



## Mr. John Charles "Chuck" McGarity Obituary

March 2, 1965 - June 27, 2014

John Charles "Chuck" McGarity, 49, of Albany, died Friday, June 27, 2014 at Willson Hospice House, surrounded by loving family and caregivers following a brief illness.

Funeral services will be held Monday, June 30, 2014 at 2:00 PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the funeral at the church. Dr. William D. "Biff" Coker, Dr. Paul Luthman and Rev. Tim Olds will officiate. Interment will follow at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Born March 2, 1965 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Chuck was a lifelong resident of Albany. He was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church where he served as an Usher. He was a member of the Boy Scouts and was an avid participant in the Special Olympics. He graduated from Monroe High School in 1987. His first job was at Washburn's Chevron Station followed by many years working for McDonald's. In 1988, Chuck began receiving residential services from Albany ARC and was so proud to be living independently in his own apartment. In 1996, Chuck was chosen as one of Albany's Local Heroes to carry the Olympic torch when it came through town. Chuck was an avid Atlanta Braves fan and for 30 years attended their Spring Training in Florida, serving as ballboy and Honorary Team Member. He counted as his special friends, Bobby Cox, Bobby Dews and many other players and coaches. Chuck also loved Georgia Tech, especially going to football games.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Henry (Hank) McGarity, Jr. and Kitty McCaa McGarity and his brother in law, George G. Riles.

He is survived by his brother, Bob McGarity and his wife Jain of Warwick, GA, two sisters, Vicki McGarity Riles of Albany, GA, and Kay McGarity Heidt and her husband Tommy of Norcross, GA. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Eric Riles of Seattle, WA, Kathy McGarity Benton of Alpharetta, GA, Tori Riles Whiting and her husband Jay of Albany, GA, Sarah McGarity Bennett and her husband Russell of Athens, GA, Leigh Elliott Beck of Atlanta, GA, Andy Heidt and his fiancé Pam Darvirris of Seattle, WA, Caroline Heidt Baughman and her husband Tyler and 6 great nephews and 3 great nieces. He is also survived by his loving caregivers, Linda Merritt, Sara Brown, Anthony Green, Mary Johnson and Annie Brown, for whom the family will be forever grateful.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Albany ARC, PO Box 71026, Albany, GA 31708-1026, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2126 W. Edgewater Drive, Albany, GA 31707 or Willson Hospice House, 720 Foundation Lane, Albany, GA 31707.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John Charles "Chuck" McGarity Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. John Charles "Chuck" McGarity Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mr. John Charles "Chuck" McGarity Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Sending my love and sympathy. I have many wonderful memories of this fine young man.*

**Gladys Dowdell - Valrico, FL - July 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM**



“ *I too met Chuck through Mark Tippins. Chuck came to Camp Osborn for summer camp with Boy Scouts. He was my best customer at the Trading Post. Chuck was eager, excited, very motivated and made a lasting impression on my entire family. I am better informed of the capabilities and value of persons with Downs Syndrome because of my brief association with Chuck. My most sincere respect to the family, past and present, for the fine young man they produced. His legacy lives on.*

**Elaine G Stacy - Columbus, GA - Friend - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

RL

“ Will be the best bat boy in heaven. One of my greatest treasures is an autographed (Chuck's autograph) April 1998 calendar of Chuck and Bobby.

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**Robert Lowrey** - July 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I wanted all of you to know that y'all have been in my thoughts & prayers since Chuck passed away. I am so sorry I was unable to attend the visitation/funeral, but I could not leave work. I will always remember Chuck & how he loved everyone! I know Chuck is in heaven smiling down at his "Braves"! God bless- Juli Bruner

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**Juli Reynolds Bruner - Albany, GA - family friend** - July 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Vicki and family - please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time.

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**Arleeta and Ferrell Henry - Cordele, GA** - July 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I am sorry to hear about the passing of Chucky. He was a true inspiration to those he was around. He will be missed by many.

*I was fortunate enough to attend spring training with Chucky and have many memories and stories from those days. Looking back I regret never getting his autograph during one of his signing sessions. He was truly the Braves #1 fan.*

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**Cole McNair - Edison, GA** - July 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

M'

“ Vicki, please accept my heartfelt condolences at Chuck's passing. I remember the day he was born. I worked in Thelma Plant's office, and she sent me to get you from class to take a phone call from your dad. When I told the teacher who I wanted to see, you jumped out of your chair and ran down the stairs. You were so excited. I also remember watching Chuck at so many Braves games. He was so dedicated to his job. You could see the pride on his face when Bobby Cox or one of the players complimented him. He will be remembered as a very sweet guy. Again, I'm so sorry for your loss.

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**Martha (Marti) Conley Holloway - Smyrna, GA - Chix of '66** - July 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Kay and Family,  
I was so sorry to hear about Chuck. I still remember the good times we had at Stone Mountain with Chuck, Leigh, and Elizabeth. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.  
The Bowden Family

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**Pam Bowden** - July 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Chuck's life was an inspiration to anyone who knew him or knew about him. Because of the incredible love and support of the McGarity Family, Chuck's achievements in this life far exceeded what had previously been the expectations for special people like Chuck. Kitty and Hank McGarity's commitment to improving educational opportunities for special needs children had far reaching and continuing results. Many have been inspired and blessed by Chuck and the McGarity family.

*I love you Vicki, Kay, Bob and all the family. Linda Glenn Wilburn*

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**Linda Glenn Wilburn - Greenville, GA - friend of the family** - July 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Dear Kay and Vicky,  
I first got to know Chuck when he and my brother, Ricky Kirksey, attended summer camp at Chehaw Park. I have wonderful memories of Chuck as a young person. He was so much fun to be with. You have my deepest sympathies. Warm regards, Mary Anne Kirksey Dykes

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**Mary Anne Kirksey Dykes - Ocean Springs, MS - friend** - June 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers

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**Amy Henley Moran - Pleasant Hill, NC - Friend of Vicky's** - June 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ We are so sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. He was a caring, loving and giving person in so many ways. Words cannot comfort your grieving hearts. Please know the Iveys share your pain and grief. I'm sure Bludy is so glad to see Chuck and they are giving each other a good ole pat on the back. We pray that God will wrap His arms around you and give you the peace and comfort you need at this time and the days ahead.

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**Cathy Ivey - albany, GA - friend** - June 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Chuck was a wonderful person and I am sure he will be remembered by everyone that was touched by his love. I know that my family has a lot of great memories of time spent with him. May God bless.

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**Jackie Griffin - Cordele, GA - Friend** - June 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ So sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. I will keep you close to my heart in the coming days. Peace.

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**Jan Robinson - Leesburg, GA** - June 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ We will miss you Chuck.

*Love Eddie and Jennifer*

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**Eddie and Jennifer Chapman - Starkville, MS - Friend** - June 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ *Kay and Family,*

*We are so sad to hear about Chuck. We have truly missed him over the years. He was a wonderful person and a blessing to get to know and be around. He has and will continue to impact peoples lives. It was a pleasure to be friends and to have many memories, whether it was bowling, fishing, going to the movies or just hanging out. Those are memories that can never be replaced. We love you all.*

*Love,  
Eddie and Jennifer*

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**Eddie and Jennifer Chapman - Starkville , MS - Friend - June 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

TF

“ Hello McGarity Family,

*I am so sorry for your loss. You do not know me and I have not seen Chuck since I was a teenager, but he left a lasting effect on me. I met Chuck through Mark Tippins. I have to admit when Mark told me he wanted to introduce me to Chuck I was a little nervous. I wasn't sure how to act and take it in. As soon as I met him that all melted away. He was such a great person and so easy to be around. It forever opened my eyes to those with down syndrome and other special needs and made it possible for me to interact with anyone with challenges with an ease and comfortableness that I might not have otherwise achieved. I go out of my way to acknowledge, talk to or help someone with special needs rather than being one of those people that may just look, ignore, and move on. If only those people knew what a great gift they are missing out on when they pass by those chances. So glad I did not do that with Chuck so many years ago or I would have truly missed out on knowing someone as special as Chuck. Again I am so sorry for your loss. God Bless,*

*Sincerely,*

*Tammy Reno*

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**Tammy Reno - Stafford, VA - friend** - June 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM