



Charles G. Gittens

December 28, 1954 - November 28, 2014

God sent his Angel of Peace and Rest into Bayhealth Kent General Hospital on Friday evening, November 28, 2014 and set Charles free after a courageous battle of a short term illness.

Charles, (affectionately known as Corky or Charlie), was the beloved son of the late Vernice Eaves Gittens and Charles Gilbert Gittens, Sr. He was born on December 28, 1954 in Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

Corky was raised in Brooklyn, New York and received his education through the New York City Public School system. He graduated from Jefferson High School in Brooklyn, NY.

As a youngster, he was confirmed at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in New York City and served as an Acolyte.

He joined the Army National Guard right after graduating from high school, becoming a member of the 719th Transportation Unit under the 369th Transportation Battalion as a truck driver, and worked his way up to Company Commander. Charlie also attended Officers Candidate School, graduating as a Lieutenant and retired as a Major after 23 years of service.

Simultaneously with his service to his country, he was employed by the NYC Transit Authority as a bus driver and a train operator. With a strong desire to become a police officer, he joined the NYC Police Department in 1983, retiring as an NYPD Detective after 20 years of service.

He was married to the love of his life, Raynel, for 31 years and after his retirement, the loving couple relocated to Camden-Wyoming, Delaware,

where they made their new home. Charles' last place of employment was at the Veterans Administration in Wilmington, DE.

Charlie was a lover of people and never looked at anyone he met as a stranger. He had a charisma and intelligence that got people's attention. He was an honorable person and had an innate sense of humor that affected everyone he came in contact with. He loved his family, loved being a grandfather, and always made us feel safe because he had our best interest at heart and we know that his life's dedication was his family and the police department. He was also an avid Yankees and NY Giants fan and loved traveling and going on vacations.

Charles leaves to cherish his memories his loving wife, Raynel, son, Charles Gittens III (Sade), four sisters, Delores Gillman (Cyril), Charlene McNiff (Thomas), Michelle Lewis (Owen) and Emily Chapple and a brother, Stephen Gittens. He is also survived by granddaughters Brooklynn Lily Gittens and Braelynn Rose Gittens, his mother-in-law, Mable Rogers, an uncle, Joe Herbert Eaves, a brother-in-law, Ernest Rogers (Linda); one uncle-in-law, Richard Parker, godsons, C. Brandon Gray and Jayshawn Johnson, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Ernest Rogers, Sr.

Charlie will be fondly remembered for his zest for life, love of family, his strength and his generous caring spirit and he'll be greatly missed.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Charles G. Gittens, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

NA

“ My prayers to Charlie's family. It was an honor and pleasure to have worked with you at the Wilmington VA. Your friendliness, kindness and fairness makes you special. Rest in peace my friend!!!

Norby Aquino - December 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Prayers and condolences to Mrs. Raynel Gittens, Charles Gittens III, family and friends. Unable to attend today's service and personally express my sympathy, I am grateful for this medium to share with you how Charlie touched and blessed my life. One day in 1999, Charlie approached me at a detail and requested that I sing the National Anthem. (Through a mutual friend, he had learned that I occasionally sang at church and special functions.) Taking his request seriously, I came to attention and sang “The Star Spangled Banner.” Charlie nodded in approval and with his infectious smile, gave me a thumbs up and said, “Good! You know all the words.” The next day, I received a notification from the Ceremonial Unit to report to a detail to sing the National Anthem. There, I was directly under Charlie's supervision, and learned invaluable lessons on discipline. Without being pushy or overbearing, and with a truly humble spirit, he relayed to me and the other officers, his requirements for punctuality, exactness and excellence. I could never have imagined that from his initial request, Charlie Gittens' unselfish and generous actions would have opened doors for me to have many opportunities to sing within and outside the NYPD. I remain forever thankful to have met such a kind, giving, deliberate and intentional man. His example is still worthy of imitation. I pray that you find comfort and solace in these words, and may God's amazing grace continue to bless and sustain you.

Shelley A. Sylvester - December 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ To the family of Charlie, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Charlie was my "sponsor" to become part of the Ceremonial Unit, and I tried my best not to disappoint him. He was an impressive role model for all our members, and we learned a great deal from him and enjoyed his wonderful spirit. I will always be grateful for what he did for me, especially in my own time of family tragedy. I know he is where he deserves to be now. He earned it well. R. I. P.

Thomas Roller - December 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ To my dear friend Charlie, brother at arms it has been a pleasure to have served with you in this place called life. You and I shared wonderful times together while going through officers training in Fort Eustis Virginia in the 1980s. We were lodged in the same hotel and traveled to the base where we trained together every day and I will never forget you. As an Officer in the 369th Transportation Battalion you exemplified the definition of an Officer. You indeed are a true gentleman and someone to emulate. After reading other condolences sent by other friends and comrades it is clear to me that you meant as much to them as you mean to me. My best wishes to your dear wife Mrs. Rayne Gittens and your entire family. As long as Charlie remain in our thoughts and hearts his spirit will never die. It's your turn to rest now Charlie so rest in peace. We've got your back. I wish I could have been there with your family for your services but life sometimes gets in the way. P.S. Thanks for helping Officer Sylvester blossom in the NYPD Ceremonial Unit.

Frank Ogaard - December 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

M.

“ *Mr.Gittens..Rest In Paradise My Friend. It was an honor to have known him.The Spunky Caring Man from New York!! Thank you for your Genuine,Caring,and Giving Spirit.Sending my Prayers and Condolences to Ms.Rodgers and the Family...Peace & Blessings!!*

M.Watson - December 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Hello everyone and a special hello to Raynel Gittens. I know that no one can share in your pain and your loss but you have my profound condolences. Unfortunately, I cannot be with you to offer my personal condolences and also to help celebrate the life of my dear friend Charlie. I have sent flowers but I know that my words will mean much more.

Charlie and I began our friendship in 1977. I met him when I joined the NY Army National Guard at the famous 369th Transportation Battalion in Harlem. He was an enlisted soldier and also a bus driver. Shortly afterwards, I went off to a one year program that resulted in becoming a 2nd lieutenant. Charlie followed suit and also successfully completed his year with the Empire State Military Academy and became a 2nd Lt.

I became Charlie's Commanding Officer and there came a time when the NYPD was announcing an entrance exam. I began by urging Charlie to register to take the exam and then "Ordered" him to take it and added that we could make up his lost attendance on that Saturday.

As you all know, Charlie enjoyed a fulfilling career and retired as a Detective. What you don't know is that Charlie was directly responsible for my daughter Stephanie becoming a member of the Ceremonial Unit. He called, informed me that there was a slot for a female. I called Stephanie, who was teaching Behavioral Science as an Academy instructor, and coaxed her into accepting the assignment. Due to Charlie's help, she became enormously successful and well respected with the highlight of her career being selected to stand beside President Obama at a memorial service at Ground Zero. I know that I was forever indebted to Charlie for this and always thanked him.

I will miss our talks. I will miss the friend, my former National Guard partner, my former neighbor in Rochdale Village and Whispering Hills, and the 37 years of being one of Charlie's friends. He is resting peacefully now. GOD has him in his embrace..

With Love,
Bill Moses

Bill Moses - December 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ You were a great friend to me and my family. Your thoughtful acts and kind words to me after 911 will always be remembered by me and my family. You taught me a lot about life and friendship. We will all miss you dearly and never forget you. RIP

JERRY ZEOLI - December 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FJ

“ It has been such an honor to have had Charlie as our friend! Charlie was a man with great character and class. You will be missed by so many, but your memory will live on forever! Stay in Peace Charlie!

Francine & Nat Jenkins - December 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ My prayers go out to Charlie's family. He always brought class to the NYPD Ceremonial Unit and the Army Reserves. I was lucky enough to work with him on many north end ceremonies, funeral, etc (and on my computer problems). If I didn't know what to do, Charlie knew. I'll always miss his infectious laugh.

Sleep well my friend.

Reg Washington - December 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Charles I can only say as the song go... You've been faithful, you've been true and you've done all that you can do and for your faithfulness it is your time. You applauded for the rest Now its your time to be blessed. My hat's off to you my friend for you will surely be missed.

Jacqueline Parris San Diego California - December 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ GOD ONLY TAKES THE BEST.
GOD SAW YOU WERE GETTING TIRED
AND A CURE WAS NOT TO BE
SO HE PUT HIS ARMS AROUND YOU AND WHISPERED,
"COME TO ME".
WITH TEARFUL EYES WE WATCHED YOU SUFFER AND SAW
YOU FADE AWAY.
ALTHOUGH WE LOVED YOU DEARLY WE COULD NOT MAKE
YOU STAY.
A GOLDEN HEART STOPPED BEATING.
WORKING HANDS WERE PUT TO REST.
GOD BROKE OUR HEARTS TO PROVE TO US
HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST

Paul and Sandra Morton - New York City - December 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Dearest Charlie... You are loved and you are missed. You always treated me with kindness and love. Love was always your message. Your mentoring was always spot on and I have passed your message on to my own children. Your legacy of love will live on forever. Sleep well my friend. Love and Peace, Ammo*

Ret. Detective Ann Marie Moloney - November 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM