



Acknowledgements

Joenelle and the family are so very appreciative of the support, assistance and well wishes extended to her and Charles over the last several years. Friends, neighbors and relatives have been by our side throughout. Especially, we thank the members of Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for their prayerful devotion to the family.

We treasure the expert care provided by Drs. Vernon Bryan and Nancy Thompson and all the other health professionals involved in Charles's treatments. Loving and patient caregivers Naomi Jordan, Latiyfa Reeves Solomon and Jackie Oliver brought great comfort and smiles to his face!

Thank you to Savannah Compassus, Lowcountry Cancer Center and Dedicated Senior Medical Center for all that they contributed. Our unofficial but essential "health benefits counselors" Drs. Norman Solomon and Kenneth S. Brown guided us mightily through administrative mazes.

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|------------------|---------------|
| "CEKnow" | "Citizen" |
| "Mr. G" | "Lee roy" |
| "Uncle Charles" | "Dad" |
| "Daddy" | "Mr. Charles" |
| "Brother-in-Law" | |



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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



CHARLES LEROY GORDON

FEBRUARY 21, 1943 ~ MARCH 29, 2025
 Wednesday, April 9, 2025 | 11 A.M.
BUTLER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 603 West Victory Drive | Savannah, GA 31404



Order of Service

Charles Leroy Gordon
Rev. Stephan L. Robertson, Officiating

Organ Prelude	Elder Eudora Allen
Processional	
Invocation	Rev. Robertson
Hymn Sung by Congregation	“Great is Thy Faithfulness”
Scriptures	
Old Testament	Psalm 23
New Testament	John 15: 12-17
Reflections	
Friends	Dr. Otis S. Johnson Former Mayor of Savannah, GA
Church Members	Elder Carl Moffitt President of Men’s Club
100 Black Men of Savannah, Inc.	Dr. Robert L. Stephenson Charter Member and Harold Oglesby, President
Solo: “ You’ve Got a Friend” (by Randy Newman)	Mario Bennett
A Family Tribute	Charles A. Gordon, Son
Resolutions	
State of Georgia	Rep. Carl Gillyard, District 162
Chatham County Commissioners	Bobby Lockett, 3 rd District
City of Savannah	Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor
Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church	Elder Johnye Gillans Clerk of Session
Hymn Sung by Congregation	“Blessed Assurance”
Eulogy	Rev. Robertson
Benediction	
Recessional	“Soon and Very Soon”

Service of Interment

Presentation of Military Honors at Bonaventure Cemetery
330 Bonaventure Road, Savannah, GA 31404
PROMPTLY AT 1:00PM



Repast

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church
1401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

ALL ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN US IN DELIGHTING IN CHARLES’S
“FAVORITE FOODS” AND THE SHARING OF OUR FONDEST MEMORIES



Remembering Charles

Charles Leroy Gordon, a cherished husband, father, family member, and esteemed member of the Savannah community, passed away peacefully at his residence on March 29, 2025, at the age of 82. Charles was known for his humor, warmth, generosity and commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around him.

Mr. Gordon is survived by his loving and dedicated wife, Mrs. MaeDe Joenelle Brown Gordon, whose unwavering support enriched their partnership for many years. They would have celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on April 12, 2025.

Charles’s legacy began on February 21, 1943 as the first and only son of Charles Alexander Gordon and Esther Glaze Gordon, who preceded him in death. He leaves one sister, Sedalia Gordon Singleton and one brother-in-law, Harold Singleton. Brother, sister, their spouses and children held each other near and dear throughout his lifetime. Charles is survived by his sons, Charles A. (Chuck) Gordon, Sean Watkins, Joseph Craig Gordon and Gary McFarlin Gordon who carry forth his legacy of kindness and compassion. Charles was preceded in death by his son Hamza Abdullah (Bobby Harper Gordon) who passed away in 1998. He is the grandfather to ten precious grandchildren and will also be missed by nieces, nephews, cousins and friends too many to count. As father and grandfather (PaPa), the pride he had for his offspring was evident in everything he did.

Charles was a proud 1960 graduate of Alfred E. Beach High School (Savannah) and 1967 graduate of Jackson State University (Jackson, MS). While possibly exaggerated, Charles often reminisced about his football days at both schools. Is it true he was recruited by the Denver Broncos???

Charles went on to apply his athletic and academic skills to teaching at several public schools in the region. Being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1967, he dutifully served until 1973, seeing active duty in Vietnam and Korea.

He returned to his native Savannah and immediately began a lifelong commitment to community empowerment, mentoring youth, political action and Black entrepreneurship. His youth and vitality were appreciated when he became the youngest ever Director of the May Street YMCA.

As a board member of multiple civic organizations throughout the years, he was particularly enriched by the satisfying experiences he encountered. The Coastal Center for Developmental Services, Bethesda Home for Boys and the Habersham YMCA benefitted from his passion for providing quality experiences for all. Relationships built over time gave Charles an opportunity to recognize many human service challenges and allowed him to offer valuable input towards problem solving.

He attended the 1995 Million Man March in Washington, DC with sons J. Craig and Gary and several of their friends. He was called to local action! Having also seen his father-in-law, NAACP stalwart J. Arthur Brown

receive commendation for his humanitarian work by the 100 Black Men of Charleston (SC), Charles coordinated a Savannah effort to emulate the tasks outlined by the national organization. In 1996, the 100 Black Men of Savannah was founded to formalize mentoring of the community’s youth, emphasizing all aspects of business management and entrepreneurial skills, always with integrity.

Charles was appointed by Governor Joe Frank Harris to the State Board of Pardon and Paroles, and to the Chatham County School Board as evidence of his deepening commitment to political service.

How many people remember hearing him say: “If you throw enough on the wall, something is bound to stick”? Charles believed taking chances and making big leaps are a part of successful enterprises.

Consequently, Charles and Joenelle created a home care agency, Statewide Health Care, Inc. with satellites in Columbus, Macon and Albany. The agency was honored on multiple occasions by such diverse groups as the Georgia State Legislature, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award Breakfast Committee’s “Business of the Year” commendation. You can imagine the pride they felt as management of the family-owned business included son J. Craig (formerly a multi-term Georgia State House representative). That pride extended to youngest son Gary who has embarked on a vigorous restaurant and food service enterprise. Whether related as “kin” or “kind”, many are grateful for Charles’s lessons and examples about political involvement, economic empowerment, concern for community, strong family values and a spirit of generosity that make a life well-lived.

