



Charles Kenneth Hamer

June 16, 1945 - November 14, 2023

Proud son from Keystone, McDowell County, West Virginia. Charles 'Charlie' Kenneth Hamer passed away calmly Tuesday night, November 14th, after battling a long illness. As husband and loving father, Charlie exemplified the values of hard work, giving your best effort in all your endeavors, and making sure to spend time with family and loved ones.

Growing up running the hills of Burke Mountain prepared him to be the 'Mighty Mite' of the gridiron. This toughness in Charlie Hamer exemplified throughout all phases of his life, best explained by a former teammate, "when Charlie Hamer hit you he was trying to run over your children."

Charlie Hamer loved fishing. He could catch a fish out of a hat. He enjoyed going to the beach with his lovely wife of thirty-two years Doris Carol Hamer and their two Pomeranians, Prince Charles and Baby. Together they loved taking 'short' Sunday drives to enjoy the mountains and an ice cream cone. Charlie Hamer not only taught school for decades, but as Coach Hamer he mentored a generation of young men in the region. Charlie could get young people to do just about anything. He just had a way with kids that they could understand and love. It was evident when he realized what an impact he made on his students during his recent illness. Many of his caregivers went above and beyond for him. Each mentioned that he either taught them in school or coached them, eagerly saying they would "do anything for Coach Hamer."

If Charlie was not your coach or your teacher, then he probably worked on

your house. Nearly every street in Bluefield is adorned with a new sidewalk, porch, or roof that was improved or remodeled by Charlie with the help of his teaching co-workers or other life-long friends. He didn't just have a green thumb, Charlie Hamer had a green leg. He could grow anything and he loved showing off his beautiful ferns and his immaculate yard.

At the end of each day Charlie enjoyed eating a simple meal at home with Carol, often a salad picked fresh from the garden. If you were a guest, invited or not, Charlie would fire up the grill to prepare you a cheeseburger or ribs, his favorite. While socializing on Charlie's back porch you would certainly be offered a cold drink, and if you were his favored company, he'd offer you one that came out of the tool shed.

If you knew Charlie at all you first had a story that begins with, "There was that one time Charlie Hamer ..." But more importantly, you knew that he was "Pawpaw Charlie" to his beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren, who he and Nanny Carol adored. Whether you knew him as "Coach," "Pawpaw," or just "Charlie," I'm certain you'll agree that he left a legacy that will truly be missed and hard to fill.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Hamer and Louise Ethel Gilmore Hamer; and siblings, Ann Jane Hamer-Milam and Joseph Daniel Hamer.

Charlie is survived by his wife Doris Carol Hamer; sons, Christopher Scott Hamer, and Chuck Hamer and wife Karin Hamer, children from his first marriage to Kaye Hamer; and daughters, Ann Whitt and husband Robert, and Amy Brewster, from Carol's first marriage ; grandchildren, Morgan Hamer, Mariel Hamer, Lilly Heath, Mary Kathryn Hamer, Lauren Hamer, Trevor Taylor, Mollie Necessary, Kameron Necessary, Jake Jackson, and Xander Rivera; great-grandchildren, Tucker Taylor and Ellie Taylor; and siblings, James "Jimmy" Hamer and wife Monika, Richard Hamer and wife Dorothea, Russell Hamer and wife Brenda, Dorothy Louise Hicks, and Esther Susan Hamer McPeak and husband Carlos McPeak, Sr.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday December 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at Mercer Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Aker officiating. The family will receive friends from noon until the service hour.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Charles Kenneth Hamer.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Memorial Service

DEC 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall

PF

“ *Deepest sympathy to all the Hamer family. Charlie is truly missed by this entire community.* ”

Pat Feuchtenberger - December 11, 2023 at 11:58 AM

HS

“ *We have lost a legend, coach and mentor thanks for everything you did Coach for me* ”

Hugh Smalls - November 30, 2023 at 07:10 PM

JB

“ *On behalf of the John & Ann Brant Family, Sabrina and I offer our deepest condolences to a fine, fellow McDowell Countian.* ”



John David Brant - November 30, 2023 at 11:00 AM

CS

“ *Chip & Georgann Simmons lit a candle in memory of Charles Kenneth Hamer* ”



Chip & Georgann Simmons - November 30, 2023 at 06:53 AM

JH

“ CHARLIE I AM GLADE ME AND DANNY & RICHARD DIDNOT THROW U OFF THE BARN ON THE MOUNTAIN TO TEST OUR PARACHUTES WHICH DID NOT WORK! LOVE U BROTHER JIM

JAMES HAMER - November 27, 2023 at 02:20 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Kenneth Hamer.



November 27, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles Kenneth Hamer.

November 27, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Charles Kenneth Hamer.



November 27, 2023 at 11:44 AM

PH

“ My memory is the big football coach and the big school principal sitting in my family room looking at recordings of their mutual granddaughter. She was just a few months old when we recorded the "baby" taking a bath. He will always be Pawpaw Charlie to both Morgan and Mariel Hamer. They loved him dearly. ~~Pat & Larry Helmandollar

Pat Helmandollar - November 27, 2023 at 11:18 AM

MA

“ Coach Hamer as we knew him and couldn't begin to think of calling him anything else was in many respects a father image to me ; and if not that at least what it meant to be a man. Do your best, never quit, and you can do more than you think were virtues he taught in building men's characters. Unlike other coaches who made you so worried about failure you were set free to play and soar to your limits, and as long as you didn't disobey his counsel he would support you. I loved the man and thank him. Period. Full stop. I pray that I will
See him in heaven by the grace and calling of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

michael angles - November 26, 2023 at 08:35 PM

FD

“ sorry to hear. about Charlie we saw Charlie at my brother funeral service. last month and talked and hugged him glad we got to see him God Bless the family

freddie and joddy dotson - November 20, 2023 at 05:28 PM

DG

“ Charlie and Rick Marrs did a great job in re-doing our bathroom floor. He was very talented in many ways and his work was excellent. I officiated some of his Bluefield Middle School football game(s). He was a great coach and respected by ALL his players and coaches.

Donnie Gott - November 20, 2023 at 03:10 PM

JA

“ Charlie was a best friend of my brother bob hedrick and a hunting buddy of my husband roger phipps. We loved him and carol and attended their wedding at the big white farmhouse. I had visited a few weeks ago to give him some of bobs memorabilia. We miss him and his sweet smile. Bobby welcomed him of that I am sure.

janet - November 19, 2023 at 07:17 PM

GL

“ Charlie touched the lives of many young men including my son. He will be missed all who knew him.
Love and prayers to his family.

Gerri Broyles Lamie - November 19, 2023 at 03:53 PM

GS

“ We had many good times with Charlie, especially the "corn roast" at the farm in Bland County. He will be missed by so many. Chip & Georgann Simmons

Georgann Simmons - November 19, 2023 at 12:12 PM

TD

“ Deepest sympathy to the Hamer Family - the Deskins Family

Tim Deskins - November 18, 2023 at 12:31 PM

MD

Prayers for the family and friends

Mark and Katrina Davidson - November 18, 2023 at 09:04 PM

MD

Great man and friend will be sadly missed

Mark and Katrina Davidson - November 18, 2023 at 09:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Kenneth Hamer.*



November 18, 2023 at 12:26 PM

TF

“ *The Deskins Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Kenneth Hamer.*

The Deskins Family - November 18, 2023 at 12:26 PM