



Mr. Charles Riner, Jr.

May 13, 1945 - September 27, 2022

Mr. Charles Robert Riner Jr., 77, of Port Wentworth, Georgia, died on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at Willson Hospice House in Albany, Georgia. The graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday October 2, 2022 at the Hillcrest Cemetery. The Rev. Bruce Gordon will officiate.

Mr. Riner was born on May 13, 1945 in Albany, GA, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital to the late Charles “Bob” Robert Riner Sr. and Jane Sawyer Riner Medders. He had recently moved to Leesburg to be closer to his family, but had lived in Savannah, Georgia most of his life, and graduated from Worth County High School in 1963. Mr. Riner attended Georgia Southern College in Statesboro, Georgia, where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Following graduation Mr. Riner went on to teach high school chemistry and physics. His career started with a year in Atlanta and then moved to Savannah, where he taught at Groves High School until he retired. Following his retirement, he taught at Savannah High School, Calvary Day, Memorial Day, and Armstrong State College. In addition, he also taught home school students and tutored as well.

Mr. Riner was a faithful member of Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah where he enjoyed being a member of the choir.

Survivors include his sister, Bobbie Jane Gay (Tommy) of Cordele; niece, Jenni Carpenter (Todd Rice), and a nephew, Riner Gay (Weatherly); great nieces, Mattie Jane Carpenter, Emmaline Carpenter, and Ellison Gay.; great nephews, Lawrence Carpenter, and Thomas Gay.

A memorial service will be held for Mr. Riner on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 2:00 PM at the Independent Presbyterian Church of Savannah.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Independent Presbyterian Church of Savannah, 207 Bull St. Savannah, GA 31401, or the Willson Hospice House, 320 Foundation Lane, Albany, GA 31707.

Please sign our online guest registry at www.banksfh.com.

Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Hillcrest Cemetery
701 S. Isabella Street
Sylvester, GA 31791

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Charles Riner, Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:53 PM



“ *Mr. Riner was an inspirational teacher to me, especially when I was a freshman in highschool. He was a very kind man.*

Jon Brookshire - November 13, 2022 at 11:57 PM



“ *So many fond memories of Mr. Riner! I was in his Physics and Chemistry classes at Savannah High School. He was a gifted teacher and had that rare talent for bringing out the best in every student - you just wanted to do your best for him. I feel fortunate to have learned from him, and there are so many things he taught us that I've used throughout my life. As an example, remember “LYUWFU” (Let Your Units Work For You)? It's a simple way to check if you have the correct terms in an equation, and I've used it throughout my career as an aerospace engineer.*

I last saw Mr. Riner at my Mom's Visitation in June of 2019. Although I had not seen him in close to 40 years, he was thoughtful enough to come in person to visit my family. I can't express what that meant to me. That's the kind of person he was.

Mr. Riner was one of the fortunate few who made a real difference in the world. I hope he knew the breadth and depth of his positive influence to so many people. I will miss him.

*Buddy Franklin
SHS Class of 1977*

Walter Franklin - October 30, 2022 at 06:02 PM

SK

“ My memory of Charles is connected to Marsha’s. Yes, Charles and my brother, Leonard Robertson, were best friends. Their days at Georgia Southern were extra special. All of my family loved Charles, especially my mother. I always liked knowing that Charles was a Southwest Georgia "boy," since my husband grew up in Damascus. Lloyd and I, along with his siblings and their spouses, made a trip to Savannah about 20 years ago. Charles graciously served as our tour guide for a day. What a treat! How thankful I am to have known Charles and for what he meant to our family. 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Sandra Robertson Killebrew

Sandra Robertson Killebrew - October 16, 2022 at 08:00 PM

AB

“ I graduated from Savannah High School in the bicentennial class of 1976. Charles Riner had a huge impact on me not only as a teacher but also as a friend and mentor. He was only 12 years older than his students, and related to us in such a positive way. I took ever class he taught. I graduated from UGA in 1981 with a degree in Chemistry and I give Charles Riner a lot of the credit. I recently retired from a 35 year career in the Chemical Industry that took me all over the world in Sales, Marketing, and Product Development. Charles Riner made a huge impact in peoples lives and he will be fondly remembered by many of his students and friends.

Andy Barrett

Andy Barrett - October 16, 2022 at 08:50 AM

MG

“ I knew Charles when we were at Georgia Southern together. He a senior and I a freshman. He was my late husband, Leonard Robertson’s best friend. We drifted apart in years past but I remember his laughter and how thoughtful he was when Leonard died. He kept in contact with relatives, especially Leonard’s mother. He will be missed. It’s been wonderful reading tributes from his students and I’m not surprised that he’ll be remembered as a wonderful teacher. Rest In Peace Charles. Condolences to the family.

Marsha Robertson Gresso - October 15, 2022 at 09:32 PM



“ I first met Charles at Groves high school as a student in his Chemistry I class and continues as a student in Chemistry II and Physics. His love for science was infectious and his ability to transfer that love to his students. He would sit quietly and observe us through the labs as we learned and applied all, he taught us. I returned to Groves to teach and our friendship continued for 50 years. His love of teaching and inspiring students never ended. My daughter was fortunate to be a student of his while he was at SCPS. His wisdom and wit will be missed by all who knew him. He was a true Christian and servant of our Lord. He is basking in the glory of God now. To his family I send my deepest sympathy and will continue to pray that God give them strength and comfort in the days to come.

Jan Kelly - October 04, 2022 at 09:36 AM

JW

“ I remember cousin Charles and his funny stories. We had wonderful family trips to Georgia to visit our sweet Georgia relatives. We are sad to hear of Charles' passing and we are praying for everyone! GOD Bless you all! Love You! Love, Jill, Joe, Julia and Jordan Wood.

Jill Wood - October 02, 2022 at 08:16 PM

CS

“ Mr. Riner was my teacher when I was a kid; he became my close friend much later. Charles believed in the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart. I will miss him until I see him again. My prayers are with his family whom he loved so.

Carol Ann Moseley Scott - October 01, 2022 at 03:39 PM

HM

“ I was in Charles first chemistry class at Groves . Then in senior year in his first physical chemistry class . We even did lab experiments on Sat . It was inspiring to be around him . He was fun , excellent teacher and mentor . A primary inspiration for my medical career . He later taught with my mother , a biology teacher at Sav High . He was a good friend , great sense of humor and even mischievous at times . Just a wonderful teacher and person . I learned much from him well beyond the world of chemistry . . Thank you Charles . I will not forget you ! Harley Morgan MD

Harley Morgan MD - October 01, 2022 at 09:01 AM

GE

“ Our thoughts and prayers for Bobbie and the all of the family. Remembering good times as we grew up, from first grade through graduation. Charles was a good friend always.

Gwen Raines Ellis - October 01, 2022 at 01:44 AM

JP

“ Charles was a very kind and wonderful Teacher. I knew him as a GHS student and then later he taught my sons. God Be with his family in their grief. He will be missed.

Jannis Pickard - September 30, 2022 at 08:11 PM

SB

“ Mr. Riner will always be remembered by students from Savannah High. He was one of a kind.

Stephanie Bridges - September 30, 2022 at 04:52 PM

HM

I was in his first chemistry class at Groves , a primary inspiration for my medical career and love of science . Inspiring teacher , patient , nurturing and caring friend . I still have my lab books he graded and always encouraged me to keep seeking more beyond the classroom . Charles you were a good man and forever in my thoughts . Harley Morgan MD

Harley Morgan MD - October 01, 2022 at 08:34 AM

SB

“ I will miss you cousin Charles you made us laugh you would always visit us you kept the riner family together love ya Rest In Peace love Stacey Blake

stacey Blake - September 30, 2022 at 03:33 PM

SM

“ Mr Riner was the most memorable teacher I had. He taught me Chemistry at Savannah High 1974-75. I have been trying for years to locate him and “ catch up” on life. Sorry to hear of his passing. Mr Riner will be greatly missed. He had a major influence on my education. I extend my sympathy to his friends and family.
Steven Hirsch MD

Steven Hirsch MD - September 30, 2022 at 12:03 PM

JB

“ I was in his Chemistry class at Savannah High. He made his class fun and I looked forward to his class every day. I will miss him.

Joe Becton - September 30, 2022 at 09:40 AM

TH

I was in his class as well he had a humorous attitude about him and always told me to do my best out on the field because it will be needed in life I appreciate the way he take time with me to give me advice what a wonderful man

Terrance Holmes - September 30, 2022 at 10:47 AM

DC

“ I was so sorry to hear of Charles passing. I remember Charles from our time together at Trinity United Methodist Church 🙏❤️🙏

Debbie Cameron - September 30, 2022 at 08:17 AM

KB

“ *Mr. Riner was the teacher that taught me how to interact with the youth of our day. I emulated his style and often told stories in my chemistry courses like and about Mr. Riner. He made a huge impact on my life that continue to this day. I still know the atomic numbers and atomic weights from memory because of Mr. Riner. I send prayers to his family that you find comfort in this time.*



KaReem Beckett - September 30, 2022 at 06:45 AM

NF

“ *Mr. Riner taught me 10th grade Chemistry and I still use conversations and lessons from his class as examples to this day. He was a great teacher and an even better person and will be missed by many. Rest In Peace Mr. Riner.*



Nikki Clark Fayville - September 30, 2022 at 05:57 AM

DF

“ *Mr Riner was a respected and well liked teacher. He was always interesting and entertaining. My deepest sympathy to his family. Rest In Peace.*

Donna Breland Faircloth - September 29, 2022 at 11:45 PM

JO

I owe much to Mr Riner for the guidance and help he gave in my youth. You will be missed. Rest in peace my dear friend.

John W Odum - September 30, 2022 at 12:09 AM

DJ

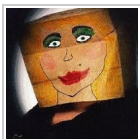
“ He made such an impression on me that I have a degree in Chemistry. I borrowed his use of wit in instruction as I taught several high school science subjects. I talk about him to my students all the time. I still will. ❤️

Dr. Kimberly Jones - September 29, 2022 at 11:44 PM

MC

“ Always a class act and a teacher who cared about his students. Rest well sir. You have earned your wings
Marie Crosby
Savannah High School C/O 81

Marie Crosby - September 29, 2022 at 10:14 PM



“ One of my favorite teachers at Groves. He finally forgave me (about a year later) for teasing him all day one day about me bringing him a snake in a paper bag 😊 He was inspiring as a teacher ... otherwise I wouldn't have teased him! My thoughts are with his family today
❤️

Lane Knox - September 29, 2022 at 07:53 PM



“ It is not often that you see students WANTING to go to a Chemistry class. Charles Riner made learning fun for both our students and faculty that taught with him. He had a knowledge of so many different subjects and made time to speak with anyone that wanted to talk. I loved hearing all of his stories. Sir Charles.....Rest in Peace !!!

Mark Sussman - September 29, 2022 at 05:49 PM

JT

“ *Mr. Riner is one of the teachers I think very fondly about from high school. I wasn't the best at chemistry, but his class was always interesting, as was he. Rest well, Mr. Riner.*

Jim Tapley - SHS Class of 1981

Jim Tapley - September 29, 2022 at 04:50 PM

JC

“ *Charles Riner and I taught together at Groves High School for many years. He was a dedicated teacher to many. He was also one of the kindest and most loyal friends I've ever had. Charles, you are loved and will be greatly missed.*

Jackie Cowart - September 29, 2022 at 12:19 PM

ML

“ *I am sorry to hear of Mr. Riner's passing. He was a veteran teacher and mentor when I was a new (and green) teacher. May his memory be a blessing.*

Mark Linsky - September 29, 2022 at 10:58 AM

ME

“ *Charles was teaching when I first started teaching; we taught at the same school for many years. He was dedicated to helping students learn science.. He was a friend & will be missed. My sympathy to his family..*

mary evangelista - September 29, 2022 at 09:48 AM

JM

“ *Janell Morris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Riner, Jr.*



Janell Morris - September 29, 2022 at 08:54 AM

SM

“ *So sorry to hear of Mr. Riner's passing. He was a great influence on my life, and I never got the chance to apologize for all the antics and frustration we gave him (to our mutual enjoyment, I might add). I was a rare find, and will be missed.*

Steve McElveen - SHS Class of 1977

Stephen McElveen - September 29, 2022 at 08:08 AM

LD

“ *I am sorry to read that Charles is gone but glad to know just where he is. He was a good teacher and good friend to all who knew him well.*

Linda Dekle - September 29, 2022 at 07:02 AM

MT

“ *Charles Riner was one of the best. He taught me how to teach Chemistry. My success as a Chemistry teacher is because of his influence. A kind man who had a heart of gold. He will be missed.*

Michelle Thompson - September 29, 2022 at 05:59 AM

KJ

“ I am truly sorry to hear of Mr. Riner’s passing. Mr. Riner loved science, and for the most part, he loved teaching. His teaching career spanned decades, as he taught my brother and sister when they were in high school. We were a rowdy class, but that never stopped him or deterred him. He encouraged me to achieve so much more than what I thought I was capable of. He was such a smart, intelligent, and caring man. When my mom passed, he sent me the most beautiful card. It meant the world to me. Some of my fondest memories of Mr. Riner include seeing him around Port Wentworth and him getting to meet my children, but I will always remember the sound of the horn on the Q.E. II. Rest easy, Mr. Riner.

Kassie M. Jones - September 29, 2022 at 04:55 AM

AE

“ Mr. Riner was a great teacher! He always wore dress slacks, white dress shirt, sports coat, white socks, and white rebox. He was funny but knew when to be serious. He cared. That’s one thing I will never forget, he cared about his students. It was an honor to have him as my teacher. Rest Easy Mr. Riner, we will miss you. 💜

Alexia Ehmen - September 28, 2022 at 11:24 PM

L.

“ I was blessed to be in Mr. Riner’s chemistry class. His love for teaching made even a difficult (for me) subject easy to understand. You will remember the good teachers for your entire life, I’ll carry his memory with me always.

L.S. - September 28, 2022 at 11:12 PM

SW

“ Sandra Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Riner, Jr.



Sandra Watson - September 28, 2022 at 11:10 PM

EW

“ I was sorry to hear this. Mr. Riner was one of the best teachers I ever had. He taught us how to think, not what to think. His methods helped me to get through college. i have worked with several other chemists that had him in high school.

Ernie Walton - September 28, 2022 at 11:09 PM

LA

“ Very sorry to hear the sad news 🙏🙏 What a great teacher and very nice man Savannah High 1980

Lee Anderson - September 28, 2022 at 10:52 PM

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear of Charles' death. His first teaching class was at Groves High School. I was the school secretary and Charles was a great teacher. Every so often he got discouraged, but he stuck with it. Loved him. God Bless.
Shirley H Woods

Shirley H Woods - September 28, 2022 at 07:50 PM

RH

“ What a great teacher of chemistry. He made chemistry fun for all students. Condolences to his family and friends.

Ronnie Hulsey - September 28, 2022 at 05:58 PM

MG

“ I hardly know where to begin...Elementary school at the McPhaul Institute, and lots of memories there. Sixty-five years ago Lillian Williams had a costume party for our "little click" and Charles and I went together as SNUFFY SMITH and LOUWEEZIE....we were too cute!!! (Jane carried us.) We did not win the contest, but we had a BLAST!

We both played French horn in the WCHS band and sat side by side all four years. He coached me on my "less than stellar" musical performances.....

We worked together with other classmates our Senior year on the Junior Senior Prom. Our theme was "AN EVENING IN PARIS." Charles had researched it ALL, and was quick to correct anything we might have not had Exactly correct!. (One time he got mad, and jumped up and down on the stage, and we hugged him and laughed together)....What an Adorable Memory!

After the Graduation Dance, Jane and Bob and Charles had our "little click" to their house. We cooked breakfast in the early morning hours, danced to our records we had taken---said our last "HURRAHS" and went home with twelve years of JOY, LAUGHTER, AND WONDERFUL MEMORIES.

In 1973, Charles called me to attend our first class reunion with him, held at the Downtowner Hotel in Albany. WE ALL HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.....

What can you really say about lifelong, CLOSE FRIENDS when they "Graduate to Heaven?" I think we just say: We will miss you--- but WE WILL SEE YOU IN HEAVEN---and the French horn section will be LOOKING GOOD AND SOUNDING A LOT BETTER.

CHARLES AND I GOT TO TALK A LONG TIME IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, AND IT WAS SO PRECIOUS TO BOTH OF US. WE LAUGHED A LOT....

In Loving Memory of CHARLES ROBERT RINER, JR., my Dear, Dear Friend. Memories are So Wonderful.....THEY SUSTAIN US LIKE NOTHING ELSE CAN DO.

CHARLES, You will Always hold a Special Place in my heart.

Most sincerely,

*Marsha Carol Watson Gandy
WCHS Class of 1963*

"Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every bye-way---'til you find your dream."

Marsha Carol Watson Gandy - September 28, 2022 at 03:54 PM

MR

“ *A great chemistry teacher and a wonderful friend. Charles was the best. My sympathy to his family and prayers for God's peace and comfort. Mary Roberson*

Mary Roberson - September 28, 2022 at 03:21 PM

EC

“ *My deepest sympathy, Bobbie. Your family is in my prayers.*

Elizabeth W Cowles - September 28, 2022 at 03:18 PM

LF

“ *Condolences to Bobbie Jane and the rest of the family. Fond memories of Charles from first grade through twelfth.*



Lynn Fowler - September 28, 2022 at 11:28 AM

DK

“ We have so many great memories of our beloved classmate! I especially loved sharing many years in WCHS band (7 years) and growing up in FBC and small town America ! Needless to say, we were close as brothers and sisters! His brilliant mind and expertise as a chemistry teacher touched the lives of many! May God’s amazing grace surround all his family and friends during this sad time ! We will miss you, Charles ❤️🙏❤️🙏

Donna McCourry King - September 28, 2022 at 08:59 AM

DK

Charles was such an active and faithful part of his church in Savannah. He contributed to the music program. As he entered heaven, I feel sure he was welcomed by Our Lord and the heavenly choir! His gifts were many and his life was well lived! Davis and I enjoyed sharing many good times with Charles throughout our school years from first grade through twelfth grade! May he Rest In Peace! Condolences to all his loving family . Davis and Donna (McCourry) King ❤️🙏❤️🙏

Donna McCourry King - September 29, 2022 at 04:56 AM

GP

Charles and I have been friends for nearly fifty years. We met when I came to RWG High School, where we argued at least once a day! Nancy and I planned his banquet when he decided to join the Peace Corp- what an evening- and he spear-headed my retirement banquet! I will never forget his phone call from Africa to tell me he was coming home because he was tired of riding the bus with chickens! Charles and I had similar teaching philosophies: Children came to learn and we came to teach and care about them. I will miss our talks and friendship. September 27,2022 was a very sad day for me. My love and prayers go out to his family.
Gretchen Patricio

Gretchen Patricio - September 29, 2022 at 11:02 AM

WR

I think Mr. Riner would have approved of his obituary notice-it is precise and concise.

Wayne Robbins - September 29, 2022 at 02:15 PM

RH

“ Prayers and condolences to the family of my lifetime friend. Many great times together growing up in Sylvester. RIP Buddy .

Ray Houston - September 28, 2022 at 08:43 AM