



Charlie Gilliard

December 11, 1943 - February 13, 2026

Obituary for Mr. Charlie C. Gilliard

Charlie C. Gilliard, affectionately known to many as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor, and friend, was born on December 11, 1943, to the late Willie “Buster” Gilliard and Lucille “Pigeon” Gilliard Limehouse. He was lovingly raised by his grandmother Lula Gordon, on her farm in Hemingway, South Carolina. Here is where he learned the values of faith, hard work, and perseverance that would guide him throughout his life. Charlie graduated from Chavis High School and began working at Dubois Dye and Factory. Shortly thereafter, he relocated to New Haven, Connecticut in search of broadened job opportunities and to better provide for his family. He worked at Pratt and Whitney for a few years before beginning a long and dedicated career at Stop & Shop Warehouse, where he was faithfully employed for 30 years until his retirement. Charlie was known for his strong work ethic, team spirit, and leadership. He took pride not only in his work but also in mentoring younger colleagues, leaving a lasting impact on those who worked alongside him.

In 1965, Charlie married the love of his life, Mary Ann McKnight. Their union was a testament to commitment, love, and partnership. Together, they built a legacy rooted in faith and family. He took his family to Disney World every year for more than 10 consecutive years. In retirement, Charlie and Mary traveled the world taking cruises to The Bahamas, St. Thomas and Niagara Falls. They were also casino lovers, with Mohegan Sun being a favorite

destination.

Charlie was an active and faithful member of Immanuel Baptist Church for over 50 years, where he joyfully sang in the choir and lead One Day At A Time on myriad occasions. His warm smile, kind heart, and friendly nature endeared him to his beloved church community. In his leisure time, he enjoyed attending basketball and football games, always cheering with enthusiasm from the sidelines.

Charlie lived a full life. He leaves to cherish his precious memories a devoted wife, Mary Ann Gilliard; his children, Charles Gilliard (Sharon) and Jennifer Gilliard; his beloved grandchildren, Jordan, Layla, Koran, Talicia, Lauren, and Justin; his daughter-in-law, Valerie Murphy of Pamplico, South Carolina; his siblings, Lula J. Taylor of Laurelton, New York and Willie Gilliard of Melbourne, Florida; sisters-in-law, Rosa McKnight of Atlanta, Georgia, Janie Melvin of Queens, New York, Lela McKnight of Greenville, South Carolina; brother-in-law, Rev. Tommy McKnight (Sylvia) of Columbia, South Carolina; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

He was predeceased in death by his parents; his beloved son, Timothy Murphy; and his siblings, James Belin Gilliard and Barbara Gilliard-Hillman. Though Charlie is no longer with us, his life has been marked by faith, perseverance, humility, and love. His legacy echoes far beyond his years on Earth and has touched the lives of all those who have had the privilege of knowing him. He will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

Cemetery Details

Beaverdale Memorial Park

90 Pine Rock Avenue
New Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

FEB 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Immanuel Baptist Church
1324 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT

Funeral Service

FEB 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immanuel Baptist Church
1324 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Sending our condolences to the Gilliard family who we were very close to. Crawley Family.... Love you all*

Janice Crawley - April 26 at 06:47 AM

TD

“ *May God Comfort The Family During This Difficult Time 🙏*



Thomasena Denny - February 20 at 11:58 AM

DJ

“ *To Ms. Mary and family,
I offer my most sincere condolences to you. I pray that God, who is our comfort in times of sorrow and loss, will meet each of you where you are and hold you in the hallow of His hands as He ushers you into His peace where you can abide. Be encouraged. Debra J. James*

Debra J. James - February 20 at 09:11 AM

JF

“ *Please Accept Our Sincerest Condolences. Wishing You Peace, Love and Comfort At This Difficult Time. Curtis Jones and Family*



Jones Family - February 19 at 06:29 PM

JE

“ With deepest sympathy to the Gilliard Family. We are praying that God will keep and sustain you during this time.
Cousin Harriet Edwards

Joseph Edwards - February 19 at 05:28 PM

JE

“ Joseph Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Charlie Gilliard



Joseph Edwards - February 19 at 05:23 PM

JE

“ To Charles and Sharon
My prayers are with you and the family in the loss of your father.
Praying that the God will sustain and keep you during this time. Let the Lord be the shepherd throughout this time.

Cousin Joseph, Tashara, Terron and Camryn Edwards

joseph edwards - February 19 at 09:46 AM

JE

“ We are asking God to be with you and the entire Gilliard family to comfort your hearts and give you His Peace.
Harriet Edwards and Family

joseph edwards - February 19 at 09:41 AM

MB

“ *To the Gilliard family
May you find comfort during this difficult time.
Elm City Cowboys*

Marvin Barrett - February 19 at 12:39 AM

TD

“ *The Vassell Family, Delaware purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Charlie Gilliard.*



The Vassell Family, Delaware - February 18 at 08:50 PM

TE

“ *Theresa Ervin lit a candle in memory of
Charlie Gilliard*



Theresa Ervin - February 18 at 06:20 PM