



Charles Ray Butler

June 3, 1944 - September 10, 2021

Charles Ray Butler (Pauls Valley, OK) passed away on September 10, 2021, leaving this world a little better than he found it by offering love and care to those around him. True to form for Coach Butler, he defied the odds of a terminal brain tumor diagnosis in 2004, living another 17 years before it ultimately took his life. He passed away at home, in a room that was full of the stories and testimonies of how he had made a difference in people's lives. He was 77 years old.

Charles grew up and graduated high school in the small town of Allen, OK. Perhaps his initial claim to fame was his small role in a documentary film ("Born Hunters") about a bird dog his dad trained, but he was mostly known in town for being a stellar athlete and overall good guy. He attended Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, OK on a football scholarship and was a starting player all 4 years. It is most notable, however, that he met his lovely wife, Fran, while he was there. He later obtained his Master's in Education at ECU. Charles began his coaching career in Holdenville, OK. He and his young family then moved to the Gulf Coast area where he left his mark in Gulf Breeze, FL by starting the first ever football program at the local school. He later returned to his hometown of Allen, OK as a coach and teacher. He finished his career at Wynnewood, OK, where he taught and coached for 21 years. Coach Butler was inducted into the OK Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Northeastern State University Hall of Fame, and was the recipient of their

“Spirit of Excellence” award in 2017. If he wasn’t playing or coaching or watching sports, he was usually hunting or fishing, or maybe playing ping pong.

While the plaques and awards of championships line the walls of his home, these are not the stories that echo the loudest. It is the stories of how Charles made people feel that linger on in the hearts and minds of his family. There are countless stories of how he helped shape the character of young student athletes through his attention to them beyond their athletic ability. He showed care to the kids that he knew were struggling with things beyond academics. The community of coaches talk about his consistent integrity and work ethic. His friends at church and around town share stories of how his kindness and friendliness and compassion made a difference in their day. Even in the last months of his life, he became the champion of silly jokes as he tried to make every nurse or doctor or lab tech’ laugh. And it worked. He engaged people through kindness and humor until the very end, making everyone’s heart feel a little bit better, even if just for a moment. For him, this is what it meant to be like Jesus.

Throughout it all, his wife, Frances Elizabeth Cissna Butler, was by his side. They weathered all the hard things of life together for 55 years, ending it all with complete assurance of their love and devotion to each other.

Charles and Fran have 2 daughters: Amie Lampkin resides in Washington, OK; Bethany Butler Myers (and husband Doug) resides in Kansas City. They have 8 grandchildren: Tylor Lampkin (wife Alyssa), Kale Lampkin (wife Mika), Dagan Wilcox (husband Tanner), Creed Myers, and Lochlan Myers. They have 6 great-grandchildren: Teagan, Rigby, Ripkyn, Lilli, Daisy, and Kane. Charles was preceded in death by his son-in-law, James Lampkin, which broke his heart. Also, by his hardworking father, Harve Australia Butler, who helped hone Charles’s toughness; his very sweet mother, Joan (Vinson) Butler, who planted the seeds of kindness in his heart; and in recent weeks, his brother-in-law, Tom Whitaker.

Charles was a devoted big brother to his siblings: Dean Butler (Bakersfield,

CA, with wife Brenda) and Janice Butler Whitaker (Waxahachie, TX)
Charles's family invites you to help celebrate his life on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 10:00am, at the First United Methodist Church in Pauls Valley, OK. Interment will be in the Allen Cemetery under the direction of Wooster Funeral Home.

To honor Charles, donations can be sent to the Coach Butler Scholarship fund at the State Bank of Wynnewood (117 S Dean A McGee Ave, Wynnewood, OK 73098), or via Venmo: @CoachButlerScholarship. You may send a condolence to the family at www.woosterfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Allen Cemetery

Allen, OK

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church- Pauls Valley
407 N. Willow Street
Pauls Valley, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles Ray Butler*

November 12, 2022 at 02:44 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Don Milner - September 21, 2021 at 01:37 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Don Milner - September 20, 2021 at 11:09 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Don Milner - September 20, 2021 at 11:09 AM

CS

“ My heart goes out to the Butler family in this time of sorrow. I have known and gone to church with Charles and his family for many years. They have impacted many lives through their Christian walk and standards. Obviously, he stood out in the coaching community, just another credit to who he was. His smile was contagious, very much like his mother's, and it was a joy to be around both him and Fran. We will see him again soon!

Carol McAfee Sugg

Carol Sugg - September 16, 2021 at 03:33 PM

LF

“ We offer our deepest condolences to Coach Butler's entire family and friends. Coach Butler is a legend in the coaching community and impacted countless lives. We hope that we can uphold the standard he set in the coaching community. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Little Axe Football - September 14, 2021 at 03:22 PM

MJ

“ Coach Butler was my Defensive Line Coach and Special Teams Coach. He was a very kind man but very stern when need to be. It was that smile that kept you going. One of my favorite memories was in the 87' State Championship game. As a freshman starting kicker, I was having trouble adjusting to the height of OSU's field and couldn't get a good practice kick down. We went on defense first so that meant I had to kickoff to start the game. I was so nervous of screwing up the kickoff and which I did. That ball went straight up in the air maybe 15/20ft but only about 10/12 yards. I ran straight to the ball thinking I had to get the tackle but got blindsided. Little did I know, we caused a fumble and recovered it. When I came to the sidelines, Coach Butler had the biggest smile on his face and asked, “Did you practice that? Great job!!!!” I didn't know what happen much less could I answer him. But I remember that smile to this day. Thank you Coach for believing in me at such a young age. I will always remember you and the coaching you gave me which I coached and taught that to my little leaguers. Agile, Mobile, and Hostile

Mike Jones - September 13, 2021 at 05:46 PM

PM

“ Remember Charles as a very kind and sweet man. Know he loved his family and community dearly. Francis and the Cissna family were very dear to my family and hope God grants all of them peace and surround them with love.

Pamela Adams McDonald - September 13, 2021 at 05:31 PM