family.
My deepest Sympathy to you just keep the faith and look to the Lord for strength
know that Charles will be missed He will always be in your heart so let not your
heart be sorrowful but keep the love of God in your hearts*

Sis.Ira M. Byrd - January 05, 2017 at 05:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr..*



January 05, 2017 at 04:00 PM

RS

“ *My condolences to all. Mr. Dysart helped build what is good about the Albion area. Ruth Schmitter*

Ruth Schmitter - January 05, 2017 at 02:18 PM

PT

“ Always loved me some Martha and Charlie, good friends of my mother, Betty Buchanan, was neighbors and went to school with their children. My prayers goes out to the family for your continued strength in the Lord. We will miss Charlie.
Patricia Buchanan-Thomas and family.

Patricia Thomas - January 05, 2017 at 01:11 PM

DC

“ Martha and Family, We're continuing to lift you and family up in prayer, Doris and I were reminiscing of the good times with you and Charlie, ALL your children's wedding, visiting in one another home and the time we hung out with the Baseball Greats. Charlie was a Father and Husband who Light shined among others. his Love shined bright for his family, Yes! he will be missed, but, claim the scriptures "to be absent from the body is to be present with our LORD".

We Love you!
Doris & Deborah Chatman

Deborah Chatman - January 04, 2017 at 12:50 PM

BR

“ To the family,I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Charlie you have my deepest sympathy . Martha you and the family are in my prayers. Isaiah 25:8 "He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken." Your friend Beverly Robinson

Beverly Robinson - January 04, 2017 at 12:30 PM

VF

“ Victor Myers and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathip hylum for the family of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr..



Victor Myers and family - January 04, 2017 at 08:51 AM

RC

“ Rosie Cannon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.



Rosie Cannon - January 03, 2017 at 02:53 PM

AB

“ Arlene Buchanan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.



Arlene Buchanan - January 03, 2017 at 03:47 AM

VI

“ Vivian lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.



Vivian - January 02, 2017 at 12:50 PM

VI

Derrick & Randall, My condolences to the Family in the loss of your father.

Vivian - January 02, 2017 at 12:52 PM

BD

“ Martha: So sorry to hear about Charlie. He was the apple of your eye. You would talk about him at work every day. What wonderful thing he had done for you the day before. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May he RIP!
Barb Davan

B Davan - January 01, 2017 at 10:54 AM

RC

To the Dysart family, you have my condolences and may God give you all the strength to go through your time of sorrow. God bless you. I love you all.

Rosie Cannon - January 03, 2017 at 02:57 PM

MG

“ Mr&Mrs Richard Galloway ..Dublin Georgia sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.



Mr&Mrs Richard Galloway ..Dublin Georgia - December 31, 2016 at 11:31 AM

NE

“ Dear Family: I am sorry for your loss and wanted to express my sincere condolences. May it comfort you to know that "Our Most High God, Jehovah, promises to "swallow up death forever and wipe the tears from all faces" (Isaiah 25:8). May your family draw strength from this promise and may God's love provide you with peace and comfort.



Neighbor - December 31, 2016 at 04:22 AM

AG

“ No one was more loved by his family & friends than Charlie. May our love and prayers surround Martha and her family in their grief. Alice & Jim Goodwin

Alice Goodwin - December 29, 2016 at 07:25 PM

HB

“ Helen Brooks sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.



Helen Brooks - December 29, 2016 at 03:48 PM

PG

“ Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Howard Dysart Jr.



Pauline Gardner - December 29, 2016 at 03:03 PM

JZ

“ Sorry to hear about the loss of your love one. We will keep your family in our prayers. John and Madeline Zackery.

john & madeline Zackery - December 28, 2016 at 11:51 PM