



Charles A. Stryker, III

January 14, 1940 - March 1, 2025

Charles was born in Princeton, New Jersey on January 14, 1940, to Ann Finnegan and Charlie Stryker. The Finnegan and Stryker families had lived in Princeton for two generations and he was proud of this connection.

He grew up in the post war years, first in barrack housing and later at 6 Fisher Avenue in a home built by his father and uncles. His dad worked for the U.S. Post Office and his mother was a homemaker. It was a boisterous Irish Catholic home with siblings Bill, Suzanne, Cathy and Michael.

Charlie graduated from Princeton High School in 1957 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Luckily, he was stationed for three years just outside of London and travelled Europe on the RAF Mildenhall basketball team. He was always playing sports especially baseball and basketball. He caught the golf bug caddying at the elite Princeton Springdale Golf Club.

After his four-year Air Force service, he worked and saved to go to college. A friend introduced him to FSU which led him to the campus. He loved history and majored in International Affairs with a concentration in U.S. history. Working hard, he was able to graduate in less than 3 years.

At FSU, he met Laurey Tripp on a blind date and began a fulfilling 58-year journey together. After graduating from FSU, Charles started his marketing

career. He spent 20 years as a sales executive with Xerox Corporation and another six leading Apple's Florida's education market.

Florida State University has been a big part of his life. Football tickets for 51 years and basketball for 47, there were many good times with friends and family rooting for the teams. The family lived in Tallahassee for 20 years, raised their two daughters, Nicole Keating and Erin Lee, as FSU superfans. In Tallahassee, he also became a high school basketball referee for 20 years which kept him in shape and connected to a game he loved.

Charles left the corporate world for academia and pursued an M.A. in History at USF. He spent 15 years teaching U.S. history at Hillsborough Community College and USF Sarasota Manatee. He thoroughly enjoyed teaching and influenced many students beyond his subject area with his encouragement and life experiences. Charlie is an avid reader of history and regularly provides context and facts for his family and friends, making him a sought-after Trivia contestant.

Charlie has always been a volunteer with political campaigns and community projects. He took his civic duties very seriously and made a difference. He mentored students, read to preschoolers, led organizations and served on Pierian and Ringling Lifelong Learning boards. He was a doer, and many benefited from his commitment to anything he embraced.

At 85, he felt so blessed to have seen his daughters Nicole and Erin thrive, raise families and bring Allan and Kevin into our family. Grandchildren Karly, Kelly and Conrad gave him confidence that the next generation can do better. He was at peace with his life, a loving family, and still a great short game.

He is survived by his wife, Laurey, Daughter Nicole Keating and son in law Kevin Keating, Orlando; Daughter Erin Lee and son in law Allan Lee,

Alexandria Virginia; Grandchildren Karly, Kelly and Conrad. Sisters Suzanne Meagher, Cathy Brennan and Bob Brennan; Brothers Michael Stryker and sister-in-law Barbara Stryker; Bill Stryker (deceased) and sister-in-law Kathy Stryker.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to Season of Sharing – Community Foundation of Sarasota County and our PBS station WEDU.

Services are Monday, March 10 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church (7900 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota) at 11:00 a.m. followed by internment at the Sarasota National Cemetery (9810 Clark Road).

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

MAR 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
7900 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34241

Burial

MAR 10. 2:00 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Tribute Wall



“ Charlie was a great addition to the history and current events book group in UPCC; we knew him briefly but appreciated his knowledge and commentary. We are sad at your loss and hope that the joy of life with him helps eventually to overcome the grief you must feel.
John Edwards

John Edwards - March 05, 2025 at 05:47 AM

CO

“ Charlie and Laurey lived across the street in UPCC from my husband Charlie and me for 17 lovely years. The two Charlies clicked with each other very quickly, a very nice arrangement for all four of us! There was a lot of community volunteering for most of the years we were together and lots of impromptu dinners after late afternoon cocktails. Always a joy, Charlie loved my pasta sauce on anything and I was always happy to oblige! Many years of happy memories. When we needed to move back to our daughters for my Charlie's failing health, we stayed in touch and when my husband passed, Charlie and Laurey came all the way to Connecticut for the funeral as good friends will do.

Charlie was one of those men you don't forget, wonderful , funny, always ready to help and deeply devoted to his church as a reader and as a Knight.

Charlie you will be missed by so many people, give my sweet husband a hug and a kiss for me when you get to heaven....no doubt you will!

Dear Laurey, Nichol and Erin and your families my deepest and sincerest condolences for this devastating time in your lives. Laurey you will always be one of my closest friends and dearest friends.

Love you and may God continue to Bless you always, Carol Orlando

Carol Orlando - March 04, 2025 at 04:34 PM

CO

“ Carol Orlando sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles A. Stryker, III



Carol Orlando - March 04, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - March 04, 2025 at 01:38 PM

BR

“ Charlie has been a lifelong friend of 55 years, we know he is in our Lords hand and we will see him again. Though our hearts are filled with tears, we have so many happy memories that we will cherish forever. He was a wonderful husband, father, and friend. Our love to Laurey, Nicole, and Erin and all of Charlie's family. ❤️

brenda - March 04, 2025 at 01:21 PM

BC

Charlie was one of a kind, very active, great sense of humor, loving husband and father and wonderful friend. Sam and I had the privilege of traveling with Laurey and Charlie. We visited four continents and were always enhanced by the background and knowledge of our own historian. What great fun we had together. My earliest interaction came when Charlie was my driver in a golf cart no less. I was a candidate for the Hillsborough County Commission and he volunteered to drive me around with campaign signs at the opening of the old Tampa Bay Buccaneers first ever football game! I know people thought we were crazy, but we actually thought we were touching voters! Good grief! Charlier never stopped supporting my various campaigns and others along with Laurey. Until very recently he also tried to improve my golf game. He was a patient instructor and never criticized this slow learner. I will miss his dear friendship and know is family mourns his love and compassion.

Betty Castor - March 05, 2025 at 10:30 AM

JB

We can only relate to “what a stand-up person” Charlie was while amongst all of us. He was a quiet leader but always up to something with his sense of humor. He and Laurey became life long friends beginning in 1972. We made our trek from Tampa to Tallahassee many many times for FSU football weekends. We had such a wonderful time and relationship. The the next step was for ALL of us to return to Tallahassee and continue the amazing relationships with all our friends. Football, basketball, baseball, and golf games were a weekly happening. Please save me a place at the table with you “Flamingo Sticks”, “Fatboy” Mike Muley, “Alterboy” Russ Kelly, and Coach Bobby “Hey Buddy” Bowden. We will always think of you and remember the many golf lessons we gave you! Rest in Peace my friend... We will be here for Laurey, Nicole, and Erin...until we see each other again!

John Berry - March 05, 2025 at 01:07 PM

RM

Charlie was the kind of person we all would like to be. He was upbeat, funny, sensitive and genuinely interested in people. His loss leaves a hole in our hearts, but memories of him will always be treasured. Judy and I share the loss that you are feeling. We were privileged to share time with Charlie.

Ron Meyer - March 06, 2025 at 12:16 PM