



Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.

May 10, 1933 - June 27, 2024

Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker, Sr., 91, of Hartsville, SC, passed peacefully at home on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

Charlie was born in Hartsville, SC, on May 10, 1933, to the late Charles Westfield Coker and the late Elizabeth Howard Coker. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Joan Sasser Coker; his sister-in-law, Sara Margaret Sasser Oyster. He is survived by their children, Ellen Coker Baldwin (Tyler), Charles Westfield Coker, Jr. (Sylvia), Carrie Coker Haley (John), Robert Howard Coker (Rhonda), Margaret Coker Hungerford (Earle), Thomas Lide Coker (Marcy); 20 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; brother, Fitz Lee Howard Coker, brother-in-law, George Freeman Sasser (Sara Jean) and many nieces and nephews.

Charlie attended Woodberry Forest School and graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Business School. He later received several honorary doctorate degrees and was a loyal supporter of education at all levels. He led fundraising efforts for the establishment of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics.

Charlie was an accomplished businessman and worked his entire career at Sonoco Products Company. He succeeded his father as President in 1970, and later served as Chairman from 1976 until 2005. In addition, Charlie

served as a director of Bank of America, Sara Lee Corporation, HanesBrands Inc., Springs Industries, Carolina Power & Light Company (now Duke Power), and was chairman of the board of Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Along with being inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame, Charlie was awarded South Carolina's highest philanthropic honor, the Order of the Palmetto. He was president of the Pee Dee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award for outstanding service to Scouting.

Charlie's personal motto (which was adopted as Sonoco's motto) was "People build businesses by doing the right thing." Charlie showed every day that people are what matter in life. Charlie gracefully balanced the responsibilities of leading both a large business and an active family and treated everyone he encountered with dignity and respect. He was a true Southern gentleman with a witty sense of humor.

Joan was the great love of Charlie's life, and nothing gave him more joy than his time with her and being surrounded by their large family. The family is especially grateful for the love and support given to Charlie by his wonderful caregivers.

A funeral service to honor his life will be held at 5 o'clock on Friday, June 28, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church, with The Rev. Ashely Cheek officiating. The family will receive friends in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. A private burial will be held in Magnolia Cemetery prior to the service. The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home are caring for the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his honor to First Presbyterian Church, 213 W. Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550, or Coker University, 300

East College Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 28. 5:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
213 West Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC

Reception

JUN 28. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
213 W. Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Robert R Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Robert R Andrews - December 18, 2025 at 06:37 PM

ME

“ I am just seeing the passing of Mr. Coker my condolence to the Children I work for Joan and Charlie coker early 60's I move to New York and still here.

Memberee Williams

Memberee - November 24, 2024 at 01:03 AM

ME

“ Memberee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Memberee - November 24, 2024 at 12:55 AM

CB

“ Charles Coker was one of the finest men that we have ever known- a true Southern gentleman. He was a delightful person, conversationalist, & was a people person. He loved all of his friends, employees and all he met. He was a great family man. He loved his beloved wife, Joan, and was a great father to his six children. He was an outstanding man in his church, city, business, state and nation. We were lucky to have him as a leader in Hartsville. He was such a visionary. All of you have our deepest sympathy. He was a great man and will be greatly missed. Love to all, Cecelia & Tom Brown

Cecelia D Brown - July 09, 2024 at 09:27 PM



“ Jay Benson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Jay Benson - July 01, 2024 at 09:46 AM

AN

“ Angela And Tim Norris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Angela and Tim Norris - July 01, 2024 at 06:22 AM

TW

“ *What a tremendous person in every way. A brilliant businessman, courageous community leader, tremendous family man and genuine friend to so many. All accomplished with a kind and caring heart. I remember well the excitement of the people down in the mill when word would get out that Mr. Coker was in the building. His recollection on names and families was amazing. What a legacy!* ”



Travis and Marilyn Walters - June 29, 2024 at 02:22 PM

LR

“ *Lester And Lori Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.* ”



Lester and Lori Reynolds - June 29, 2024 at 12:06 PM

BA

“ *Such a very kind and amazing man. So sorry for your loss. Bob and Sandi* ”

bob and Sandi Anderson - June 29, 2024 at 11:06 AM

SH

“ *Sandra And Larry Huggins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.* ”



Sandra and Larry Huggins - June 28, 2024 at 11:37 PM

DS

We thought a lot of Mr. Charles Westfield Coker Sr. He was an amazing man. I only met him once, but was very impressed. He was my husband's big big boss, but he was so nice and cared about employees and families. See you in Heaven.

Danny and Wanda Sansbury - June 29, 2024 at 02:20 AM

AD

“ My Dad, Larry Gilbert, wishes to send his heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of Mr Charles Coker Sr. Years ago, my father took Mr Coker on a plant tour of Sonoco. He will always cherish the memory of getting to meet Mr. Coker.

April Davis - June 28, 2024 at 10:56 PM



“ Crystal Minnehan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Crystal Minnehan - June 28, 2024 at 09:10 PM

DH

“ Debby Hemby-Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Debby Hemby-Smith - June 28, 2024 at 06:26 PM

RW

“ *Mr. Coker was such a wonderful man, leader and Southern Gentleman. I have so many fond memories of him and my prayers are with Howard, Charles, Thomas and his entire family. He will be greatly missed.*

Rhonda Watkins - June 28, 2024 at 03:46 PM

LD

“ *21 year employee of Sonoco. Mr Charlie was and is Sonoco. His love of his company and Hartsville will never be forgotten.*



Lanmie Davis - June 28, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr..*



June 28, 2024 at 10:01 AM

BG

“ *Bert & Martha Griffin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Bert & Martha Griffin - June 28, 2024 at 09:51 AM

JJ

“ Jennifer Curtis Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Jennifer Curtis Jackson - June 28, 2024 at 09:34 AM

EB

“ A true Icon.



Eric Brown - June 28, 2024 at 09:26 AM

JH

“ Jean N. Howard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



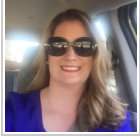
Jean N. Howard - June 28, 2024 at 07:57 AM

DM

“ Doug And Scarlett Mason lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



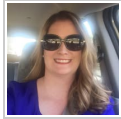
Doug and Scarlett Mason - June 28, 2024 at 07:32 AM



“ *Marissa Walters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Marissa Walters - June 28, 2024 at 07:31 AM



I enjoyed looking at historical items with Mr. Coker. Our last conversation just happened to be when I shared I finally saw Major Coker's Bible. His Faith showed by actions. He truly made the world a better place. It is a sad time for our community though we know he is in a better place. Sonoco Family will continue to be praying for the family and friends.

Marissa Walters - June 28, 2024 at 07:40 AM

DW

“ *Deborah Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Deborah Watson - June 28, 2024 at 07:06 AM

DT

“ *Dave Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Dave Thompson - June 28, 2024 at 06:51 AM

LE

“ *Larry Easterling lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Larry Easterling - June 28, 2024 at 06:23 AM

AS

“ *Al & Melinda Sansbury lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Al & Melinda Sansbury - June 27, 2024 at 11:38 PM

DJ

“ *Debbie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Debbie Johnson - June 27, 2024 at 09:40 PM

SC

“ *Susan Braddock Clemmons lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Susan Braddock Clemmons - June 27, 2024 at 08:57 PM

HB

“ *Hilda Biggerstaff lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Hilda Biggerstaff - June 27, 2024 at 08:17 PM

BP

“ *Brooks Peterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Brooks Peterson - June 27, 2024 at 08:04 PM

BS

“ *Bill & Melissa Sherrill lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Bill & Melissa Sherrill - June 27, 2024 at 07:12 PM

JF

“ *Jimmy Andrews F lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Jimmy andrews f - June 27, 2024 at 06:18 PM

LB

“ Charlie and Joan were the adult leaders of our youth group at First Presbyterian in Hartsville the mid 60's. I remember them as being caring, cool and unruffled leaders who put up with our shenanigans in good humor. Lots of good people going to heaven lately. Charlie is the latest. Thank you, Sir. LaFond Biggs

LaFond Biggs - June 27, 2024 at 04:41 PM

RS

“ Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Rebecca Skinner - June 27, 2024 at 04:01 PM

JM

“ Joyce Melton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Joyce Melton - June 27, 2024 at 03:44 PM

JB

“ Johnny & Suzanne Beasley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Johnny & Suzanne Beasley - June 27, 2024 at 03:40 PM

KM

“ Kathryn Ludrick Miller lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Kathryn Ludrick Miller - June 27, 2024 at 03:15 PM



“ Mr Coker was a true Southern gentleman, always kind, friendly and thoughtful. He helped to build a wonderful company to work for. Praying for his family for they have lost a treasure.



Marsha Odom - June 27, 2024 at 02:53 PM

CG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Coker family.



Connee Gamble Grantham - June 27, 2024 at 02:47 PM

CP

“ Howard,
My condolences on your loss. He was a giant in business,
philanthropy, and devotion to community. His was truly a life well-
lived, and his legacy lives on. God bless you and the Coker family at
this trying time.

Sincerely,

Costa Pleicones

Costa Pleicones - June 27, 2024 at 02:27 PM

DJ

“ Mr. Coker was a very nice man. Always kind and considerate.
Prayers to his family. Newsome Home Appliance

David Newsome Jr. - June 27, 2024 at 02:01 PM

GO

“ Hartsville has indeed lost a great legacy. Mr
Coker will surely be missed by all who knew
and loved him. Prayers for the Coker family
and all who was touched by his faithfulness



Grady L O'Neal - June 27, 2024 at 01:50 PM

MF

“ Manuel Flowers lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Manuel Flowers - June 27, 2024 at 01:44 PM

JD

“ Prayers lifted for this dear family ! May God wrap his loving arms around them during this time of bereavement.



Jennie Luther DeWitt - June 27, 2024 at 12:59 PM

RL

“ As a long time employee of Sonoco, I remember meeting Mr.. Coker for the first time.
That memory still remains with me today. His passion for his company and employee's was my reason for making my 42 years of service a joy and a blessing to me and my family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.
The Coker family and friends are in our prayers and thought.
Heaven just got blessed.

Rondel Lance - June 27, 2024 at 12:16 PM

BF

Sending prayers for the family.

Brenda Floyd - June 27, 2024 at 01:35 PM

JB

Coker family. Prayers for your loss of a wonderful father, grandfather and great grandfather. Charlie's passing will leave a great void not only in your family, but in the Sonoco family and the community. He was a true gentleman and he touched many lives. Mine included. God speed, Charlie!!

Joyce Beasley - June 27, 2024 at 10:03 PM

DW

“ Donna Weaver lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Donna Weaver - June 27, 2024 at 11:51 AM

TG

“ Todd Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Todd Gibson - June 27, 2024 at 11:29 AM

DB

“ Dick Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.



Dick Brown - June 27, 2024 at 11:19 AM

DS

“ Our condolences to the family!



Danny and Phoebe Stokes - June 27, 2024 at 11:13 AM

BR

“ *My condolences.
Sorry for your loss.
Prayers for family members and friends.*



Betty Sue Millsaps Ralley - June 27, 2024 at 11:06 AM

TA

“ *Thresa Allen lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Thresa Allen - June 27, 2024 at 10:48 AM

RM

“ *May he rest in peace. My deepest sympathy to
the Coker family.*

Rachel Adams Doyle Medlin



Rachel Medlin - June 27, 2024 at 10:46 AM

JM

“ *Johnny And Denise McLain lit a candle in
memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie"
Coker Sr.*



Johnny and Denise McLain - June 27, 2024 at 10:41 AM

DC

“ *My love, heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with Charlie's family.*

Dianne Chinnes

Dianne Chinnes - June 27, 2024 at 10:22 AM

LN

“ *I will always remember the kindness & compassion of Mr. Coker during my years in banking. He was such a gentleman and caring man. He will be missed by all that knew him. Prayers for his family.*

Lynn Newsom - June 27, 2024 at 10:05 AM

WC

“ *To the children and grandchildren of Mr. Coker, you are in my thoughts and prayers. What an awesome legacy he has left behind. He was truly a giant, not only in stature, but through his commitment to the Hartsville community and beyond. Trust God and lean on him especially during this season. Retired Sonoco Employee, Willie Mae Cannon.*

Willie Mae Cannon - June 27, 2024 at 09:55 AM

CB

“ *Carol Elmore Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



carol elmore bryant - June 27, 2024 at 09:53 AM

AW

“ *Anna Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Westfield "Charlie" Coker Sr.*



Anna Williams - June 27, 2024 at 09:46 AM