



Charles Jerome Purnell

November 29, 1948 - December 28, 2016

Charles Jerome Purnell, age 68, of Bear, DE, passed peacefully after a lengthy illness on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at St. Francis Hospital, Wilmington, DE. "Jerry", as he was affectionately known by family and friends, was born on November 29, 1948 to Calvin and Delia Purnell. He was the second of four children. Charles attended the Atlantic City school system and upon completion of graduation was drafted into the United States Army. During his time in the military he served 3 tours which included service in Vietnam and Korea. Charles retired from the military in 1990.

Jerry married the love of his life, Olivia Groce in July of 1976 and began their new life in Yuma, AZ. Being in the military allowed Charles to travel to many countries which he loved, including Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France and Switzerland just to name a few. He was stationed in various parts of the United States and in Germany for many years. While in the military Jerry was very active with the Special Olympics both in Europe and Delaware.

Some of Charles' favorite things to do included bowling, traveling throughout the world and most importantly spending time with family and friends. Charles thoroughly enjoyed his job in Telecommunications and held several positions with Bell Atlantic, Wiltel, Verizon and IBM until his health began to fail. One of his greatest accomplishments through working can be seen at New Castle Airport where he constructed one of the communication towers. Charles loved

his grandchildren greatly and also attending Lums Pond Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. Everyone who met Charles enjoyed his warm personality.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, Calvin and Delia Purnell; and two brothers, Booker J. Purnell and Calvin Purnell. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Olivia; a daughter, Kendra Crawford; two sons, Charles "Jermaine" and Julian Purnell; six grandchildren: Anthony, Demetrius, Maurice, Marc, Mason and Maranda, all of DE; a sister, Brenda J. Marshall (Harvey) of Atlantic City, NJ; in-laws; Harriet Purnell, of Egg Harbor, NJ; Wayne Groce (Mary) of Grand Island, NY; Veronica Carr (Wayne) of Newark, DE; Chicola Bryant (Willard) of Chocowinity, NC; Marilyn Hill (John) of Woodstown, NJ and Lorrese Groce of Burlington, NJ; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He will also be missed by his childhood friend, Glen Pratt of Pleasantville, NJ.

A visitation will be held Monday, January 9, 2017, from 9:30-11 AM in the Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Rd., Newark, DE 19702 followed by a service in celebration of life at 11 AM. Burial will follow in Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery at 1 PM. For directions or to send an online condolence visit www.stranofeeley.com

Cemetery Details

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Bear

2465 Chesapeake City Rd.
Bear, DE 19701

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Service

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Tribute Wall

 Terry
Wilson
Johnson

“ Olivia, I am sorry to hear of Charles passing, I enjoyed talking with him on Monday nights at Blue Hen Lanes when you were bowling, he was always smiling. I remember thinking what a gentleman he was, always coming to watch you bowl and carrying your ball in and out of the ally. My Prayers are with you and your family at this time.



Terry Johnson

Terry Wilson Johnson - January 09, 2017 at 01:12 PM

ES

“ Olivia, we did not know Charles, but we have found that you are a very fine person therefore, he must have been. We are very sorry to hear about your family's loss. Please know that our prayers go out to you and your family during this dark time.

Mr. & Mrs. Earl E. Walker, Sr.

Earl E. Walker, Sr. - January 09, 2017 at 10:48 AM

RM

“ Reverend And Mrs. David McBride lit a candle in memory of Charles Jerome Purnell



Reverend and Mrs. David McBride - January 09, 2017 at 08:39 AM

RM

“ This condolence is for"Charlie" and the rest of the family. Our condolences go out to the family. I never personally met Mr.Purnell but my husband did and remember laughing with him and Mrs.Purnell,when "Charlie"worked at Shoprite. My husband was the security guard. Our heartfelt prayers go out to you all at such a time as this.

We love you"Charlie" and are here for you

R.I.P. Mr. Purnell !

Reverend and Mrs David McBride

(Pop David and Mom Beverly)

Reverend and Mrs. David McBride - January 09, 2017 at 08:38 AM

LA

“ Just want to say how sorry I was to hear about Charles 's passing. Just remember the scripture atRev. 21:3&4. I hope and pray that God's promise of a earthly paradise will bring you comfort and Charles will be back with his dear Family. Thinking of you with love and prayers. If I can do anything for you please let me know.

(302-834-4658)

With love Lena Adams & family

Lena Adams - January 08, 2017 at 11:55 AM

NC

“ Nichola Gale lit a candle in memory of Charles Jerome Purnell



Nichola Gale - January 06, 2017 at 06:32 AM

SM

“ *Sister & Brother In-Law Brenda & Harvey Marshall purchased the Sentiments of Serenity S pray for the family of Charles Jerome Purnell.*



Sister & Brother In-Law Brenda & Harvey Marshall - January 06, 2017 at 12:18 AM

TM

“ *Uncle Jerry you were more like an older brother I'm thinking about the story you told me about how I ran down the street behind you because I didn't want you to go out 😊 I love you always, Tracy*

Tracy Marshall - January 04, 2017 at 06:18 PM