



Mr. Charles M. Kearney

March 6, 1943 - November 19, 2014

Mr. Charles Maurice Kearney, 70, of 44 Henry Ave., passed away on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield after complications due to a long-term illness. Known to many as “Chuck,” he was a well-known pillar within the community. Born in Greensboro, NC on March 6, 1944, he was the only son of Maurice and Fannie Love Kearney. In his youth, Chuck was active in church, 4-H, and Boy Scouts as well as being an avid swimmer. He attended Dudley High School, where he also had a passion for football, playing on the Dudley Panthers varsity team as a linebacker. In the summer months, he used his swimming abilities as a lifeguard on the coast of North Carolina. Upon his graduation in 1962, he attended A&T University in North Carolina. During his early college years, he participated in the civil rights movement; attending sit-ins at five-and-dimes in Greensboro. Seeing the tides of history change, Charles felt formal and experiential educations were going to be essential for societal change. Mr. Kearney moved from Greensboro to New York City, via Philadelphia Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia, he worked with under privileged youth as a mentor. Upon moving to New York, he was an adolescent counselor at the Floyd Patterson House for Boys (formerly Wiltwyck School for Boys). Being recognized for his strength to connect with inner-city youth, he went on to work in conjunction with Columbia University Teachers College teaching, ‘Strengths in Sensitivity Training,’ providing training for teachers who anticipated teaching within the cultural diversity of the New York school

system. Mr. Kearney went on to teach at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he completed his Masters of Education. He then went to work in Louisville Kentucky for the Jefferson County Board of Education, as a consultant. In 1974, he returned to Massachusetts to work as a family counselor at a neighborhood-counseling center in the former Tucker School building in Pittsfield.

Mr. Kearney has remained in Pittsfield since 1974. When the Tucker School closed, he became a counselor for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health; where he remained until his retirement in 2009. During his tenure, he received his Masters of Social Work from Smith College in 1985 and was an associate in private practice. He took great pride in his work and his ability to connect and help people.

Outside of work, Charles' had an obsession for music, being an aficionado of jazz. He had an extensive jazz collection spanning multiple genres. However, he was particularly enthusiastic about listening to and watching jazz groups, attending shows at Tanglewood, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and other various venues throughout the Northeast. He also dabbled in his own musical talent by playing various percussion instruments. Other interests he held were refinishing antique furniture, woodworking, and a profound joy for good food and sharing it with family and friends.

Mr. Kearney leaves his wife, the former Beatrice Benavides, with whom he had spent many wonderful years. He will also be sorely missed by his daughter, TSgt Nina E. Kearney, USAF (retired) from Spokane Washington, his grandson Private First Class Joshua M. Kearney, USMC, San Diego, California, and granddaughter Kayla C. Newton from Spokane, Washington; two sisters, Ida Teresa Kearney-Gabriel and Gladys Elizabeth Kearney-Corbitt and a nephew, Rajah Maurice Corbitt, all of whom live in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mr. Kearney also leaves countless friends who will miss him dearly, as well as those whose lives have been touched because of his efforts.

Funeral Notice:

Calling hours in Pittsfield, MA for Mr. Charles M. Kearney memorial service

will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield MA 01201. A Funeral Service will take place at Saint Stephen United Church of Christ in Greensboro, North Carolina on December 5, 2014 from 1230 to 2 p.m. Burial will follow at the Piedmont Cemetery also in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

RG

“ *To Bea and Chuck's Family,
I just learned today of Chuck's death and am speechless. A wave of sadness and love courses through me. He was a wonderful colleague and friend. His love of people, strong yet gentle nature, and genuineness are legacies he leaves all of us fortunate to have known and worked with him. I am so sorry for your loss and must believe he will remain a source of comfort and strength to you as his caring good nature continues to dwell and work its power within you.*
Roger and Barbara Goldin

roger goldin - December 14, 2014 at 03:03 PM

RV

“ *Beatrice/ Family -- I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of Charles. I just found out today through an e-mail from Ed Bride at Berkshires Jazz. It was only two months ago I saw you and Charles at Baba Louie's for the concert.*

It was a pleasure to know Charles for the past couple of years and share his enthusiasm for Jazz. He'll be missed.

God Bless,

Rich Vinette

Richard Vinette - December 08, 2014 at 10:48 AM

N(

*Richard,
Thank you for your kind words. He surely was an affectionado of Jazz, loving the contrast of its simplicity and complexity. His departure has left a whole in many people. However, I'm confident in saying he would want us to pay his enthusiasm forward. Keep enjoying Jazz, and think of Chuck as its notes and memories of him cross your mind. Be blessed.
Respectfully,
Bea and Nina*

Nina E. Kearney, BA, CDPT, USAF (ret.) - December 13, 2014 at 09:49 PM

DD

“ *Dear Bea & Nina*

Our prayers and thoughts are with you at this very difficult time. Mr. K was a very special person. His compassion, wisdom and sense of humor will be missed. May God grant you peace, comfort and healing.

Sending you love and support from the Durant-Powell Family.

God bless you,

Dawn

Dawn Durant-Powell - December 02, 2014 at 05:47 PM

N(

Dawn & Family, I appreciate the support and sentiment of your words and continued prayers. He will be forever loved and missed by many.

Nina E. Kearney, BA, CDPT, USAF (ret.) - December 09, 2014 at 04:29 PM

JL

“ I was very sad to read of the loss of Chuck. I enjoyed working together with him, as his sense of humor and total dedication to his clients made our work very rewarding. I'd like to extend my best wishes, comfort, and prayers to Bea, and all of Chuck's family, during this time of sadness. *Jeanne Livsey-Rodda*

Jeanne Livsey-Rodda - December 02, 2014 at 08:33 AM

N(

Jeanne,

We thank you for sharing your memories of him. He'd want the work he loved most to be continued with laughter and humor. He had a way of finding it in life, and would hope we could do the same. Be blessed.

Respectfully,

Bea and Nina

Nina E. Kearney, BA, CDPT, USAF (ret.) - December 13, 2014 at 09:56 PM



“ *Nina, I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

- Joe and Bronwyn Mindlin

Joseph Mindlin - November 30, 2014 at 12:27 PM

N(

Joe, Thanks so much for your prayers. Our family and countless others will miss him dearly. Be blessed.

Nina E. Kearney, BA, CDPT, USAF (ret.) - December 09, 2014 at 04:25 PM

MG

“ I met Chuck during my 11 year tenure working at the Brien Center. We met in the context of providing services to a number of mutual clients. Chuck's care and compassion for his DMH clients was extraordinary. I recall a number of discussions we had about jazz which was an interest in we both shared. I'm so saddened to read Chuck's obituary in the Berkshire Eagle this morning. My thoughts are with Chuck's family, friends, and colleagues.

Marty Greenstein - November 30, 2014 at 10:35 AM