



Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.

July 19, 1921 - March 13, 2015

Charles W. "Speed" Joiner, Jr., of Chestertown, MD, passed away on March 13, 2015, at Chester River Manor. He was 93.

Mr. Joiner was born on July 19, 1921, in Betterton, MD, the son of the late Charles W. Joiner, Sr., and Lena Luike Joiner. He served in the United States Navy during World War II with the Navy Seabees, serving in New Guinea and the Philippines. He returned to Kent County and worked for Chestertown Electric, until it became Delmarva Power in 1976. Mr. Joiner retired in 1979, after 41 years.

He was a renowned decoy carver, carving over 40,000 working decoys and an unknown number of miniature and half size decoys. In his own words, "I've carved a few ducks."

He loved to shoot sporting clays and in his early years, he enjoyed hunting. Mr. Joiner loved aircrafts and in 1998 he built a 1/10 scale B-17 Bomber, complete with motors and ready to fly. It is an identical copy of the B-17, complete with motors and ready to fly. It is an exact copy of the B-17, flown by his good friend, the late David Bramble of Chestertown, including the correct serial number and logos. He donated it to the Massey Air Museum in Massey, MD.

He was member of Frank M. Jarman American Legion Post, #36 in Chestertown, MD, a very active member of the Havre De Grace Decoy Museum where he was a charter member, and a charter member of the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 24 years, Janet Watson Sterling Joiner, along with her children, Richard Creighton of Chevy Chase, MD, David Creighton of Arnold, MD, and Rodney Creighton of Kansas City, MO, Linda Creighton of Arlington, VA, Deborah Creighton of Chestertown, MD, and Rebecca Sessa of Galena, MD; a brother, Walter Joiner of Kennedyville, MD; two nephews, Robert Joiner of Still Pond, MD, and William Joiner of Still Pond, MD; and a half-brother, David Joiner of Dover, DE.

A private celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Please feel free to leave a memory or testimonial to the family on the webpage.

Interment will be in St. Paul's Cemetery, Chestertown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Havre De Grace Decoy Museum, 215 Giles Street, Havre De Grace, MD 21078 or the Betterton Community Development Corporation, P.O. Box 152, Betterton, MD 21610.

Cemetery Details

St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 26, 2015 at 07:53 AM



“ *Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Leslie Owens lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.*



Leslie Owens - March 31, 2015 at 08:44 AM



“ 62 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 26, 2015 at 07:39 AM

JN

“ *Ms Janet and the Joiner Family,*
I'm so sorry I just found out about Mr "Speeds" passing, I remember him very fondly through my father and the American Legion. I so remember his carvings and how great they were. I was so happy to see both he and Ms Janet at Ellen's not long ago and touch base with them and even joke a bit. I wish I had known earlier and would like to pay my respects to the entire family.

John Nicholson

Lynch

John Nicholson - March 24, 2015 at 06:16 PM

DW

“ Dear Janet,
Keith and I just found out about Charlie's passing. What a truly wonderful man. I have both you and Charlie to thank for Keith and I setting our wedding date back in 1999. You had Charlie put a rush on the wood ducks and I got my wedding date. You two were such an inspiration to everyone with your care and devotion to each other. Charlie will always be in our thoughts. Our thoughts and prayers to you.

Fondly,
Keith and Debbie Wheeler
Kent Island

Debbie Wheeler - March 24, 2015 at 12:37 PM

SS

“ Dear Janet,
I just learned of Charlie's passing and to say I was saddened is an understatement.
He was a wonderful friend and my late wife Doris and I loved to stop by for a visit when we were in your area. He was an amazing man and talented carver/painter. We cherish his many decoys in our collection and they will be a great reminder of our good friends in Chestertown.

May the Lord be with you and your family at this time and know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Scott H. Peach, Sr
Chesterfield, Virginia



Scott H. Peach, Sr - March 21, 2015 at 04:11 PM

DG

I never met Mr Joiner but spoke to him many years ago about decoys when I was just a young "green" collector. I remember him as a kind and patient man who took the time to speak with a stranger about "ducks". So sorry to hear of his passing-- he was a giant as far as decoys legends go. I will treasure the decoys I have made by his hand in my collection.

Dick Gutierrez(Florida) - September 08, 2015 at 07:30 AM

GC

“ *A great loss to the community, many close friends, and to water fowl carvers everywhere. Our sincere condolences to Janet and both families.*

Glenn & Genie Coleman

Glenn Coleman - March 21, 2015 at 10:34 AM

HM

“ *We are so sad to learn of Charlie's passing. Our deepest sympathy to all his beloved family and friends. May God provide his grace and comfort to all who miss him. Rest in Peace. Amen.*

Harry and Cheryl Morrison - March 21, 2015 at 02:46 AM

BG

“ Janet:

My wife and I were away and just learned of Charlie's passing. You have our deepest sympathies. We met you a few years ago when we came to visit and reminis with Charlie. He had carved large rigs of decoys for my Grandfather (Arthur Brice) when he lived in Betterton, as well as my Uncle (Talbot Brice) and father (Dick Gamber) when they were shooting Nan Price's place on the Sassafras. I have fond memories of some of the stories he told me about my family from the 40's - 60's .

He has gone, but created a legacy that will live forever through his decoys and his character

Brice Gamber - Royal Oak

Brice Gamber - March 20, 2015 at 02:41 PM

DL

“ Janet,

We were both so deeply saddened to learn of Charlie's passing today, we did so cherish the occasions that we took the time to come by and visit the two of you, he will be sorely missed by all that knew him. We will indeed make a contribution to the Museum. If there is anything we can do, please feel free to let us know, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

*Doug and Carolyn Lasher
Decatur, Alabama*

Douglas Lasher - March 20, 2015 at 12:03 PM

DA

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family in the loss of your loved one . John 5 : 21,28,29*

Delores Allen - March 17, 2015 at 08:48 AM

FD

“ Frankie And Jane Dill lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Frankie and Jane Dill - March 17, 2015 at 07:55 AM



“ He will truly be missed by all the decoy carvers that knew him. He was such an inspiration to everyone who was lucky enough to meet him. Take care Mr. Charlie..Kim Wienhold (Schauber)

Kimberly Wienhold - March 17, 2015 at 07:20 AM

BI

“ They just don't make them like Mr. Charlie Joiner anymore. What a kind and gentle man. Deepest sympathies to all of his loved ones.

Bill - March 16, 2015 at 06:48 PM

SW

“ My heartfelt sympathy is being sent to you and your family.



Sis Williams - March 16, 2015 at 01:03 PM



“ 42 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 16, 2015 at 08:04 AM

PS

“ *Dear Janet and Family - My heart is heavy at the news of Mr. Speed's passing. He was a Kent County treasure and will be sorely missed. I am fortunate to have a wonderful collection of his ducks carved for my parents, Dollie and Bartus Vickers. I will treasure them, as I treasure the memories of Mr. Speed. Your family's loss is his community's loss as well. With love,*
Lawson and Pat Vickers Smith



Pat Smith - March 16, 2015 at 08:02 AM

LB

“ *Larry & Lee Beck lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.*



Larry & Lee Beck - March 16, 2015 at 06:50 AM

CN

“ He was a kind hearted person. He taught me not only how to carve, but the art of decoy making. He was a man of great knowledge and will be sadly missed.



Chris "Nip" Nicholson - March 15, 2015 at 10:30 AM



“ Sharon VanZant lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Sharon VanZant - March 14, 2015 at 03:48 PM

DG

“ Donna And Tony Gibbons-Neff lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Donna and Tony Gibbons-Neff - March 14, 2015 at 03:36 PM

EC

“ Edgar Stubbs & Barbara Cummings lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Edgar Stubbs & Barbara Cummings - March 14, 2015 at 01:58 PM

LH

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Janet and family. You are truly a wonderful family, that allowed my wife Edna Lee and I, along with our two sons Lee and Jamie to become a part of your family. This family link is one of our most cherished possessions God will surely take care of your needs now and always.

Love Louis Howeth and family.

Louis howeth - March 14, 2015 at 12:59 PM

EK

“ Eric K. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr..



Eric K. - March 14, 2015 at 11:34 AM

EK

“ Mr. Charlie was a very kind, Gentle man who shared his knowledge with anyone who asked. He was not concerned that other carvers would learn his skills and sell them as their own, but rather he took great pleasure in teaching them the skills he had acquired. I had an old pair of Bob Coleman decoys that i asked Mr. Charlie if he would restore for me. He said sure, but there is not telling when you will get them back. Even as busy as he was with his orders, he would not turn me away. Charlie and His works of art will be treasured in my heart as long as it beats..I wish his family the best, and they surely must be grateful to Have had him in their lives.

Eric Kinder.

Eric Kinder - March 14, 2015 at 10:21 AM

GP

“ Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - March 13, 2015 at 09:21 PM

DA

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Charlie if but only for the last week of his life. In daily, brief discussion I became close to him and felt sadly for his situation. He lived a full, wonderful life with many, diverse accomplishments building “stuff”. Just a year ago I saw and admired his fine decoy carving work at his own showcase in Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Farewell, Charlie. I give my blessing to his lovely wife Janet, his children, and his many live-long friends. David Gierisch, Charlie’s roommate at The Chester River Manor

David - March 13, 2015 at 06:48 PM

EL

“ *Edgar & Nancy Legg*

Edgar LEGG - March 13, 2015 at 05:19 PM

JF

“ *Our prayers go out to Janet and family. Charlie was a wonderful person. When I started carving decoys years ago he welcomed me into his home and spent countless hours showing me how to paint ducks. There was nothing he wouldn't help me with. I spent days watching him paint and asking questions. Charlie mentored a lot of carvers over the years and I feel blessed that he shared some of his knowledge with me. RIP Charlie.*

Jeff Fitzhugh - March 13, 2015 at 05:00 PM

LS

“ *Charlie (and his brother Walt) & I became 2nd cousins when I was born in 1934; our mothers were 1st cousins. It wasn't 'til about 2002 when we began to correspond by e-mail, etc. about mutual family histories and gardening. He'd swap tomato stories with me and tell me amusing tidbits about our Luike & Betterton connections. It was always a delight to hear from him.*
Lois A. Stringer

Lois A. Stringer - March 13, 2015 at 03:09 PM

SR

“ *Susan Legg Rennaker lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.*



Susan Legg Rennaker - March 13, 2015 at 02:03 PM

BL

“ Beth (Fuchs) Lacey lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Beth (Fuchs) Lacey - March 13, 2015 at 01:37 PM

AS

“ What a truly remarkable human being he was. He shared his life passion of decoy carving with my Dad and I for nearly 40 years. He taught us many tricks to the trade of decoy carving . He was a teacher, mentor, someone to look up to, friend but most of all just a great person who would always welcome you into his home. He never could say no to a friend in need of anything. I can only think of what he is doing with the Ward Brothers, Madison Mitchell and Charlie Bryan now. All of us will attempt to carry on his legacy of producing his fine works of art in wood. May God look after you now. RIP Mr. Charlie

Allan Schauber - March 13, 2015 at 01:18 PM

SE

“ Susie C. Embert sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Susie C. Embert - March 13, 2015 at 01:06 PM

SE

Janet: Thinking of you and the family in the loss of "Speed". My prayers are with you at this time and may God give you the love and peace through this difficult period. God Bless, Susie Creighton Embert

Susie C. Embert - March 13, 2015 at 01:08 PM

BA

“ *Sending prayers and thoughts to the Joiner family. So sorry for your loss. Thinking of everyone from Catherine Louise Mills as well.* ”



Barbara Allen - March 13, 2015 at 01:04 PM

TJ

“ *Tom And Nancy Lee Jewell lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.* ”



Tom and Nancy Lee Jewell - March 13, 2015 at 11:59 AM

CJ

“ *Cheryl Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.* ”



Cheryl Jacobs - March 13, 2015 at 10:33 AM

DE

“ *Dave & Patti Eason lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.* ”



Dave & Patti Eason - March 13, 2015 at 09:00 AM

MU

“ Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Marie Usilton - March 13, 2015 at 08:42 AM

JN

“ Joyce Nicholson lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Joyce Nicholson - March 13, 2015 at 08:34 AM

JL

“ Jeff-and-Lana Luike lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



Jeff-and-Lana Luike - March 13, 2015 at 08:22 AM

RO

“ ROBBIE-JOINER-FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Charles W. "Speed" Joiner Jr.



ROBBIE-JOINER-FAMILY - March 13, 2015 at 08:20 AM

RO

WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER ALL THE FOND MEMORIES OF YOU OUR WONDERFUL UNCLE. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS. REST IN PEACE. THE LORD HAS TRULY CALLED HOME A ONE OF A KIND. LOVE YOU ALWAYS.

ROBBIE-JOINER-FAMILY - March 13, 2015 at 08:29 AM

JN

I will always remember Mr Charlie and the wonderful friendship my family had with him. We loved him, and thank him for all the memories . RIP dear kind friend.

Joyce Nicholson - March 13, 2015 at 08:39 AM