



Charles Kirby Bryan

December 26, 1932 - February 10, 2025

Charles K. Bryan went to his heavenly home on February 10, 2025. His last abode was at Arcadia Assisted Living of Chester where he had a great rapport with staff and was accepted as family. He was 92 years old and made his career as a Waterman and lived and raised his family in Grasonville. As many native watermen can attest, they saw Capt. Bryan many days on his boat, the Irene, making his living on the water. He was born on December 26, 1932, the son of Frederick K. Bryan and Elizabeth Lynette King Bryan. Charles graduated from Stevensville High School, Class of 1949. He served in the U.S. Army from February 1953 to February 1955 and was stationed in Germany. He received the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Occupation Medal (Germany), and the Good Conduct Medal. He went to the U.S. Army (EUR) engineering school (Germany) for demolitions training before ending his service with the rank of corporal. Charles was a member of the Queen Anne's County Waterman's Association, the VFW Post 7464 in Grasonville, the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Grasonville for many years and then a member of the Wye of Carmichael United Methodist Church in Queenstown. In 1958, with a desire to serve the community, Charles was proudly one of the original charter members of the Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department. He also coached Grasonville Little League for many years.

Charles is survived by his children: Frederick Kirby Bryan (Nancy) and Charles David Bryan (Julie); his siblings Janet Breeding and Margaret Foster;

his grandchildren, who he loved deeply: Jennie Leichtling (Ivan), Wayne Bryan (Colin), Joseph Bryan (fiancé Jen), Jacob Bryan (Samantha), along with their children and stepchildren: Graham and Maggie and Joey, Jaxon, and Lainey, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, his loving spouse Irene, sister Drucilla (Cissie) Ann Tolson, an infant brother Frederick Michael Bryan, and brothers-in-law Ted Breeding and James Tolson.

A funeral service will be held on Monday February 17th, 2025, at noon, with a visitation one hour prior (11 a.m. -12 p.m.) at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home 106 Shamrock Rd. Chester, MD 21619. Interment will immediately follow the service at Woodlawn Memorial Park 11365 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to the Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department, the Grasonville VFW Post 7464, or to the charity of your choice in Charles Bryan's name.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Funeral Service

FEB 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Burial

FEB 17 (ET)

Woodlawn Memorial Park
11365 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 14, 2025 at 12:36 PM

AM

Captain Bryan, as we called him, was a dear friend to me and my family. We met Charles at church years ago. He took my young children fishing on the Miss Irene and they have been avid anglers ever since - now 25 years later. We always enjoyed his company. He will be dearly missed.

Andrew Murray - February 17, 2025 at 10:45 AM

AM

“ *Rest in Peace Mr. Charles. I know there is a happy reunion in Heaven! You will me missed at Grasonville Senior Center.*

Ann Martin - February 28, 2025 at 04:58 PM

JP

“ *Ricky and Charlie: Thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this sorrowful time*



John Payne - February 18, 2025 at 10:20 PM

WM

“ Sorry for you Dad's passing.... He was a good storyteller. He will be missed.



Wayne and Pat Morris - February 18, 2025 at 11:01 AM

DP

“ Doug Pierson lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan



Doug Pierson - February 18, 2025 at 08:19 AM

SG

“ I just recently had the pleasure of meeting this kind gentleman while visiting my mother at Arcadia. Always had a smile on his face. Would ask me if I worked there. I would say no -just visiting my mom. I am glad for the moments of fun conversation I had with him. To his family and friends - I am sorry for your loss.

Suzy Gregson - February 17, 2025 at 08:03 PM

GB

“ Our thoughts and prayers to all of Mr. Charlie's family. 🙏🙏 He had a great life with a wonderful family. RIP, Mr. Charlie. 🙏🙏

George and Cathy Ball



George Ball - February 17, 2025 at 09:57 AM

GL

“ Greg & Laura purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Charles Kirby Bryan.



Greg & Laura - February 16, 2025 at 12:47 PM

GL

“ Greg & Laura planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Kirby Bryan.

Greg & Laura - February 16, 2025 at 12:47 PM

JM

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Bryan, I was honored to have met him and be in his presence! He was a lively, loving man!

Julia M - February 15, 2025 at 01:22 PM

BW

“ Barbara Whaley lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan



barbara whaley - February 15, 2025 at 11:21 AM

BB

“ *Bobbi Burr lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Bobbi Burr - February 14, 2025 at 08:31 PM

PC

“ *Pat Chaplain lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Pat Chaplain - February 14, 2025 at 03:58 PM

SJ

“ *Sol James lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Sol James - February 14, 2025 at 10:05 AM

TS

“ *Tracy Schulz lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Tracy Schulz - February 13, 2025 at 10:24 PM

DR

“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to the family. Never, Never saw Charles anywhere he didn't have a story or as another Grasonville Veteran someone we knew to talk about! Great Memories! Jeff and Diane Ruth



Diane and Jeff Ruth - February 13, 2025 at 08:58 PM

KC

“ Dear Kirby, Charlie and family,
We have many memories living and growing up in the neighborhood with Mr Charles. Mrs Irene and the both of you.
We are thinking of you and keeping all in prayer during this time.
Emily Parry, Karen Colley and family



Karen L Colley - February 13, 2025 at 07:28 PM

JS

“ So sorry for your loss I always liked Mr Charlie. He used to pull my braids when I was a little girl. He always had a story to tell and I loved when he spoke his mind. He was an icon in this one horse town and I know he will be missed❤️



Josie Simons - February 13, 2025 at 05:22 PM

RD

“ Raymond Dorrell lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan



Raymond Dorrell - February 13, 2025 at 04:15 PM

NS

“ Nan & Shirley Severa



Nan Severa - February 13, 2025 at 03:21 PM

BN

“ Bobby And Genevieve Norris sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan



Bobby and Genevieve Norris - February 13, 2025 at 03:18 PM

DH

“ Diane Hoxter lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan



Diane Hoxter - February 13, 2025 at 02:48 PM

JE

“ *Jim And Mary Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - February 13, 2025 at 02:06 PM

TK

“ *Tom Knox lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Tom Knox - February 13, 2025 at 12:45 PM

JC

“ *June Clark lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



June Clark - February 13, 2025 at 11:38 AM

GP

“ *Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - February 13, 2025 at 11:01 AM

PH

“ *Peggy Hammer lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Peggy Hammer - February 13, 2025 at 10:53 AM

BW

“ *Bob & Sheila Willis sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Bob & Sheila Willis - February 13, 2025 at 09:57 AM

AB

“ *charles made us all at arcadia feel loved and welcomed , taking care of him in his final days we talked and listen to music , just spent time with him. i know he's hunting all the muskrats he can ❤️ rest in peace Mr Charles (Charlie)*
❤️



Autum Brown - February 13, 2025 at 08:58 AM

CD

“ *Cindy Dill lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Cindy Dill - February 13, 2025 at 07:26 AM

PD

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Patty Morris Dunlap - February 12, 2025 at 05:43 PM

PD

*Stevensville High School
Class of '49
70th Reunion 2019
We love you Charlie!*

Charlie was my classmate at Stevensville High School. He was the cutest one there with his nice curly hair. The last time I saw him at our 49th High School Reunion, he was still as cute as ever with his nice curly hair. I'm so glad I had that chance to talk to him then and learn about his life career of taking care of the waters on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and his fishing boats.

*Sending my love and prayers to the family.
Patty Morris Dunlap*

*Picture
Front: Freddie Wilhelm, Billy Denny, Donnie Crouch, Nick Hoxter,
Charlie Bryan
Back: Weldon Kelly, Rita Harris, Patty Morris Dunlap, Butch Collier*

Patty Morris Dunlap - February 12, 2025 at 05:59 PM



The 49ers are down to the final four. So glad we had this day. We're going to miss Charles, for sure. He knew something about everything and we often called him when we needed info on family or history. He had the best memory ever.

Linda Collier - February 14, 2025 at 12:33 PM

RJ

“ *Ronnie And Rhonda Jewell lit a candle in memory of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Ronnie and Rhonda Jewell - February 12, 2025 at 05:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Kirby Bryan.*



February 12, 2025 at 05:17 PM

RT

“ *He was a book of History I loved the visits we had he was a great help keep Dad straight in Arcadia*



Richard & Bonnie Thomas - February 12, 2025 at 05:00 PM

CH

“ *I thought the world of my old friend Charlie he use to call me chipchap he was a bundle of knowledge could remember everything dates, and time's.*

Chad Horney - February 12, 2025 at 03:17 PM

GL

“ *Ricky, Charlie and your families,
Greg and I are very sorry to learn of Charles' passing. May God
comfort you at this sad time. Sending our love,*

Greg and Kathy Lantz - February 12, 2025 at 01:53 PM

EF

“ *Eddie & Bonnie Fooks lit a candle in memory
of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Eddie & Bonnie Fooks - February 12, 2025 at 01:25 PM

LC

“ *Larry And Peggy Cole lit a candle in memory
of Charles Kirby Bryan*



Larry and Peggy Cole - February 12, 2025 at 01:24 PM

HD

“ *To the Family of Charles Bryan,*

Charles was truly one of a kind. I loved listening to him share stories about life on the water, his family, and his time in the Army—each one told with such sharp memory and pride. His wisdom always seemed to come at just the right moments when I needed it most, and he never missed a chance to remind us caretakers how thankful he was to have us caring for him. But the truth is, we were the lucky ones.

Caring for him in his final days was an honor, and I hope you find comfort in knowing how deeply he was loved by so many. My heart is with you all.

*With deepest sympathy,
Hannah Donohue*

Hannah Donohue - February 12, 2025 at 12:33 PM

HS

“ *I worked with Charlies in years past tonging oysters. He was truly a fine man to work with. He was a true gentleman. I will always remember fondly of our time together on the work boat. Sending sincere thoughts and prayers to the family. Harold Smith*

Harold Smith - February 12, 2025 at 11:32 AM

MG

“ Though I've known Kirby and Charlie since High School, I only ran into Captain Charles once in awhile. He was always working on the water somewhere on the Bay. Though I've spent literally hundreds of days on the water one of my most memorable ones was with Captain Charles on his charter boat Miss Irene. My father and one of his clients from OC decided they wanted to fish for Sea Trout down Crisfield way. Vince Cerniglia who was a OC Beach Patrol lieutenant at the time asked me if I knew anyone who could take us. I said sure and within a few days the three of us were standing in Crisfield getting ready to jump on the Miss Irene. The weather was a bit iffy but we had all our trust in Captain Charles. Out we went. We went through Smith Island and out toward the Target Ships. We were half way to the ships and the sky turned black to the west. Before we knew it we were in six footers and trying to get back to Smith Island. Back then the boats had a flasher and a compass and maybe a radio. You couldn't see the bow from the wheelhouse. The captain's eyes never left the compass even though water was coming in fast through the port holes up front and over the stern. I went below and closed the port holes. Lightning was all around us. We hit the cut into Crisfield just as the storm passed. Captain Charles turned to my Dad and said "What do you think. Let's try that again." He turned the boat around and we headed for the ships, AGAIN. Half way there we could see ANOTHER storm on the horizon. That was enough. Two Old salts (my Dad, and Captain Charles) and two young salts (me and Vince) decided enough was enough and we pulled into the dock at Crisfield just as the second storm hit. We never put a line in the water. We can take comfort in the memories we got from Captain Charles and my Dad who recently passed. They were a hardy bunch. Tough as nails. The experiences they must have had. We can only imagine. Rest in peace Captain Charles and Pop Louie. See you on the other side.

Mark and Vali Galasso

mark Galasso - February 12, 2025 at 10:42 AM