

## Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.

September 19, 1931 - October 23, 2023

Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr. of Centreville, MD died peacefully in his home on October 23, 2023. He was 92 years old. A beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, teacher and Hall of Fame coach, Charles touched the lives of all those fortunate to know him.

Born on September 19, 1931 in Statesville, NC, he was the son of Flake Bennett and Ellen (Bratcher) Nesbit and the second of four children. Charles is predeceased by his parents, his elder brother Linwood and the love of his life and wife of 37 years, Shirley (Jackson) Nesbitt. He is survived by his younger siblings Harry Nesbit (Statesville, NC) and Jewell (Nesbit) Gaither (South Plainfield, NJ); son Charles Edward Jr. and daughter-in-law Helen Donnelly (Montclair, NJ); son Sean Alan Nesbitt (Annapolis, MD); grandson Kody Charles Nesbitt; two step-granddaughters Ilona Suzanne and Natalie Marie Toth; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A skilled athlete from an early age, Charles grew up playing basketball, baseball, football and track. He was awarded an athletic scholarship to play wide receiver at North Carolina A&T University, where he also participated in ROTC training. Upon graduation from college in 1954 with his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education, he joined the U.S. Army in 1955, serving honorably for three years in Germany and state side.

In 1959, having completed his military service, Charles left Statesville to answer Maryland's call for new teachers. He began teaching science and physical education at Kennard, Queen Anne's County's (QAC) then all black high school. Soon after moving to Maryland, he met Shirley Ann Jackson, a fellow educator who, like Charles, had recently left her childhood home in Fredericksburg, VA in search of new opportunities. They married on December 29, 1963 and set about making Centreville their forever home.

Charles worked tirelessly to overcome the reality of "separate but equal" at Kennard to ensure every student he taught and athlete he coached had an opportunity to succeed. In 1964, Nesbitt convinced the QAC school board to allow interracial competition between Kennard and the other all-white schools within the county. When the desegregated QAC High School opened in 1966, Nesbitt became the school's track and cross country coach. He led QACHS to their first-ever Bayside Championship, and started the indoor track program in 1979. He continued to coach well after he retired from teaching in 1998. In recognition of his many coaching achievements, he was inducted to both the QA and MD State athletic "Hall of Fame".

An avid gardener, golfer, hunter, fisherman, BBQ master, handyman and perennial jokester, Charles spent his retirement years always on the go. He was an active NC A&T alumni, often traveling to home games and hosting renowned tailgates. He continued in his civic duties, serving for many years on Centreville's Town Zoning Committee, the QA Republican Central Committee, and as an active member of the American Legion and V.F.W. Post. In 2022 at their annual Gala, Charles was the Kennard Alumni Association's honoree, citing his 38 year teaching career and the instrumental role he played in the restoration of the old Kennard H.S into the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center and Museum.

Visitations will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in

Centreville, MD on Saturday, November 11, 4:00-6:30PM, and Sunday November 12 from 12:00 - 1:00PM.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday November 12, at 1:30PM at Centreville Methodist Church. A Burial Service with military honors will be held at the Eastern Shore Veteran's Cemetery in Hurlock, MD on Monday, November 13 at 12PM. For additional service details and online tributes please visit [www.fhnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the:  
Charles E. Nesbitt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund (<https://gofund.me/b6a1980c>)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 11. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.  
408 S. Liberty Street  
Centreville, MD 21617

## Visitation

NOV 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.  
408 S. Liberty Street  
Centreville, MD 21617

## Funeral Service

NOV 12. 1:30 PM (ET)

Centreville Methodist Church  
608 Church Hill Road  
Centreville, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - November 08, 2023 at 12:16 PM

DA

*i wish i could meet him but i go high school with him happy birthday to him*

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**daniela** - November 12, 2023 at 02:58 PM

DA

*i went his funeral today*

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**daniela** - November 12, 2023 at 02:59 PM

KR

“ *Kevin Rhodes sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Kevin Rhodes** - January 04, 2024 at 04:30 PM

KR

*What a great man and teacher who was fun to be around. Always positive and inspirational. Thank you for your military service and most of all thanks for being a good educator. You will be missed.*

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**Kevin Rhodes** - January 04, 2024 at 04:34 PM

CW

“ *Camille Wilmer lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Camille Wilmer** - November 14, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ *I worked with Shirley for years and would only see her husband at social gatherings and then later at Retired Educators meetings. He was always so warm and friendly to me and my husband. He shared his many interests with others and always contributed to the community. May good memories comfort his family.*

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**Jeanne Hechmer** - November 12, 2023 at 09:01 AM

DJ

“ *Thanks for giving Kennard and me the history legacy, relevance and tenacity of Historical Black Colleges and Universities*  
*Dr. Lois G Johnson*

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**Dr. Lois G Johnson** - November 11, 2023 at 07:30 PM

DP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Doris Person** - November 11, 2023 at 05:45 PM

DP

“ Sending condolences and prayers of comfort to the Nesbitt family. I met Mr. Nesbitt on the third Sunday in November 31 years ago at a DELMARVA Alumni Chapter of NC A&T State University at the home of Gene Trent in Accomac, Virginia. From the day I met him and the other charter members of the chapter, he demonstrated Aggie Pride in every way. He was the treasurer of the chapter for its entire active years and never missed any meetings held throughout the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. At the end of the meeting, he always had vegetables from his garden for members. He, along with Mr. Robert Capers, coordinated Hardees' chicken snack packs for the Aggie basketball teams when they were playing in the area for 20 or more years. He and Mr. Bill Alston would also support out of state games and regional meetings. They invited me to come along. When he stopped traveling to A&T's Homecomings, he would give me tickets to events that he supported. Once our chapter became inactive and prior to his illness, he was very dedicated to periodic phone check-ins with A&T updates and news about members. He was also a season ticket holder to Delaware State University football games. You could always find him in his favorite spot along the wall with some yummy hot sausages on the grill after the games. Mr. Nesbitt is the last of the DELMARVA charter members to transition to AGGIELAND in the sky. I wish every Aggie who has to move to a new city could experience the devoted, welcoming, and nurturing experience that Charles Nesbitt, Sr. demonstrated to other Aggies and especially to me for the past 31 years .

*With Aggie Pride,*

*Doris E. Person, Ed.D.*

*Lewes, Delaware*

*Class of 1985*

*NC A&T State University*

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**Doris Person** - November 11, 2023 at 05:19 PM

SS

“ This is a sincere expression and appreciation to Charles Nesbit, the teacher, the coach, but most importantly, the transformational human leader. Having experienced him in the world of segregation, his character and good humor had a tremendous impact on those of us who had to transition into the integrated world at QACHS. His presence and, at critical times, his counsel was important for my successful development in that new, unfamiliar world. With expressions of appreciation and condolences, I send this message with love and prayers for strength and eventual peace for the Nesbitt family. Sterlind Sylvester Burke, Sr.

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**Sterlind Sylvester Burke, Sr** - November 10, 2023 at 12:32 PM

DR

“ Della,Brittingham, Roberts lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



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**Della,Brittingham, Roberts** - November 10, 2023 at 11:21 AM

TS

“ Thomas And Ethel Satterwhite sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



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**Thomas and Ethel Satterwhite** - November 09, 2023 at 11:24 AM

TS

“ Thomas And Ethel Satterwhite lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Thomas and Ethel Satterwhite - November 09, 2023 at 11:17 AM

LD

“ Lawrence Dunn lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Lawrence Dunn - November 07, 2023 at 03:46 PM

GB

“ Gloria Bordley lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Gloria Bordley - November 07, 2023 at 12:10 PM

BH

“ Barbara Hynson lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Barbara Hynson - November 07, 2023 at 09:28 AM



“ I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Nesbitt when I was in Queen Annes County High school and then also had the pleasure of caring for him for several years. His smile will always be remembered his onery playful personality will always be missed.



Kimberly Pugh - November 05, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ My Condolences to the family on the loss of a Great Teacher. Mr. Nesbitt loved what he taught as a teacher and was definitely loved and will truly be missed. Clara Young.

Clara Young - November 05, 2023 at 01:41 AM



“ A great teacher, an even a better human being. Coach Nesbitt...you will be missed.  
Barry DeMaris

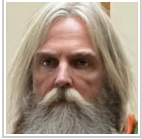
Barry DeMaris - November 04, 2023 at 06:12 PM



“ Tim And Esther Blackiston sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Tim and Esther Blackiston - November 04, 2023 at 09:25 AM



“ *Robert Pratt lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Robert Pratt** - November 04, 2023 at 03:25 AM

LF

“ *Mr. Nesbitt was a great man professionally and personally*

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**Larry Faulkner** - November 03, 2023 at 05:15 PM

RB

“ *Robin Brown lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Robin Brown** - November 03, 2023 at 04:39 PM

RO

“ *Robin lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Robin** - November 03, 2023 at 04:39 PM

JP

“ Mr. Nesbitt was my track coach in high school. I'll always remember how he smiled and yelled, “Get those knees up, Cupani!” At the time we didn't know that I have asthma and there was no good explanation for why I was so slow and almost always got last in my races. But he didn't get mad or make me feel like I shouldn't be on the team. He just shook his head and smiled.

*I was good at most things I stuck with back then, but not track. I usually quit the hard things back then, but not track. In track, I only won one race in four years and I got lapped three or four times during most of our indoor races. But I stuck with it probably because Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Pinkett made me feel like it was ok to lose and to keep participating even though I was awful. It was one of the most important lessons I learned in high school and I will be forever in their debt.*

*I hope he has entered a most deserved and peaceful rest. He had such a broad and lasting impact.*

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**Jennifer Porter** - November 02, 2023 at 10:32 PM

LJ

“ Although It's Difficult Today To See Beyond The Sorrow, May Looking Back To "MEMORY" Help Comfort You Tomorrow. Always Cherish The Memories!

*Keeping Each Of You Prayers And Thoughts!  
Lorraine Jenkins and Family (Philippians 4:13)*



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**Lorraine Jenkins** - November 01, 2023 at 07:18 PM

BF

“ Our most sincere condolences to the family of a wonderful friend and teacher. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. In sympathy, Brenda Dodd and Melvin Ashley, Jr.

Brenda Dodd and Melvin Ashley, Jr. Famil - November 01, 2023 at 11:50 AM

BF

“ Brenda Dodd And Melvin Ashley, Jr. Famil lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Brenda Dodd and Melvin Ashley, Jr. Famil - November 01, 2023 at 11:40 AM

RB

GOD needed a Hall of fame coach and HE chose Charles Nesbitt. Rest easy! Condolences to the the family!!!!

Ray Burke - November 02, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ Mary Cowley lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Mary Cowley - November 01, 2023 at 10:06 AM

HW

“ *Helena G. Williams*



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**Helena Williams** - October 31, 2023 at 10:01 PM

DP

“ *Dorothy Hynson Parham lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Dorothy Hynson Parham** - October 31, 2023 at 09:31 PM

DP

*RIP Mr. Nesbitt. From Dorothy Hynson and the 1966 class of KHS.*

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**Dorothy Hynson Parham** - October 31, 2023 at 09:37 PM

PM

“ *Patricia W. Mason lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Patricia W. Mason** - October 31, 2023 at 09:18 AM

NM

“ *Such a loss, sending prayers and condolences for a truly loved man. I enjoyed working with Charlie in the school setting and sports, he and Mrs Shirley were both fantastic people.*



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**Nancy Morris** - October 31, 2023 at 08:56 AM

TA

“ *Take your rest Mr. Nesbitt...You kept your beautiful smile until the very end.*

*QAC has lost another Good Man, Coach, Mentor, Neighbor and Friend to many.....GOD SAID "JOB WELL DONE"!*

*Chucky and Sean, you have our Heartfelt Condolences.*

*The Wilmers,*

*Tama, Earl, Renee, Valerie & Victoria*

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**tama** - October 30, 2023 at 04:29 PM

FS

“ *Fred Sudler lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Fred Sudler** - October 30, 2023 at 03:46 PM

JB

“ *Jackie Brown lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Jackie Brown** - October 30, 2023 at 10:11 AM

CW

“ *Charlene Wilmer lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Charlene Wilmer** - October 29, 2023 at 10:29 PM

WS

“ *Worked and hunted rabbits with Charlie many years. Always a true gentleman and a great coach. The county and the world has lost a good man.*

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**Walt Sedorovich** - October 29, 2023 at 08:43 PM

TW

“ *Tre Wheeler lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Tre Wheeler** - October 29, 2023 at 06:30 PM

DT

“ *Donshane Turner lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Donshane Turner** - October 29, 2023 at 05:50 PM

BT

“ *Bruce & Patti Tarr*



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**Bruce & Patti Tarr** - October 29, 2023 at 05:15 PM

WL

“ *Wayne Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Wayne Larrimore** - October 29, 2023 at 04:56 PM

TP

“ *Teron Pierce lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Teron Pierce** - October 29, 2023 at 09:40 AM

MM

*My deepest sympathy to your family. I always admired your work with your students. You always set a great example for your students. May God be with your family at this most difficult time.*

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**Mary Elizabeth Covington McDade** - October 29, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Michele Hampton lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Michele Hampton** - October 28, 2023 at 07:18 PM

JC

“ *A true gentleman and mentor to generations of us.*

*Rest in Peace*

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**John Caputo** - October 28, 2023 at 02:45 PM

TS

“ *Tracy Schulz lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Tracy Schulz** - October 28, 2023 at 01:51 PM

SS

“ Stephanie Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Stephanie Stubbs - October 28, 2023 at 12:28 PM

SS

*I spent my last almost 5 years with Mr Nesbitt and enjoyed every moment ... what a sweet and gentle giant ... he tucked under his wing and called me his little baby doll... he also loved my grandchildren when he saw them he would smile and my heart lite up ... and they lived him so much ... and his family treated me just like I was family ... send my love and condolences to all... I will miss Mr Nesbitt dearly but was so blessed to have known him ... Rest easy Heaven gained a perfect Angel...* ❤️🙏😊😭

Stephanie Stubbs - October 28, 2023 at 12:34 PM

GP

“ Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - October 27, 2023 at 09:55 PM

LL

“ Prayers for the family.



Lori M (CHewning) Lee - October 27, 2023 at 03:37 PM



“ *Kimberly Pugh lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Kimberly Pugh** - October 27, 2023 at 02:25 PM

RH

“ *Mr. Nesbitt and I did the chains at football games. He always asked about my kids, Chris and Cathleen.*

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**Robert Hunter** - October 27, 2023 at 01:09 PM

CL

“ *Queen Anne's County has lost a wonderful man. May he RIP. Sympathy to his sons & entire family, Cel (Smith) Lukenich, Class of 1969*

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**Cecilia Lukenich** - October 27, 2023 at 12:32 PM

JA

“ *Judy Adkins lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Judy Adkins** - October 27, 2023 at 12:13 PM

JE

“ James Ewing lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



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James Ewing - October 27, 2023 at 11:14 AM

JS

“ My husband and I spent a month in France with Charlie and his wife on an exchange trip from Queen Anne’s Co. High School. Many fun memories from that experience!  
He taught us how to recognize horse meat!

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Jane Sparks - October 27, 2023 at 10:48 AM

SS

“ What a great man, our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends! A great man on and off the field!



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Sheriff Gary Hofmann and Staff - October 27, 2023 at 10:38 AM

LD

“ Coach Nesbitt poured his heart and soul into his students at QACHS. He personally impacted my life in such a way that helped me become the man I am today. He taught life lessons on and off the field of competition which I carry to this day. He was the best Coach and mentor ever. To Chucky and the rest of the family on behalf of the Class of 1982 we mourn with you and will miss our hero and roll model Coach Nesbitt!

*From Lawrence Demby  
Class of 1982!*

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**Lawrence E DEMBY** - October 27, 2023 at 10:00 AM

HF

“ I have so many fond memories of Mr. Nesbitt. He definitely made a difference. My sincerest condolences.

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**Heidi (Griebau) Fischer** - October 27, 2023 at 07:56 AM

JN

“ Joe And Jeannie Nickens lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



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**Joe and Jeannie Nickens** - October 27, 2023 at 07:00 AM

BY

“ Bill Jane Young lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



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**Bill Jane Young** - October 26, 2023 at 10:32 PM

JP

“ Thoughts and prayers go out to his 2 sons during this time of sorrow. He was truly a remarkable man.



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**John Payne** - October 26, 2023 at 09:13 PM

PP

“ Pam Kinnamon Price lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



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**Pam Kinnamon Price** - October 26, 2023 at 08:08 PM

RJ

“ Ronnie And Rhonda Jewell lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.



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**Ronnie and Rhonda Jewell** - October 26, 2023 at 07:52 PM

DM

“ This man had such a beautiful spirit. He was uplifting to all of his students. A job well done. Rest well

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**Dallisa Murray** - October 26, 2023 at 07:21 PM

GP

“ *He was a great coach, rest in peace.*



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**Gina Weston Paul** - October 26, 2023 at 07:16 PM

HF

“ *Helen Fisher lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



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**Helen fisher** - October 26, 2023 at 07:08 PM

JA

“ *Queen Anne's County has lost a well loved man! Rest in peace, Mr. Nesbitt. Comforting thoughts to his family.*



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**Jane Anthony** - October 26, 2023 at 07:01 PM

BC

“ *Condolences to Mr. Nesbitt's loved ones.*



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**Billie Carroll** - October 26, 2023 at 06:49 PM



“ *Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Janet E Pauls lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



**Janet E Pauls** - October 26, 2023 at 04:56 PM



“ *JoAnn & Royden Powell lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Nesbitt Sr.*



**JoAnn & Royden Powell** - October 26, 2023 at 04:19 PM



“ *So sorry! Mr. Nesbitt was a good man.*



**Frankie Todd** - October 26, 2023 at 03:51 PM

LP

“ *Sincere condolences to all the family.* ”



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**Lisa Plummer** - October 26, 2023 at 02:50 PM