



John Raymond Charles

April 27, 1947 - September 22, 2021

The world lost a wonderful man on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 when Yreka resident John Raymond Charles passed away unexpectedly at his home.

John was born on April 27, 1947 in Pasadena, California to Ray and Sarah (Peggy) Charles. He had many fond memories growing up in Pasadena like the Rose Bowl Parade and attending Pasadena High School with many dear, lifelong friends including Ivan Katz, Robert Prophet, and Bob Cress. John earned his BA in History and his MA in Asian Studies with an emphasis in Religion at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For over 25 years, John worked at California State University, Northridge, eventually becoming the Assistant Director of National and International Exchange Programs. He loved his job and never considered it work. He found great joy in helping students attend universities all over the United States and throughout the world. Reflecting on his own travels, he believed that these educational experiences profoundly enhanced one's life.

John was dedicated to the service of others. He was a member of Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars and received numerous awards from them over his years of service. For many years, John was a proud and active member of Rotary International. He was very proud when he received the China Institute's Outstanding Contribution Award in 2005.

Additionally, he was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship as well as receiving awards from the CSUN Summer Bridge Program, the Office of Disabled Students Services, the National Student Exchange Council, Latino Business Association, Rotary Club of Panorama City, California's Parks and Recreations South Regions Institute, CSUN Student Union Board Of Directors, LAUSD, and from the University of China in Xian to name a few. John was a traveler, having visited many destinations nationally and internationally throughout his life, with Hawaii holding a special place in his heart. Though he traveled the world, John and his wife, GingerLee (Williams) Charles, chose Yreka as their home upon his retirement in 2005. They both fell in love with the amazing community and people of Siskiyou County.

Outside of work, John was an avid reader. He particularly enjoyed biographies of prominent historical figures. He was currently working his way through the United States Presidents. He especially loved works on spirituality and theology and met with his "Buddha Reading Group" hosted by a dear friend John Timm on Sundays to share that love. John received dharma transmission from Peter and Jane Schnieder at the Beginner's Mind Zen Center in Northridge, California. He practiced yoga and meditation faithfully.

John collected stamps and baseball cards, both hobbies that started in his youth. He also was an avid body surfer and kept physically active his entire life. He was an active member and supporter of the YMCA. John had an infectious laugh and was always trying to get his loved ones to laugh along with him at a YouTube video of a comedian or some funny story. He had many, many stories to tell.

John had numerous close friends and loved ones and would never miss an opportunity to drive down south for a reunion of friends, many of whom went back to his school days in Pasadena, or his beloved family, most often both. He adored his immediate family. Christian Charles, John's son, brought him so

much joy. He spent many years taking Christian to karate practice and tournaments, and baseball tournaments, games, and camps. A more proud father in the stands would be hard to find. He was very proud of the young man Christian is today.

John is survived by his loving wife, GingerLee Charles of Yreka; his son, Christian Charles of Montague; and by two sisters, Linnea Harrold of Ojai and Marion Ridgeway of Ventura. He also leaves behind many loved ones. His capacity for love was great. He found the good in everyone he met.

A celebration of life was held at the Crowne Plaza in Ventura, California.

Tribute Wall

TS

“ So blessed to have known John fond memories of baseball games and beyond..Fondly The Salvestro Family

Tribute Store - December 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ Ginger I am so sorry for your loss. Sending you my sincere condolences and Good vibes
🙌❤️🙏



KimLen - November 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ RIP. So very sorry for your loss. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Kristen Naylor - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ God bless

Elieene Jones - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for John Raymond Charles - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM