



Chatman Charles Talley

February 9, 1961 - September 7, 2023

Chatman Charles Talley died peacefully due to pancreatic cancer on September 7, 2023, in the hospice center at the Miami VA Hospital. He was 62.

He is preceded in death by his father Ennis and his mother Alice. He is survived by his brother Neil (and Natthaya), his son Aron, and his granddaughter Kaeli as well as by an extended family. Chatman will be sorely missed by the many good friends, he made through the years.

Chatman was born in San Jose, CA. After graduating high school, he earned an Associate of Arts degree in Electronics Technology. He joined the U.S. Coast Guard and worked in search and rescue operations. He was proud of his service, and he often talked about the planes he flew on and the exciting missions he experienced. His Coast Guard friends were supportive throughout his life.

Chatman was a man of many talents and interests. He was a certified massage therapist and a martial arts student. He loved snorkeling and scuba diving and went on many trips to explore the ocean depths in places like Mexico, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, and Honduras.

Chatman loved music and went to as many live concerts as he could. His

music taste was eclectic - from 80's vintage to classical. He had an incredible memory for songs. He enjoyed fruits, especially mangoes, was an avid Star Trek fan, and practiced yoga. His library was extensive and diversified.

For most of his adult life, Chatman dealt with inherited heart health problems which made sudden death a possibility. This was something he accepted with equanimity and courage.

He was a firm believer in social justice and a caring and loyal person. As a result, he was able to make friends with people from all walks of life. Many will remember how well he took care of the little dog he rescued that became his service dog, Fritz.

His memory will always be cherished and a blessing to those who knew and loved him.

Cemetery Details

South Florida National Cemetery

6501 South State Road 7
Lake Worth, FL 33449
(561) 649-6489
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp>

Previous Events

Service

OCT 10. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Wilcox Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Chatman Charles Talley*



Wilcox Family Funeral Home - October 15, 2023 at 01:07 PM

MC

“ *One year. One year. It's as if you're still here. I hope you hear all the times I've talked with you. I also hope you're learning and growing where you are. This little video reminded me of us way back when.*

□

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Rvmvt7gscIM?feature=shared>

Marcia Colon - September 07, 2024 at 11:30 PM

MC

“ *9 months. I'm having a hard time accepting. It's like ... you're still here.* 💔

Marcia Colon - June 15, 2024 at 09:33 PM

MC

“ *6 months.* 💔👉

Marcia Colon - March 11, 2024 at 12:29 AM

MC

“ It’s been 3 months.

<https://youtu.be/GCeHLdnlNs?si=FwbK-TmlGGoBokvm>

“...I know I’ll see your face again.”

Marcia Colon - December 07, 2023 at 04:08 PM



“ 42 files added to the album Memories Album



Wilcox Family Funeral Home - October 12, 2023 at 11:17 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wilcox Family Funeral Home - October 11, 2023 at 02:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Chatman Charles Talley.*



October 09, 2023 at 09:37 AM

“ It is not easy writing about someone you’ve have a long and complicated history with. In many ways, mostly external, Chatman and I were very different, yet we both heard a similar song to life. In almost 20 years, I learned to see the world differently because of him. They say the spiritual world is really one of opposing forces continuously finding harmony. If this is true then that was our eternal dance.

I am the person I am today in large part because of Chatman. My faith tells me Chatman is not annihilated, but consummated. I know he did not have a traditional faith. The poet Khalil Gibran said that “If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heard wide unto the body of life.” Chatman was able to open his heart wide to the fullness of life and showed me and us all, how to do that a little bit better.

Gibran also said that “...to cease breathing is to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand to seek God unencumbered.” Chatman felt pain most of his life. My hope and wish for Chatman is that is at last free from those restless tides to expand in a way he never could here on Earth.

In many and real ways, he was an enigma to me until his death. I never felt closer, and simultaneously distanced from another human being.

I speak to him still, and often.

Although we did not communicate for almost a year before his death, that was insignificant.

Chatman almost had a “larger than life” presence. I know we can all tell many stories about some of the clever, funny, even outrageous things he said and did. Whatever they were, they were all memorable. There was Chatman the man, and Chatman the myth. Where the myth fails, human love begins.

*"What was burnt, broken, and torn is still in my hands. I am the keeper of fragile things and I have kept of you what is indissoluble."
~Anais Nin.*

Until we meet again.

~M.

Marcia Cuesta Colon - October 05, 2023 at 04:02 PM

LE

Beautiful tribute to Chatman, Marcia!! I know how much you and Giovanna miss him. You were an amazing part of his past and I am so happy that we have that in common. I love you, and he was so fortunate to have you in his life!!!

Linda Evanoff - October 14, 2023 at 08:20 PM

AG

“ *Andrea G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chatman Charles Talley.*

Andrea G. - October 05, 2023 at 03:27 PM

AN

“ *Chatman and I were neighbors and would walk or beloved pets and chat when we ran into each other. He was an incredibly kind person and I always enjoyed our talks. May he rest in peace and be reunited with his best pal Fritz. He will be missed.*

Andrea - October 05, 2023 at 03:22 PM

DR

Truly hope your in Paradise reunited with Fritz .. Please say hi to Charlie and Prince for me .. tnx Chatman xoxo New Yawk ;)

drea - October 05, 2023 at 05:57 PM



“ *Distinguished Service Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Chatman Charles Talley.* ”



October 05, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ Chatman was a gentleman and a scholar, high in kindness, openness, thoughtfulness and forever looking to help others in their pursuits of happiness or to relieve suffering in this world. He loved to celebrate his good life too, first to host or come to a good party!

Chatman and I would talk about our world view regularly, we would talk about things that mattered. Often talking about his fascination with religion, his attending a new church he found and how those who have a formal religion will organize their rituals and how their community behaves. He was a person who simultaneously was extremely comfortable with declaring “I don’t know” and not believing in a one true god / higher power. He did not believe Judaism / Christianity or any other religion.

Simultaneously, he was also extremely spiritual, he believed in the universe, he believed that we all came from the same birthplace specifically STARS. As Carl Sagan says " We all come from star stuff " as the elements we know on the periodic table are born from the crucible of stars nuclear furnace. Chatman was a gentle giant, had a heart of gold, loved humans and wanted all humanity to thrive and love peacefully.

In the way of Chatman, I am writing to those who love him including myself. I’ll say that Chatman would not want anyone to suffer for his leaving this earth. He would want those he leaves behind to live long and thrive. Also perhaps to live life like Chatman did, to help other, to do good. Chatman you will always be a kind soul an elder statesman and a force of good in my memory. I will live my life to honor yours by trying to do good as you did.

Much love my departed friend, I’ll celebrate your life with those who loved you too on October 10th.

Mark Lavalley - September 27, 2023 at 11:44 AM

AG

“ I first met Chatman in junior high. We both went to Quimby Oak. Afterwards we both went on to High School, Silver Creek in San Jose California. Chatmans demeanor was different than most. He didn't follow a typical guy type of that period of time. I looked up to him for being different, I envied him for being an individual who walked to his own drum beat. He, then and until the day he died would point out interesting and wonderful things about life that most took for granted. A sunset or a beautiful moon. He looked at things in such a way that would change my paradigm. He had not only showed me a different perspective he did it in such a way that it would effect me to a deep level. He influenced me in such positive ways that I feel helped in creating aspects of my personality. He was truly an independent thinker yet, he was the most down to earth person you would ever meet. He always maintained an intellectual aura about him. We actually intended to join the coast guard together through the Buddy system. Unfortunately they would not let me join in because of my bad driving record. We went our separate ways until I found him on Facebook in 2007. We re-United in 2009 when I invited him on our family 2 week vacation in Hawaii. I remember we just starred at each other in awe! After all the last time we saw each other was 27 years prior. He was still the same interesting metropolitan man I always new. We picked up where we left off and have visited each other in many placed. We were great friends until his death. I will miss him greatly.

Andrew Goland - September 18, 2023 at 09:10 PM

NT

“ *Chatman is my brother and even though his soul is no longer on this earth he is still in my heart.*

We had the same Father, but not the same Mother, and never lived in the same house. There was a 16 year age difference. The first time I met him was when he was about 6 years old, I was on leave before going to Viet Nam. In 1967.

After I returned from Viet Nam we saw each other occasionally usually when our parents got together. When he was about 18 he attended my wedding to my first wife in San Francisco. For the next 5 years we saw each other occasionally, and at some point joined the Coast Guard. I Attended his wedding to his lovely wife Linda in the early eighties. By the early 90's we were starting to see each other more often. By the late 90's , early 2000's we were doing a lot of scuba diving together. We did the Florida Keys, and we we took two separate week long diving trips to Honduras.

We also took a couple of trips together to Costa Rica. When I retired in 2003 I started to visit him in Florida more often, and he also came to California to visit me . In 2009 I started spending months at a time SE Asia where the diving was spectacular. Unfortunately because of his medical condition he could not join me, but when I was stateside I would visit him in Florida, stay with him, and from there I would take trips to Costa Rica, Colombia, and elsewhere. He will always be in my heart. I miss him very much.

Neil Talley - September 18, 2023 at 09:22 AM

DF

“ I too met Chatman while serving in the Coast Guard at Miami air station.

Once, during the Miami airshow, he and I (in civilian clothes) loaded a cooler of beer, and commenced to walk across the airfield from the station to the viewing area.

We did not know this was an FAA violation until a black limousine like car pulled up to question us. Chatman thought fast and explained that we were aircrewmembers bringing refreshments to the guys at our helicopter static display.

They put us in the limousine and whisked us to the viewing area! I'm sure everyone was wondering who these young Hawaiian shirt wearing big shots exiting in FAA limousine were up to.

I'm sorry that we grew apart when my enlistment ended and I moved on.

He was smart, funny, thoughtful, caring. He had a great taste in music and all things artful.

A very free thinker.

I learned from him how to be a bit more open and considerate of other people.

Thanks Chatman

Doug Farley - September 15, 2023 at 10:53 PM

TN

“ I first met Chatman while we were stationed together in Miami. My first meeting with him was when he asked me to borrow a motorcycle helmet.

Later we hung out together almost everyday and night and I can remember I one night is actually slept in the same room with the bride and groom on thier wedding night.

Chatman always had aw away around people that brought them together.

It could be at work, play or vacations.

I will miss his kind soul and friendship.

So sorry to hear he passed.

Tim Noble - September 14, 2023 at 07:33 PM

AL

What a loss. My condolences to his family and friends. Used to go sailing with him Such a great guy. He will be missed .Xox

Angi Lefko - September 23, 2023 at 11:55 AM

SC

“ Chatman was my nephew. We lived on opposite coasts so we didn't see each other as often as we would have liked. Chat had a difficult life with ongoing health issues but he was brave and took everything in stride. He was a lovely person. I loved him a lot and am thankful we had the chance to speak hours before he passed. RIP Chat. ❤️

Sherry Clark - September 13, 2023 at 10:59 AM

LE

“ I was married to Chatman for 9 years, together for 14 years total. Through the remaining decades we stayed friendly. I saw him the day he passed. He was so ready to go and not afraid of death. He went peacefully at the Miami VA. I loved him and will miss him greatly. 😭

Linda Evanoff - September 13, 2023 at 10:31 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the Family on the passing of the most gentle man, friendly soul, and super nice human being, Chatman. I always enjoyed the very occasional conversations we had. RIP my Friend.

Danuta Szczesna-Cordary - September 11, 2023 at 08:29 AM



Well Said Danuta

Mark Lavalley - September 27, 2023 at 11:45 AM

MC

“ Such a lovely man Chatman. We attended memorable music events together. One trip to a Miami event that was quite exciting involved a huge rain storm and broken windshield wipers. OMG I thought we were goners then! I believe he lived a full life with much love. I will miss this gentle man.

Mary Coopman - September 10, 2023 at 04:01 PM