



Charles E. Chesley

November 13, 1922 - January 27, 2020

Peabody, MA – Charles E. Chesley, 97, of Peabody and a former longtime resident of Haverhill, passed away peacefully at Braeburn at Brooksby Village, Peabody MA on Monday, January 27, 2020.

He was born November 13, 1922 in Haverhill, a son of the late Edward and Margaret (Kimball) Chesley. Mr. Chesley graduated from Haverhill High School with the Class of 1941 and Burdett College in Boston in 1942. He was a veteran of WW II serving with the US Navy as a gunnery specialist.

He started work in the shoe industry before beginning his 30-year career as a firefighter with the City of Haverhill. He was the owner of the Bargain House a second-hand furniture store in Haverhill.

He was a member of Riverside Memorial Church, was an active member of the Haverhill community having served as a 30-year member, past president and board member, of the Winnekenni Castle Foundation and received recognition for his leadership of restoration projects and fundraising for the Castle. He was a member of Kiwanis, served on the Board of Girls Incorporated of Greater Haverhill. He also supported the Haverhill Historical Society, and was a member of the Walnut Square Association and Cedardale Health Club. He also enjoyed collecting old postcards of Haverhill.

Mr. Chesley was named Haverhill Firefighter of the Year by the Kiwanis Club, shared several honors with his wife including the B'nai B'rith for Distinguished Service Award, the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Award and recognition from the mayor and city council of Haverhill for countless acts of community service.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years Jean L. (Gray) Chesley, his two sons, Wayne (Charlene) of Springfield, VA and Glenn (Maureen) of Danvers, grandchildren, Kevin (Heather), Kristin (Tom) Dunaway, Katie and Matthew Chesley, great grandchildren, Lucy Chesley, Vivian, Charles and Graham Dunaway, brother Kimball Chesley of San Diego, CA, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister Margaret "Peg" Johnson and his brother, Winslow Chesley.

Private services will be held in Linwood Cemetery, Haverhill. There will be a celebration of his life at a later date. Donations may be made to Winnekenni Castle Foundation, Inc., PO Box 403, Haverhill, MA 01831 or the Benevolent Care Fund at Brooksby Village, 100 Brooksby Village Drive, Peabody, MA 01960.

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles E. Chesley*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Wayne Chesley - August 20, 2020 at 08:55 AM



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Wayne Chesley - August 20, 2020 at 08:46 AM

WC

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayne Chesley - August 20, 2020 at 08:32 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayne Chesley - August 20, 2020 at 08:30 AM

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“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayne Chesley - August 20, 2020 at 08:24 AM

WC

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayne Chesley - August 15, 2020 at 04:39 PM

WC

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Wayne Chesley - August 15, 2020 at 04:35 PM

WC

“ A small family interment ceremony was held on 6 August 2020 at Linwood Cemetary in Haverhill MA. The ceremony was attended by Jean, Wayne and Charlene, and Glenn and Dee Chesley. Although constrained by the COVID-19 restrictions the ceremony was very special. Father Delaney (the Haverhill Fire Department (HFD) Chaplain) delivered remarks and the Committal Prayer, many firefighters were present, including the Chief. The Chief's car, Engine 3 the last alarm vehicle formed a procession to deliver Dad's urn to the grave site. The Navy personnel were also present to render Taps and perform the flag presentation to Mom. Family remarks conveyed lots of fond memories of a life well lived. The ceremony closed with the firefighters final bell honors. We hope to celebrate Dad's life with family and friends at the Winnekenni Castle once the virus is under control. Wayne Chesley

Wayne Chesley - August 09, 2020 at 03:50 PM

SR

“ Dear Jean and family, please accept my condolences for your loss of Charlie. I have many great memories from the days of delivering your mail and being your neighbor. It was because of such nice people as Charlie, and Jean, that made my job so much easier. You made East Broadway and all of Riverside a friendly and happy place. Charlie will be missed by many I'm sure. Sincerely, Steve Raymond

Steven Raymond - February 04, 2020 at 02:14 PM

NH

“ Dear Glenn and members of the Chesley family -- I am sorry for your loss and send my sincere condolences.

*Neil Harrington
Salem, MA*

Neil Harrington - February 01, 2020 at 06:10 PM

GG

“ Glenn, your dad sounds like he was a wonderful man, another fine example of the "greatest generation." Joe and I toasted him tonight. Our sincerest condolences to you, Dee, and Matthew. Love, Genie and Joe (Goodreault)

Genie Goodreault - January 31, 2020 at 09:13 PM

DR

“ Charlie Chesley was a fine man and a gentleman! I have fond memories of he & Jean from their days giving back to Bethany Homes. I actually took care of his Mom some 37 years ago and I am still here at Bethany. Charlie did so much for the city of Haverhill by serving as a fireman and all the volunteering he did. He would be proud today that Winnekenni Castle is vibrant today because of his efforts years ago. I always loved going in his store with my Mom as we searched for treasures. I will always have very fond memories of him and also Jean. Charlie was a gentle giant and the kind of man we need more of in this world. Rest easy Charlie and thanks for the blessing of having known you.
Much love and sympathy to Jean & the family.

Deanna Ruth - January 30, 2020 at 11:34 AM

KC

“ A hero. Gramp was the kindest guy you ever could meet. Everybody's friend. Such a warm example of how to live life. I'm so proud to be his grandson. He taught me much about how to respect and aide others. How to be honorable... but also how to bowl, correctly eat a lobster, and build a snow fort. So much laughter. A hilarious, classy gent. I will miss him dearly, but am happy to see his spirit living on in all of us lucky enough to know him.

Kevin Chesley - January 29, 2020 at 06:56 PM

CJ

“ *The year was 1974, the Day was August 3rd I will always hold a special place in my heart for Charlie's part in walking me down the aisle, he calmed me down, told me a joke and diwn the aisle we went. God Bless you, you will forever be in my heart. Love Cindy*

Cindy Johnson - January 29, 2020 at 09:30 AM