



# Charles Ennis Burton

JAN 28, 1960 - OCT 30, 2025



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# Charles Ennis Burton

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**C**harles “Chuck” Ennis Burton, 65, of Milton, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on October 30, 2025.

He was born in Lewes on January 28, 1960, to the late John Clifton Burton II (“Jack”) and Gladys Hill Burton Stevens (“Hilly”). He was predeceased by his brother, William Virden Burton (“Randy”), and his granddaughter, Caralyn Jayne Burton.

He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Dawn L. Burton; three sons, Charles Matthew Burton (Samantha) of Millsboro, Jacob Cody Burton (Sarah) of Lewes, and Luke Daniel Burton (Olivia) of Georgetown; his siblings, John C. Burton III (“JC”) (Diane) of Lewes, Darryl Lee Burton of Smyrna, and Jane Burton Darden (John) of Franklin, VA; his grandchildren, Ashley, Joseph, Christian, Lillyann, Daniel, Cooper, Charlotte, Kevin, Gemma, and Coleson; and great-grandchildren, Lucas, Cassie, and Dakota.

Chuck had a deep appreciation for nature and the simple joys of life. He was an original participant in Punkin Chunkin, having competed in its very first event in 1986, and continued to organize and promote the sport, cherishing the opportunity to help raise funds for scholarships and taking immense pride in the good it brought to others.

He was also a lifelong collector of Indian artifacts and loved teaching others how to look for them. Chuck enjoyed spending time outdoors gardening, fishing, crabbing, clamming, hunting, and boating. He was honored to live off the land he called home for his entire life, preserving his harvest for the winter months and generously sharing much of his bounty with friends and family.

Chuck enjoyed taking children and young adults under his wing, teaching and mentoring them while sharing his skills, knowledge, and life experiences. This often created long-lasting relationships, including one with close friend Jake Farrell, with whom he shared many adventures.



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He also had a passion for breeding and raising Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, and his loyal companion, Dela, was rarely far from his side.

In 1985, Chuck started his own business, beginning with masonry and concrete work. Over the years, he expanded his skills and services to include carpentry, excavation, and large-scale renovations—instilling his hardworking mentality and dedication in his sons, who began working alongside him from a young age. Chuck also took great pride in restoring historic buildings in Lewes, including the Vessels Building at 114 Second Street and the building at 109 West Market Street (formerly Café Azafran), leaving a lasting mark on the community through his craftsmanship.

When Chuck was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in 2021, he didn't let it slow him down. After many of his chemo treatments, he went straight home, hooked up his boat, and went out on Rehoboth Bay to crab or walk the shores hunting for artifacts. He also continued to embrace his lifelong love of creating, making oyster knives from railroad spikes salvaged from the tracks that once ran through Lewes. He would heat, twist, shape, and carve them—crafting unique and beautiful designs that transformed pieces of local history into functional works of art. Chuck was very proud to donate them to charities to be auctioned off.

Chuck's love for his family was the truest reflection of who he was—unwavering, selfless, and enduring. Though he is gone, his spirit and love will forever remain in the hearts of those he cherished.

A Memorial service will be held on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Second Street, Lewes, DE. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue until 12:00 p.m. Interment will be private.

A reception will follow at the Inn at Canal Square, where friends and family can come together to share stories, laughter, and memories—just as Chuck would have wanted.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Beebe Medical Foundation in his memory.

Please sign the tribute wall located on this page.



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FLORIST NOTE - PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3 PM ON THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 6 AT OUR LEWES LOCATION.



# Events

**Charles Ennis Burton**

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## Visitation

**Friday**, November 7, 2025

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
200 2nd St, , Lewes DE 19958



## Memorial Service

**Friday**, November 7, 2025

12:00 PM ET

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
200 2nd St, , Lewes DE 19958





## Tribute Wall

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MD

**Maria Dipasquale** posted:

Chuck was a wonderful influence on my son Matt Prettyman who has been friends with Luke since grade school. Chuck always had time for the boys- his home was another home for my son. Chuck truly enjoyed sharing activities and history with the boys.

November 7 at 6:32 AM

JB

**John And Tammy Burton** sent a Serene Retreat to the Burton family.



November 5 at 2:48 PM

JB

**John And Tammy Burton** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Charles.



November 5 at 2:48 PM

ST

**Shelly And Patrick Thoroughgood** sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Burton family.



November 4 at 12:14 PM

ST

**Shelly And Patrick Thoroughgood** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Charles.



November 4 at 12:14 PM

CT

**Charles And Lynn Moore , Coastal Towing** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Burton family.



November 4 at 9:11 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Joseph Bishop** posted:

Growing up in Lewes was a magical experience .....chuck allways a friend through thick and thin. I will think of chuck every day and have called out his name several times...peace love and strength to his family.....Jay b

November 4 at 8:29 AM



**Donna Eastburn And Family** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Burton family.



November 2 at 2:54 PM



**Donna Eastburn And Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Charles.



November 2 at 2:54 PM



**Jim Berrigan** posted:

We met Chuck when we lived in Lazy Lake back in the 80s and it was fortunate that we did. He was a man of many talents and he was easy to talk to and to listen to. Condolences and prayers to his family from Jim and Wanda Berrigan, Lewes, DE.

November 1 at 11:36 PM



**Lynn Walsh** lit a candle in honor of Charles.

Chuck was a childhood friend of mine we were neighbors and spent countless hours playing together back in Lewes trailer park he was my best buddy having moved to Dover we lost track of each other but I feel very fortunate to have been able to reconnect with my friend over the past year we spoke frequently sharing many life stories he was of great support to me when I recently llist my brother Chuck Hazel his fishing and clamming buddy he made a memorial piece for me which I will cherish forever his craftsmanship is extrairdinary he sent me many photos of his work but Chucks greatest love was his family what an honor to have been your friend I will miss you Chuck until we meet again



November 1 at 11:28 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Charles by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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