



Mr. Charles Earl O'Rourke

December 14, 1931 - January 22, 2024

Charles Earl O'Rourke passed away on January 22, 2024 at the age of 92. Beloved husband of the late JoAnne (Wright) O'Rourke, dear father of Jane (Mark) Walsma, Bob (Tina), Andy (Robbie) and Tim (Norma) O'Rourke. He leaves behind six grandchildren (Mark Jr, Kelly, Kim, Amy, Matthew and Jennifer) and fourteen great grandchildren.

Born in Desoto, Missouri, his family moved to Mexico, Missouri. After high school graduation, he enlisted in the US Air Force where he served as a radio mechanic and instructor during the Korean War while stationed in Nagoya, Japan. After the war, he attended the University of Missouri and majored in Business Administration and became a lifelong MU Tiger fan.

He met JoAnne, the love of his life in Mexico when a friend arranged a blind date. The couple exchanged wedding vows 6 months later and were very happily married for over 63 years.

Charlie was passionate about every aspect of his work and had a very successful career in manufacturing as he climbed the corporate ladder with Westinghouse, Carter Carburetor/Automotive, Alco Controls and AO Smith Water Products.

His other passions included his wife and family, playing golf, traveling,

Cardinals baseball and playing bridge. Post-retirement, he developed an interest in the culinary arts. He made his own bread, canned jellies, managed a vegetable garden and, of course, became known for baking legendary Key Lime pies. He taught bridge and led a senior stretch class in both Hartsville, South Carolina and in St. Louis.

Charlie lived his life to the fullest and was well known for his generosity, kind nature and quick wit. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends.

A graveside service will be followed by a Celebration of Life luncheon in Mexico, Missouri, on February 24th. Details to follow. Schrader Funeral Home, 14960 Manchester Rd., Ballwin, Missouri 63011, is caring for the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

RW

“ *Rickey Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Earle O'Rourke*



Rickey Williams - February 10, 2024 at 11:45 AM

FH

“ *So sorry to hear , I worked at AO Smith when he retired from there. He was a great man and cared about his employees. Prayers for the family.*

Frankie Hall - February 02, 2024 at 10:47 AM

KT

“ *He was a wonderful Plant Manager and his wife, Joanne always made us feel welcome in their home. I remember their family was coming to SC to visit, they asked to enjoy a weekend at our Lake House and because I would not take any money for this, they bought and left umbrellas, chairs, tables. They were always so generous. A great family that showed so much Love.*

Kay Tumbleston - January 29, 2024 at 08:37 PM

GS

“ *So Sorry to hear about Mr. Charlie, He was the best plant manager A.O Smith ever had. He was loved by all his employee's. Prayers for the family now and the days ahead. He always had a beautiful smile.*



Gloria J Shoemake - January 27, 2024 at 04:19 PM

RL

“ Rick Lowry lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Charles Earl O'Rourke



Rick Lowry - January 27, 2024 at 12:54 PM

TR

“ Terese Riley lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Charles Earl O'Rourke



Terese Riley - January 27, 2024 at 09:00 AM

MP

“ He and JoAnne were good to their AO Smith family. I certainly
enjoyed working for, and with, him. My condolences to the family.
Margaret Pitts Parker

MARGARET PARKER - January 27, 2024 at 08:58 AM

MT

“ Mike Tiller lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Charles Earl O'Rourke



Mike Tiller - January 25, 2024 at 06:27 PM

DR

“ *Dennis Richards lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Earl O'Rourke*



Dennis Richards - January 25, 2024 at 04:45 PM

WG

“ *Wilford Griggs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Earl O'Rourke*



Wilford Griggs - January 25, 2024 at 02:30 PM

WG

“ *To the Family:
Charlie was a very good man and it showed in every aspect of his life and career. He excelled in making A.O. Smith a good place to work. His kindness and love of people will never be forgotten. JoAnn and Charlie were the perfect couple. They just really enjoyed being together and they loved being with friends and having a good time. All of us that knew them, knew the Family. They were so very proud of each one of you. I hope you can find comfort in the memories that you all shared. I am lifting prayers for peace and comfort during this difficult time.*



William and Jean Gullede - January 25, 2024 at 12:27 PM

DB

“ *Dick Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Earl O'Rourke*



Dick Brown - January 25, 2024 at 11:56 AM

DB

Charlie and Jo Ann were friends of mine. Good People. Charlie and I were doing the Gut Buster class with James Ward. I miss them.

Dick Brown - January 25, 2024 at 11:58 AM

TW

“ *I'll miss Charlie...always loved to hear him talk of the "good old days" when he and JoAnne were dating..They were both great friends, so happy I had the privilege of knowing Charlie and JoAnne. Terri Woodham*

Terri Northcutt Woodham - January 25, 2024 at 11:42 AM

GV

“ *So sorry for your loss Charlie was a good plant manager the time he was at AOSMITH May you find peace in the days to come*



Gary Vann - January 25, 2024 at 06:02 AM

PC

“ *Pat Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Earl O'Rourke*



Pat cassidy - January 24, 2024 at 07:45 PM

LG

“ *Libby Griggs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Earl O'Rourke*



Libby Griggs - January 24, 2024 at 06:17 PM

CN

“ *So sorry to hear of Charlie. He was a good friend through the years and I enjoyed working at AO Smith with him. He was a true People's Person Plant Manager and everyone always had a kind word to speak about him. I enjoyed played golf with him and seeing him at the YMCA in Hartsville after his retirement. May you rest in peace my friend.*
Chris and Rhonda Norton



Chris and Rhonda Norton - January 24, 2024 at 05:33 PM

SM

So sad to hear this.. jeans Joanne were close friend with my parents. They golfed together, dined together... Charlie had a water heater delivered to our home.. I watched his stretch class ... He took Joanne with him everywhere.. they were both well know at the YMCA.. I sure loved them.. they are together ❤️. Susan Moore

susan moore - January 25, 2024 at 09:02 AM

SM

My parents are Henry and Becky Webb ..

susan moore - January 25, 2024 at 09:12 AM

SM

So sorry to read this. Charlie was the best plant manager at AO SMITH back in the day. He was a good people person and would listen to what you had to say and he always had a a smile. Rest in Peace Charlie til we meet again. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Shirley Mozingo

Shirley Mozingo - January 25, 2024 at 10:51 AM