



Mr. C. Herschel Darsey

February 12, 1928 - March 18, 2017

Mr. Charles Herschel Darsey, 89, of Albany died Saturday, March 18, 2017 at his residence after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 am, Wednesday, March 22 at Avalon United Methodist Church. Rev. Debbie Cone will officiate. Interment will follow at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Darsey was born on February 12, 1928 in Amsterdam, Georgia, a small community in Decatur County. He was the son of Charlie H. Darsey and Mettie Mae Connell Darsey. He graduated from Attapulgus High School in 1944, attended Mercer University where he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the Mercer Glee Club and president of the Baptist Student Union. He attended Tattnell Square Baptist Church where he served as the Men's Class song leader. He left Mercer in 1946 to enlist in the U.S. Navy. He served as an Electronics Technician 2nd Class aboard the Landing Craft Infantry flagship of a rocket ship squadron stationed at Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. After he was honorably discharged in March 1948, he enrolled at Florida State University, graduating in June 1949 with a Bachelor's degree in Education, Social Studies.

Mr. Darsey met Martha Boyd Bowden while he was selling WearEver Cookware in South Georgia and she was teaching Home Economics in Meigs, Georgia. They married in 1951 and moved to Albany where he worked at J.C. Penney. Later in 1951, he began a career in the gasoline business, opening Darsey's Gas House on North Jefferson Street. This station grew into a group

of service stations known as Darsey Oil Company. Mr. Darsey operated DOC for 34 years, selling the company to his sons Chuck and Boyd in 1986.

In the 1960's, Mr. Darsey volunteered with the local Boys and Girls Club that operated in the neighborhoods around the old McIntosh School. During the summer, he led the children in learning choruses and patriotic tunes. The children performed in local churches and on WALB television shows.

In 1978, Mr. Darsey bought a small school that he operated as Darsey Private School until he retired at age 81 in 2009. In 1982, Mr. Darsey purchased the Christian Book and Gift store. He and Mrs. Darsey operated the bookstore until selling the business to his daughter and son-in-law, Maelu and Lew Culpepper in 1992.

In 2005, Mr. Darsey fulfilled a life-long dream to give back to his community by establishing the Darsey Family Foundation, a non-profit charitable corporation promoting the conservation of natural resources, especially through recycling. The Foundation also promotes the development of moral and honorable behavior of children and youth in southwest Georgia.

Mr. Darsey was an active member of Avalon Methodist Church where he served as church leader, teacher, and choir member and song leader. In 1970, he received the Small Businessman of the Year award for Georgia from the Small Business Administration.

He was a long-time member of the Albany Chamber of Commerce and the Albany Kiwanis Club, receiving the Kiwanian of the Year award in 1995. He served on the Board of Trustees of Andrew College in the 1990's.

Mr. Darsey is survived by his wife of 66 years, Martha Boyd Bowden Darsey; daughter, Maelu Culpepper and husband, Lew of Albany; son, Chuck Darsey and wife, Cris of Albany; son, Boyd Darsey and partner, Paul McCord of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He leaves behind six grandchildren: Adam Culpepper and wife, Kristin of Albany; Jessica Pierce and husband, Blake of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Darsey Landoe and husband, Brian of Portland, Oregon; Patrick Darsey of Los Angeles, California; Ben Culpepper and wife, Whitney of Birmingham, Alabama; and Stuart Darsey of Telluride, Colorado.

He also leaves 3 great-grandchildren: Caughey Culpepper, Henry Culpepper and Ella Pierce.

The family wishes to thank Mr. Darsey's faithful caregivers, Ms. Lenora McAfee and Ms. Renita Shorter, as well as Affinis Hospice who helped him fulfill his wish to live out his days in his home.

Memorials may be sent to Avalon United Methodist Church (3018 Gillionville Road, Albany, Georgia 31721) or Darsey Family Foundation (3300 Westgate Road, Albany, Georgia 31721).

Cemetery Details

Crown Hill Cemetery

Albany

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Avalon United Methodist Church
3018 Gillionville Rd
Albany, GA 31721

Funeral Service

MAR 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Avalon United Methodist Church
3018 Gillionville Rd
Albany, GA 31721

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. C. Herschel Darsey*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. C. Herschel Darsey*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mr. C. Herschel Darsey*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *My parents were Charter Members at Avalon too-and I have known the Darsey family, most of my life. These parents could not have been a better influence on me. A wonderful Christian couple. The youngest son Boyd- brought my little son one of his 1st gifts...at our Pet Shop. I have pleasant memories of all 3-and live down the street from Chuck. Herschel was a really great and hard working business man. I am sorry to read, if belated, that he is no longer with us. I know he struggled for a long time. Gerry Hill*

Gerry Hill - April 02, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ *I know this is real late but I just learned of Mr. Darsey's passing. I was a teacher at his school. He was a wonderful man to work for and had a great personality. So sorry for his family's loss. Ed Ferguson*

Ed Ferguson - October 18, 2019 at 11:01 AM

SJ

“ *May Mr. H be with the Lord. Mrs. Martha take care of yourself, he loved you so much. Always enjoyed talking with him.*

Smitty Johnson - April 24, 2017 at 05:10 PM

TM

“ *Maelu and Chuck,
Steve and I were sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. Please know that we have you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. May God be with you and your family during this difficult time.
Steve and Twila Mathews*

Twila Mathews - March 21, 2017 at 07:00 PM

VL

“ *Maelu and other family members,*

I will be remembering all of you at this time of separation from your dad. Your dad has been an asset to the Albany area and his influence and example will be a lasting legacy.

Vickie Lewis

Vickie Lewis - March 21, 2017 at 07:40 AM

BK

“ *Chuck, so sorry to hear your dad passed away. I will be thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. I did not know your dad but reading about his life, I can see he was an awesome man.
Bonnie Kimbrel*

Bonnie Kimbrel - March 20, 2017 at 06:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. C. Herschel Darsey.*



March 20, 2017 at 01:45 PM



“ *Chuck, I am so sorry to hear about your father. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*



*Melissa Watson (formerly at All Star International Trucks, Inc.)
Oxford Construction Company*

Melissa Watson - March 20, 2017 at 08:27 AM



Brenda Shiver

Chuck, so sorry to hear about your Daddy. 🙏🙏🙏

Brenda Shiver - March 20, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. C. Herschel Darsey.*



March 19, 2017 at 08:50 PM

BM

“ I joined Dougherty Kiwanis in 1978 and visited the Albany club. I remember Mr. Darsey went to the front of the meeting room and proudly and with great enthusiasm lead the song "God Bless America". He was so sincere and patriotic I remember him singing that to this day, It was symbolic of him and his life.
Bill McMath

Bill McMath - March 19, 2017 at 04:19 PM

CS

“ As a student of Darsey Private School, I learned a great deal from Mr Darsey. From the motivational course he taught and his personal example, I gleaned life lessons that have helped me be successful over the years. With his recommendation, I was able to get my very first job. His encouragement was vitally important in my going on to Mercer University (his Alma Mater) after graduation. He was truly a very great man who made a huge impact on countless lives. I am a better person for having known him.

Clinton Silver
Class of 1991

Clinton Silver - March 19, 2017 at 03:19 PM

DD

“ Mr. Darsey was a wonderful, intelligent Sunday School teacher as well as outstanding church Financial Manager and all-around good person - a fearless leader. He planted seeds for God's children that grew and thrived throughout our lives.
Love, Donna Bland Dowling

Donna Dowling - March 19, 2017 at 12:34 PM