



# Charles Franklin Rutherford

November 11, 1960 - June 25, 2022

Charles Franklin Rutherford, age, 61, of Maryville, TN, passed away Saturday, June 25, 2022.

Charlie was born on November 11, 1960, and grew up in Tazewell County, Virginia; and he literally grew up and into his “Tall Man” stature of 6’5” which allowed him to excel on the basketball court at his alma mater, Tazewell High School. During his playing time with the Bulldogs, Charlie was chosen team captain, and was also awarded All County, All Southwest District, All Area, and Most Valuable Player accolades. Charlie graduated with honors in 1979, and then attended Southwest Virginia Community College and Concord College. He was elected to the “Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges” in recognition of outstanding merit and accomplishment as a student.

Following the completion of his formal education, Charlie went on to become founder and president of the American Phone Card Company which he continued to successfully build and expand until his recent retirement earlier this year. Charlie lived in Maryville, TN for 30 years and many times he remarked that the beautiful Smoky Mountains kept him there. He was also a member of the East Maryville Baptist Church.

During his early childhood, Charlie’s father taught him to appreciate all of the

beauty and wonder of the outdoors. It was there that he developed his appreciation, fondness and zeal for hunting, camping, and above all his search for and catching the elusive brook trout. Charlie became proficient at finding the perfect stream with the perfect fishing “hole.” His love of fishing (fly and bait) was his true passion which provided him the most contentment throughout his entire life. As an adult, Charlie was also known for his quiet generosity, compassion, and selfless giving to others. He was thoughtful, kind, and always very thankful for his life’s blessings. Charlie’s love of God, vigilant prayer and constant support and concern for this country were always at the forefront of his conservative way of life. Charlie’s last month was filled with joy. He and Katherine traveled over 1,600 miles through Montana and Wyoming, experiencing the beauty of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. After returning to Maryville, Charlie biked through Townsend, drove to Clingman’s Dome, camped, and paid a final visit to the little white church at Cade’s Cove where he and Katherine were married. But most importantly... Charlie fished. He waded the streams of the Big Horn in Wyoming, the creek banks of Tennessee, and his favorite streams in Cherokee, North Carolina. He fished. On Saturday June 25, 2022, following his courageous battle with cancer, Charlie peacefully completed his life’s journey, and is now with his beloved Father in Heaven.

Charlie was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Nelson Rutherford, Sr., of Tazewell, Virginia. Charlie is survived by his loving wife Katherine Pyott Rutherford of Maryville, Tennessee. He is also survived by his brother Leonard Nelson Rutherford, Jr. and wife Deloris of Concord, North Carolina; sister Pam Atkinson Roane of Roanoke, Virginia; sister Lynn Rutherford Snow and husband Jimmy of Crozet, Virginia; step-son C.J. Clifton and wife Denise of Morganton, North Carolina; daughter Tosha Rutherford Thomas and husband Kurt of Carrollton, Georgia; daughter Rachel Rutherford Layton and husband Joe of Clarksville, Tennessee; grandchildren Clarisa Slayter and fiance Lucas Duncan, Brenden Slayter, Blakley Thomas, Hannah Clifton, and

Layla Layton; great granddaughter Elliemay Duncan; and several nieces and nephews.

Charlie is also survived by very special friends Danny Rivera of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, Dr. Ed Cherry of Maryville, Tennessee, Charles Leonard of Kingsport, Tennessee, Dempsey Walker of Maryville, Tennessee, and Jerry Cromer of Tazewell, Virginia.

And everyone who knew Charlie knows his story would not be complete without saying...“GO VOLS!!!”

The celebration of Charlie’s life will be held on Saturday, July 9th, 2022 in Tazewell, Virginia at Main Street United Methodist Church with visitation from 10am to 11am with service to follow. At Charlie’s request, he will be interred with his father at Grandview Memorial Gardens in Bluefield, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, you may donate to the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Foundation in Charlie’s honor at [www.ukmarkey.org](http://www.ukmarkey.org). Obituary information submitted by Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Tazewell, Virginia is in charge of arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at [www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Grandview Memory Gardens

38659 Gov . G.C. Peery Hwy  
Bluefield, VA 24605

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Main Street United Methodist Church  
Main Street  
Tazewell, VA 24651

## Memorial Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Main Street United Methodist Church  
Main Street  
Tazewell, VA 24651

# Tribute Wall



“ *Charles Franklin Rutherford*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Charles Franklin Rutherford*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *On behalf of our family we want to thank each and everyone who called, sent cards, flowers, and offered your condolences. Still hard to believe our baby brother is gone. I know he is healed and with our Daddy and other family members. We know we will see him again one day. Please continue to life up his beloved wife Katherine and our family in prayer. Love, Lynn Rutherford-Snow and family*



**Lynn Rutherford-Snow** - July 31, 2022 at 08:46 PM



“ *Katherine, Lynn and other family members, So very sorry for your loss of sweet Charlie. We communicated on messenger and it was always good to hear from him. I prayed for him and know that he is healed now and in his eternal heavenly home. We can look forward to seeing him again. Hugs and prayers now and in the days ahead. Christine*



**Christine Kinser** - July 09, 2022 at 07:26 PM

CS

“ Charlotte Short & Anita Short lit a candle in memory of Charles Franklin Rutherford



Charlotte Short & Anita Short - July 09, 2022 at 11:46 AM

BM

“ Lynn and family. Although we didn't know Charlie we send our love to you and your family! Each are in our prayers and thoughts. Love to all

Barry Morris - July 08, 2022 at 06:25 PM



“ TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Charles Franklin Rutherford



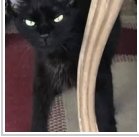
TonyanEdgar Wicks - July 05, 2022 at 08:54 AM

JC

“ Janice Hurley Cosel lit a candle in memory of Charles Franklin Rutherford



Janice Hurley Cosel - July 05, 2022 at 07:33 AM



“ as the sands through the hour glass.....



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**Davie Horton** - July 04, 2022 at 05:00 PM

PT

“ Sorry Lynn and family. Wonderful obituary. Prayers of comfort and love to your family.

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**Pat Thompson** - July 03, 2022 at 11:54 PM

RF

“ I went to school with Charlie starting out at North Tazewell Elementary, Tazewell Jr High and into High School . I remember in Jr. High we had games between all the home room classes . As luck had it , I had to jump ball against Charlie to start the game . Well , we all know how that went . Charlie just grinned and jokingly said you got up there pretty high Randy . Although Charlie was taller than most , he never looked down on anyone . My condolences to his family and friends . R. I. P Charlie 🙏

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**Randy Flanner** - July 03, 2022 at 09:50 PM