



Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett

May 9, 1940 - May 30, 2021

CHARLES A. "BIG CHARLIE" HEWLETT

Charles Anthony Hewlett passed away on Memorial Day weekend at the age of 81, a fitting ending for an American patriot that was a veteran of two branches of the military and a vital contributor to the well-being of our community. What a ride his life was! He was born on Bourbon Street and then grew up on Bayou St. John at Dumaine Street, a true son of New Orleans. "Big Charlie" was quick with a lengthy list of jokes and stories, and always related a 'joke of the day'. He was a really big guy with a huge heart to match and was loved and respected by everyone that was lucky enough to know him. Charlie graduated from Warren Easton High School, after which he enlisted in The United States Marine Corps. He then enlisted in The United States Navy and rose to the rank of AX, a then-new designation of Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Technician, stationed in Key West Florida during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After his time in the military, he received a degree in Electrical Engineering from LSU...and then Charlie became a "rocket scientist". He was a Contract Liaison Engineer at The Boeing Corporation, working on the S-1C First Stage booster of the Saturn V Moon Rocket, built at the NASA Michoud Facility. Along the way he developed a few hobbies, including motorcycles, waterskiing, skydiving (with 295 jumps), and his beloved golf, known along the way as "Big Sweet Swingin' Charlie". Many happy days were spent on many golf courses with his dearest friends, Ray LeCron, Sr. and Joe Margavio.

Charlie was the only child of Ruth Hewlett and Captain Charles H. Hewlett. His father died when Charlie was 9 years old, and for the rest of her life Charlie was a loving, caring, faithful son to his mother. Big C is survived by his second wife, Belinda Comboy Hewlett, her children Jason Comboy (Michelle) and Bethany Brinkman (Mike), and seven grandchildren, Jay, Ryder, Adeline, Elle, Grace, Blaise and Patrick. He is also survived by his first wife, Carol Hewlett and her daughters, Angela Gomon and Deanna Amort. Charlie will be missed by all who knew him, including his faithful friends Kenny Pennington, Jay Pederson, Ray Copeland, and Randy Thornton.

Charlie Hewlett leaves behind a lasting legacy in the First Responders' community. He became an Auxiliary Officer of the New Orleans Police Department in 1964 and dedicated the remainder of his life to Law Enforcement. He established American Police Equipment/A.P.E. Inc., providing uniforms and equipment to agencies all across SE Louisiana. Charlie possessed a vault of knowledge about uniforms and equipment. He was truly a legend in the uniform business, known by manufacturers throughout the country. Police Officers, Sheriff's Deputies, Firefighters, Emergency Medical and Security Officers were not just customers to him but dedicated hardworking heroes for whom he had the utmost respect, always striving to fulfill their needs. Of particular note are the thousands of officers on the street today wearing Body Armor obtained through Charles Hewlett and American Police Equipment. After the levee failures following Hurricane Katrina, the business was flooded and totally destroyed, but Charlie and Belinda felt it was their civic duty, and just the right thing to do, to rebuild the business, literally from the cement floor and studs. He knew how important it was in the city's rebuilding process to support and service the First Responders.

Big Charlie was a big man who loved to laugh, loved to excel, and loved the life he lived. So be a little sad, but not too sad, and maybe re-tell a joke or funny story about this truly good man, Charles "Big Charlie" Hewlett.

Thanks to Charlie's caregivers Josh Woods and John Walker, and to all the

dedicated employees at A.P.E., Inc. Also thank you to the 3rd District Volunteer Fire Department for their frequent and patient assistance. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Memorial Service at L. A. Muhleisen and Son Funeral Home, 2607 Williams Blvd., Kenner on Friday, July 23, 2021. The Memorial Visitation will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with the Memorial Service to immediately follow at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local police, sheriff, or fire department in Charlie's name. Semper Fi!

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUL **23**. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

L. A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home
2607 Williams Boulevard
Kenner, LA 70062

Memorial Service

JUL **23**. 3:00 PM (CT)

L. A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home
2607 Williams Boulevard
Kenner, LA 70062

Tribute Wall



“ Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett

October 15, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ Dustin lit a candle in memory of Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett



Dustin - September 28, 2021 at 02:15 PM



“ Ringed by Love was purchased for the family of Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett.



July 23, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ Big Charlie's family-past memories of Love and Happiness helps heal a broken heart.

Ronnie Abboud

ronnie abboud - July 18, 2021 at 08:36 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett.*



July 16, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *We have been friends for A long time. I miss your presence when I walk into your house. You were always so kind and generous to me! Will also miss your jokes and stories you would tell me when I was cutting your hair. Happy you are at peace now and no more suffering.*

*Miss and love ,
Barbara Nodier*

Barbara Nodier - July 14, 2021 at 06:37 PM



“ *Big Charlie I will miss you!
I will miss your wit and humor!
I will miss the short and fun times we had together!*



Johnny Wingrave

John Wingrave - July 12, 2021 at 10:09 PM

JC

“ Jason Comboy purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett.



Jason Comboy - July 12, 2021 at 11:36 AM

RP

“ Raymond Pizzitolo purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett.



Raymond Pizzitolo - July 12, 2021 at 10:55 AM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett.



July 09, 2021 at 01:38 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charles A. "Big Charlie" Hewlett.



July 08, 2021 at 11:06 AM

JM

“ To my biggest friend, my companion since 1977, having fun playing golf around town and the Gulf coast, cards, liars poker, or killing a fifth of Vo at Gennaros and all the jokes along the way. I missed your company the last few years because our age caught up with us. Now you leave me, the last of our foursome for golf, and a void in my life. Like you always said "thanks for the memories", will miss you. Rest in peace Big Guy.

Joe Margavio

Joe Margavio - July 06, 2021 at 10:04 PM

BA

“ Sorry to hear of Charlie's passing. He was certainly a unique human being. And a friend to the LEO community. May he Rest in Peace...

Bruce M. Anderson - June 14, 2021 at 12:28 AM

AG

“ My Dad was one of the BiGGEST hearts I've ever known. He was always there for me no matter what. He'd make me listen to a joke first, then try and get me to rub his feet, neck, or head, then laugh about how much it was going to "cost" me. He would always make me work hard for the things I wanted and needed but they would some how magically show up some how. We had great times together and as much as I hated getting up on weekends for breakfast, he always took me with him. He taught me so much and I will miss everything about him. I love you Dad!!! I will miss you!!

Angela Gomon - June 11, 2021 at 11:16 AM

TH

“Tis a sad day indeed to have lost Big "C". We have known each other for almost 20 yrs. and have always been good to each other in this business. Friendly competitors, but friends nonetheless. He would call, I would say hello, he would start out with a joke. I knew it was him :) Thank you for everything you have done for me and the wisdom you have imparted to us all. Rest in Peace my friend.

*Tim Heinzen
Barneys Police Supplies*

Tim Heinzen - June 09, 2021 at 08:15 AM

JO

“I was shocked and saddened to hear of Big Charlie's passing. He was a friend, mentor, and friendly competitor I first met in the early 80's at a Smith and Wesson distributor meeting at Pinehurst NC. He broke up the room in laughter after a particularly dull presentation on night vision explaining why his price on a test question was 4 times everyone else's due to all the political donations required. I never had a conversation with him that didn't start or finish with a joke. The world is a smaller place without him.

*Jim Orr
G T Distributors Austin TX*

Jim Orr - June 08, 2021 at 02:29 PM

LG

“ *Big Charlie is a man I will forever remember with great fondness. His insight and advice regarding business were always right on point, and every conversation ended with a joke. I frequently tried to repeat the jokes when I got home, but my delivery was never quite right.*

Big Charlie - Everyone up here at Smith & Warren will miss you greatly. Your presence was felt here and you will live on in our thoughts and memories.

*Respectfully,
Lee & The Smith & Warren Team*

Lee Galperin - June 07, 2021 at 03:19 PM

DL

“ *Charlie, I can not thank you enough for your friendship over the last 20 years. It has been my pleasure and a true blessing to have a such a wonderful person like you to call my friend. Today, I am heartbroken knowing I will not hear your voice but I know you are in a better place. I will miss you tremendously.*

*Till we meet again,
David A. Lajb*

David Lajb - June 07, 2021 at 01:57 PM

RT

“ Big C I have cried so much since I learn about your death. For 15 years we would go to war about everything. Everyday you would show me what you did at work. You and I have talk about this day a few times. I told Lady B what you wanted her to know and I told her. I know you love me like a son. Big C loved his Big Swoll. You know you told me don't turn your life into something big. You have to be one of the smartest person I have ever talk to. I want to tell the world Big C didn't want any one to cry for him but to just remember the good times. Rest In Peace Big C you will always have a place in my heart forever. I want the world to know I love you Big C and thinks for being my friend.

Randy Thornton - June 06, 2021 at 07:23 PM

AB

“ To "Big Charlie", Thanks for all your great smiles and stories. We will miss doing the "SOS" for you. Prayers for the Family.
From: The
Lagniappe Luncheonette Family

Abby and Larry Brown - June 04, 2021 at 04:01 PM

TP

“ Big C was a big man in stature and personality. I learned a lot about the business world from him and he motivated me over the years to improve a lot of things in my world, and he helped me do some of it too. His tenure in the uniform and equipment business brought him into the orbit of many sheriffs, superintendents, chiefs, celebrities, and politicians; in some cases it may be more correct to say they were brought into his orbit. He will be missed by his friends, everyone here at the store, as well as his customers. He taught us all a lot, and I am pretty sure I will still hear his advice and critiques as we carry APE forward.

Tony P - June 04, 2021 at 11:15 AM

CH

“ i have worked with Big Charlie for almost 19 years. the jokes he told so many jokes!! he always finished our business issues with a joke . i will miss him so much and even though since covid he had been working from home and i did not get to talk to him as often i will miss our conversations and our friendship. Rest in peace my friend you will always be in my heart and my memories. we have another awesome angel in heaven fly high Big Charlie love you

carole hadden - June 04, 2021 at 07:31 AM