



Charles Hamilton Armstrong

November 3, 1931 - December 2, 2017

Charles H. Armstrong was born in Elizabeth City, NC on November 3, 1931. He passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2017 peacefully in his home.

He is pre-deceased in death by his father, Willard Franklin Armstrong, his mother, Peggy Armstrong-Belanga and his step-father, Mike Belanga. He is survived by his loving wife Betty Helene Armstrong, his children Charles Raphael Armstrong, Carmel Ann Wood (Husband, Bill Wood), Betty Teresa (TC) O'Brien, (Husband, Steve O'Brien), grandchildren, Brittany Michele Wood, Kayla Marie Wood, Madelyn Elise Mazzeo and Great granddaughter, Mallory Ann Pyles, daughter of Brittany Marie Wood and Steve Daniel Pyles Jr. He also leaves his loving Sister-in-laws, Florine Joyner and Doretha Vaughan, friends, many nieces and nephews and musicians and students whose lives he touched deeply.

His love for music was evident at a young age and was proud to say he was a lead trombone player and drum major of the 100 piece marching band of Elizabeth City High School. Just out of high school he won 1st place with is trombone solo on the Horace Height Show. He received a Bachelors of Music Education from East Carolina University where he was also active in the dance band and marching band. At East Carolina he met the love of his life Betty Helene Armstrong. He served two years in the Army as 1st Trombone player in the 3rd Army Headquarters Band, the top band in Atlanta, Georgia

and during this time was invited to tour with Hal McIntosh Band. He went to graduate school at Notre Dame University and was proud to be a member of the "Fighting Irish" Concert Band and even played a "blues" solo he wrote himself at the halftime football show with the Notre Dame Marching Band. While at Notre Dame he was a trombone soloist and loved playing and supporting his family by teaching music, giving private lessons and playing in Jazz Nightclubs. He moved his family to Maryland in 1964 and originally taught at 5 elementary schools and worked the summers for the "Head Start" program. Superintendent of Charles County Public Schools, Jessie Starkey, was so impressed with his musicianship, interaction with the students and his original song "Laughing Place" that he hired him as the first Music Supervisor in Charles County.

As Music Supervisor he was instrumental in starting the Tri-County Honor Band program to bring more opportunity to the instrumental students of Southern Maryland. Missing what he loved most, teaching and students, he went back to the classroom and started teaching again. He had many highlights in his teaching career but he was proud to say that under his direction the Matthew Henson Middle school band was the first to get straight ones at the State Band Festival on grade level 3 music and the Lackey High School band was the 1st Grade 6 band in Charles County to get straight ones at State. Several years after he retired from teaching he brought his new dream to life by creating the Southern Maryland Concert Band. He leaves not only this legacy behind, now 30 years strong, but the legacy of all the students' lives he touched along the way.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 6 PM to 8 PM at Raymond Funeral Service, P.A. 5635 Washington Avenue LaPlata, MD 20646 where a funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 9:30 AM

Internment to follow at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf.

Memorial donations in his memory can be made to the Southern Maryland Concert Band, P. O. Box 2595 Waldorf, MD 20604. Electronic patrons <http://www.somdconcertband.org>

Cemetery Details

Trinity Memorial Gardens

3165 Mattawoman Beantown Rd.
Waldorf, MD 20601
<http://trinitymemorialgardens.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Service
5635 Washington Avenue
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-2920
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<https://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Service

DEC 7. 9:30 AM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Service
5635 Washington Avenue
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-2920
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<https://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles Hamilton Armstrong*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Charles Hamilton Armstrong*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Hamilton Armstrong.*



December 05, 2017 at 10:07 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Charles Hamilton Armstrong.*



December 05, 2017 at 08:57 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Hamilton Armstrong.*



December 05, 2017 at 08:47 PM



“ *Sacred Garden Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Hamilton Armstrong.*



December 05, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Hamilton Armstrong.*



December 05, 2017 at 09:18 AM

BS

“ I am proud & honored to say I was a member of both the Matthew Henson & Lackey High School Bands when we received those straight 1's!! He also talked me into joining the So. MD. Concert Band while under his direction. During my senior year of high school I also served as his teacher's aide. While at Matthew Henson, we often said we were part of the best band in Charles County with the best band director! He was a very talented inspiration to us all! I have very fond & great memories of time spent under his direction and am blessed our paths crossed!

Bertie Posey Spalding - December 05, 2017 at 08:22 AM

GM

Me to. Garry Moyer from Naples, fl

garry moyer - December 05, 2017 at 08:26 PM

GM

How are you Bertie

garry moyer - December 05, 2017 at 08:30 PM

BS

Hey Garry! Good to see I wasn't the only one who remember our times in band. I believe when we got those high scores was the same trip the bus broke down near Crofton worrying him that we would be late & disqualified!

Bertie Posey Spalding - December 06, 2017 at 02:06 PM



Thoughts and prayers to Mr. Armstrong's family and friends. He was the best band teacher! I have many great memories of marching band and concert band. I still have some of my sheet music. Lackey High School Class of 1977 Candie Loper Dyer

Candie Dyer - December 06, 2017 at 09:46 PM



Great director and good times. Learned so much from him!

Sandi Mohler - December 08, 2017 at 05:19 PM

MD

“ *McDonough High School Performing Arts Department purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Charles Hamilton Armstrong.*



McDonough High School Performing Arts Department -
December 05, 2017 at 06:14 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Hamilton Armstrong.*



December 04, 2017 at 09:59 PM

 Clifton
Whitford

“ *A master of shaping a phrase, he loved Von Suppe's Morning Noon, and Night in Vienna. Man I learned a lot from him. What a great guy.*

Clifton Whitford - December 04, 2017 at 09:54 PM