



Mr. Chester Norton

March 8, 2024

Chester Norton of Albany passed away at the Willson Hospice House on March 8, 2024. The funeral service will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 2PM at Porterfield Methodist Church with a brief cemetery service immediately following at Crown Hill Mausoleum Chapel. The family will receive friends from 1:00- 2:00 PM before the service at Porterfield Methodist Church

He was born in 1928 to Chester and Jessie Norton in Orangeburg, South Carolina. The family later moved to Crescent City, Florida, Waycross, Fitzgerald, and then settled in Ocilla, Georgia. He attended Georgia Tech for three quarters but came home to marry his sweetheart, Rose. They moved to Tifton and then called Albany home since 1968. They were married for seventy years before her death in 2022.

Chester retired from Gulf Life Insurance Company in 1991 as the district manager. He taught insurance sales certification classes to new agents for several years before beginning a new career as the Church Administrator for Porterfield Methodist Church. He found the most career satisfaction in this position than any other, as he felt he had answered God's call for many years to ministry. It was not in the pulpit, as he had imagined in his younger years, but he was heavily involved in hands on ministry for 18 years before his final retirement at 86 years old.

He was known for his wit, positivity, leadership, faith, loyalty, wisdom, and dedication to family and friends. He was sharp in his knowledge of technology

and enjoyed working with his hands to complete projects, also known as “Mr. Fix It.” Above all, his faith in the Lord shined. He walked, talked, and lived his Christian faith. In the 1980s, he was one of the founding members of the church’s Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study. Some weeks there would only be two men in attendance, but he was committed to the importance of men, of all ages, coming together to study the Bible. Over the years, he had a way of subtly inviting men who needed to step up their faith, and there are testimonies of men who turned the corner in their faith by attending the weekly group which has grown in size. He attended the study until recent months, when he attended via Zoom. He was a great example of a steadfast Godly man who lived for Christ and found joy in every aspect of life. He loved life to the fullest and was very proud to live to the age of 95. He remarked that he woke up every day amazed that God had given him such a long life. “My purpose is to be an instrument of God’s love.”

He is predeceased by his wife Rose Morris Norton. Survivors include three children: Nita Norton Gaines (Craig), Kelly Morris Norton (Kay), and Rose Marie Martin (Richard); grandchildren: Candice Rose Melton (McKay), Elizabeth Gaines, Claire Martin, Hatcher Martin, Nathan Martin, one great-granddaughter, Lindsey Rose Melton, his brother John Norton, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family extends deep thankfulness for Nettie Worthy. She has been a blessing from above as she became Chester’s caregiver and friend, and also a warm and kind soul to our family.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Porterfield Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

Crown Hill Mausoleum

1907 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 11. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Porterfield Methodist Church
2200 Dawson Road
Albany, GA 31707

Funeral Service

MAR 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Porterfield Methodist Church
2200 Dawson Road
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall

GR

“ Kelly, so sorry for your loss, prayers for you all

greg rowe - March 11, 2024 at 01:13 PM

PM

“ What a great guy he was!! Loved the Lord, his church, his family and friends.

We will all miss him and send our sincerest condolences to Rose Marie, Nita,

Kelly, and all their families. I know he and Rose are dancing away in Heaven this very minute. Hugs to your all!!!

Patsy Martin - March 11, 2024 at 12:51 PM

NG

“ Chester was a wonderful man. I am, so grateful that I had the opportunity of working with him for the seven years I was in Albany. He was a true friend and his a real Christian statesman. He was honest and kind and goodhearted. His sense of humor and positive attitude were a blessing in my life. Porterfield was indeed fortunate to have had him on the church staff. He was a very special man. His devotion and love for Rose and his affection and pride in his family were and inspiration to all of us who knew him. His example of life encouraged all of us to strive to be better people and to always travel a higher road. Blessings to all of your family. Nathan Godley

Nathan C Godley - March 11, 2024 at 09:51 AM

LW

“ Nita & Kelly, I'm so sorry for your loss! 🙏
🙏



Leanne S. Williams - March 09, 2024 at 04:08 PM

LL

“ Louie & I are saddened to hear the news of Chester's passing. He and Rose will live in our hearts forever. Chester was the "go-to guy" at Porterfield for many years, and he was always willing to help with any and every thing! Please know we are praying for the family during this difficult time. 🙏

Louie & Diane Lamb - March 09, 2024 at 03:23 PM

LP

“ I enjoyed being a part of Chester's life every Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM since moving to Albany from Valdosta in 1975. Chester made everyone feel welcome and the class has grown to 35-40 over the years. Well done good and faithful servant. Receive your crown of life promised by God. We will miss you as the patriarch of our group.

Larry Price - March 09, 2024 at 11:44 AM

CD

“ I'm one that Chester subtly invited to TMBS. Thank you Chester!

chuck darsey - March 09, 2024 at 11:24 AM

SF

“ Sheward family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Chester Norton.

Sheward family - March 09, 2024 at 09:07 AM

SF

“ Sheward family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Chester Norton.



Sheward family - March 09, 2024 at 09:07 AM

TE

“ Nita I am sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family during this time.

Tina Eubanks - March 08, 2024 at 10:07 PM

NR

“ What a great life ! Thinking of all of you!

Nancy Reimer - March 08, 2024 at 10:00 PM

RP

“ Kelly, Nita and Rose Marie, I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with your dad at Gulf Life. He was one of the finest men I have ever known. He was known as Chessy to us and he called me Patsy.

I just loved picking on him and he always had a quick comeback. I pray for peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Rita “Patsy” Cline

Rita Cline(Patsy) - March 08, 2024 at 08:24 PM

DK

Kelly, Nita and Rose Marie: What a life well lived and what an example of Christian faith Chester. We loved and appreciated Chester and for years we were recipients of Rose's faithful birthday cars. Thankful for the friendship of this wonderful family. Don & Mary Dale Kea

Don & Mary Dale Kea - March 09, 2024 at 02:38 PM

PM

Thinking of all of you with much love and sympathy. ❤️

Patsy McMath - March 09, 2024 at 03:25 PM

KR

*Nita,
I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad was a sweet soul with a great sense of humor. He would always brighten my day when I saw him on the track at Phoebe with your mom. I know he will be missed by so many but he is happy to be with Rose now.
Katie Reed*

katye reed - March 13, 2024 at 03:23 PM