



Fred Ritch

February 16, 1944 - April 23, 2007

Funeral services for Richard Fredrick Ritch, Jr., 63, will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 28, 2007 at St. Luke United Methodist Church. The Rev. Tony Medlin will officiate and Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home is in charge. The family will receive friends Friday, April 27, 2007 from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Mr. Ritch died Monday, April 23, 2007. Born in Miami, FL, he was a son of the late Richard Fredrick Ritch, Sr. and the late Celia Mae Petersen Ritch. He was a Vietnam veteran with two tours of duty, a former U. S. Army Drill Sergeant and a U. S. Army Sniper Instructor. His military awards included: the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Combat Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), Good Conduct Medal two awards, and Overseas Bar. He was the former Director of Public Safety for the city of Hartsville, an FBI National Academy graduate – 144th session, Hartsville's Employee of the Year in 1979 and a member of the S. C. Police Chief Association. He also received numerous awards and certification with Law Enforcement. He was the former head of the Board of Directors for the 911 Center in Darlington County, a past master of Hartsville Masonic Lodge #173, a member of the Shrine, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Red Fez, and a former Civitan. He received his Associate's Degree in Public Service and Criminal Justice from Florence-Darlington Technical College. He was an avid fisherman and outdoors man.

He was a loving husband, father, family patriarch, jack of all trades and master of our hearts.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Voudy Ritch of Hartsville, SC; daughters and son-in-law, Laura and Andy Holland of Hartsville, SC, Vicky Ritch of Hartsville, SC; sisters and brother-in-law, Arline Alton of Florence, SC, Darlene Quick of Florence, SC, Evelyn Sidoran of Melbourne, FL, June and Jerry Judd of Woodland, WA; brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill and Edith Rodgers of Raytown, MO, Bobby Rogers of Georgetown, FL, Paul and Phyllis Peterson of Hartsville, SC; grandchildren, Vincent Ritch of Hartsville, SC, Mark Ritch of Hartsville, SC, Jessica Ivie of Columbia, Tristan Ivie of Interlachen, FL; numerous nephews and nieces.

Previous Events

Service

APR **28**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke Methodist Church
302 Dunlap Dr.
Hartsville, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *I love and miss you everyday. Take care of Ty, Grandma, Uncle Paul, Love, Tina##imported-begin##Tina Morgan##imported-end##*

September 20, 2010 at 03:57 AM



“ *Our Dear Brother,
The day are so long without you .. yet your so much our daily minutes within our heart. We love you - Sitters Darlene and Arline##imported-begin##Arline and Darlene##imported-end##*

July 20, 2010 at 09:09 PM



“ *We love you - Miss you so much!##imported-begin##Arline and Darlene##imported-end##*

November 30, 2009 at 02:00 AM



“ *Our Darling Brother Fred,
The years may pass - but your in our hearts daily. Feb 16, Happy Birthday!
We all love and miss you.
Your Family##imported-begin##Arline and Darlene##imported-end##*

February 18, 2009 at 10:47 PM



“ I love and miss you Fred. I remember all the times I pushed you around in the baby carriage. You use to hold onto the sides just like you knew what you were doing, you were our "Dale Enhardt" Especially on the curves! I love and miss you Fred and I'll see you again.##imported-begin##Your brother Bobby Rogers##imported-end##

October 25, 2007 at 10:32 PM



“*Freddy treated me, not like a brother, but as a brother, and, while Freddy and I were Masonic Brothers, we were much more than that. Freddy would tell you what you needed to hear and do, not what you wanted to hear. When you sat down and thought about the advice he had just given you, you would realize that Freddy was usually right. When I would do something for Freddy, he would look at me and say, “what did you do that for” or “you didn’t need to do that.” But when Freddy did something for you, he would say with that big grin, “no big deal, guy.” Freddy was a giver in life. Even though I only knew Freddy after he retired as a Police Chief and only for the last ten years or so of his life, we had many hours of confiding in each other. Freddy was easy to talk with and, in fact, he was one of the first ones to accept me into his loving family. To say Freddy was special is an understatement. Freddy was one of the most unique and special persons I have ever met in my life. I called him “big brother.” We never had a bad word to say about each other and never tired of our time together. We would spend many hours at the computer, one of Freddy’s loves, and we would talk for hours about everything in life. Freddy gave me plenty of advice, but after thinking about what he had to say, you would know what you had to do. Freddy taught me to be more patient and how to enjoy life and how to treat life as precious. Freddy had so much wisdom and he would share it with you willingly. And Freddy and I loved to eat, and when he would come to Florida to see me and stay with me, we would invariably go to Sonny’s BBQ, Freddy’s favorite, and the Holiday House, a wonderful place to get a home cooked meal, with great desserts. As I recall, I would ask Freddy night after night, where he would like to go to dinner, and he would tell me, “I wouldn’t mind going back to the Holiday House, and off we would go back again.” Every time I go past any Sonny’s or the Holiday House, I immediately think of Freddy and I get a lump in my throat.*

I heard so many incredible things about Freddy, when he was the Public Safety Officer and Police Chief and wished I would have known him then. But I just knew the Freddy after he had retired and he seemed to be enjoying life more than ever, even though he

would be physically challenged, but he never let it get him down. He had more perseverance than anyone I ever knew.

I accompanied Freddy several times when he would have to go into the hospital for tests. I was always amazed at how he would never let on that he dreaded those tests. He always would have a smile on his face and told me, more than once, that “you catch more bees with honey”, and he always treated the nurses or anyone else in the hospital with a smile or a joke and an upbeat tone, and he was right. And they treated him very well in return. Although I know Freddy was in a lot of pain and had things done to his body that I would never wish upon anyone, he never complained - not once. That, to me, was incredible.

When my son, Bobby, unexpectedly lost his life at a young age, Freddy was the first one to come and talk with me. And he came all the way to Florida to be with me and comfort me in my time of need. That is one thing I will never forget. And he helped me through the grieving process.

In talking with Freddy, his family and grandchildren would always come up. He deeply loved his family and they were the center of his universe. His eyes would light up when he talked about his grandchildren and he told me the story about his grandson, who helped him motivate himself and gave himself a reason to fight and live, after his heart attack and bypass surgery. To the end, he so loved his grandchildren and his family. In fact, he was the “big kahuna” of his family, as I liked to call him.

There will only be one Fred Ritch - there will never be another one like him. He was one of a kind. He was a big teddy bear. I have the ultimate respect for the way he handled himself in his life. It was an honor to know and I

July 24, 2007 at 09:47 PM



“ We at the Darlington County Veterans office extend our sincere sympathy to this veteran's family.

We appreciate his service to our country.

Darlington County Veteran Affairs Office

Warner DeHart, Service Officer

Tara Stokes Waddell, Asst. Serv Off.

Judy Norwood Knight###imported-begin##Darlington County Veteran Affairs Office###imported-end##

July 11, 2007 at 01:10 PM



“ Dear Freddy & Mary

Thank you for being my baby brother and always being there for the family. You were always the strength and support that we all needed. Thank you for supporting your country and fellow man with so much compassion and integrity. You will be missed more than words can express. You will always be my little Freddy boy. We love you.

Thank you Mary, for always being a loving wife and mother and for always accepting the good and the bad and for always having the door opened along with Freddy, for family and friends. God bless you and keep you in His arms. Love June & Jerry###imported-begin##June and Jerry Judd###imported-end##

May 09, 2007 at 01:47 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss, he was a wonderful man and boss. The best boss/friend a person could have. My prayers are with all of you. If there is anything I can do, please let me know.

Love, Kelly###imported-begin###Kelly L. Gropp###imported-end###

May 07, 2007 at 01:44 PM



“ just wanted to let you all know that i was thinking of yall threw this hard time but your memories of uncle freddy will always be with you. take care of yourselves and you will be in my prayers. MARYANN JORDAN###imported-begin###maryann jordan###imported-end###

May 02, 2007 at 02:41 PM



“ I pray with all my soul that you Freddie will find peace and will be free of pain and that the Good Lord will comfort Mary and her family. My love goes with you.###imported-begin###Jan Fulton###imported-end###

May 01, 2007 at 02:37 PM



“ just wanted to send my thoughts and prayers to you and your family. may god comfort you in this time of need.###imported-begin###gena dudley(hogan) tommy's sister###imported-end###

April 30, 2007 at 06:52 PM



“ My Dearest Mary and Family, It gives me a great honor to know such a man as Fred. I was very nervous when I first met him, but he became more than a brother. I grew to love the man and thought of him as my hero. He will always be in our hearts and minds. I know Fred will be missed by all and many will keep you and him in their prayers. I love you all and wish you peace in this time of sorrow. Gods home in Heaven has received a very loving man. God Bless Love Jim and Jewel.##imported-begin##Mr & Mrs James E. Eaton April 29th 2007##imported-end##

April 29, 2007 at 09:16 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Dr. Ritch. He was always a fair and just man. I thought so much of him when I was at the Hartsville Police Dept. May God be with you in this time of need.##imported-begin##Sherry Canter##imported-end##

April 28, 2007 at 09:56 PM



“ WE ARE SO DEEPLY SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.##imported-begin##Shand and Lenette Newsome##imported-end##

April 28, 2007 at 07:31 PM



“ Mom said that Fred had a way with animals, in particular his police dog. I am sure there are some interesting stories to share.##imported-begin##Darlene for Lucy Sapp Grady (my Mom)##imported-end##

April 28, 2007 at 05:50 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies to the family. Fred was a good boss and friend. I would not be chief today if it wasn't for Fred. He will be missed by many. Just remember that you are family and do not hesitate to call on us if you need anything.##imported-begin##Tim & Sandy Kemp##imported-end##

April 28, 2007 at 04:54 PM



“ Dear Aunt Mary & Family,
Mark & I were deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Uncle Freddy. He was so special to all of us and had such a big loving heart! We will truly miss him and cherish all the good times we spent with him. He had such a Great sense of Humor and had a way of livening up the room. Uncle Freddy was the glue that kept the family together. He was a Great mentor to everyone. We love you Aunt Mary and our hearts and prayers are with you. May God Bless you and help you through this difficult time. Rest in Peace Uncle Freddy, you will forever be missed and loved. Cookie & Mark & Family##imported-begin##Mark & Cookie Ehresman ##imported-end##

April 28, 2007 at 03:29 PM



“ To Mary, Arlene, and Darlene and family,

Chief fought a tough battle for a long time. You were strong and constant in his support. Have no regrets. Know that through JESUS CHRIST you will find strength and encouragement. Hold fast to the good memories and to FAITH in Jesus Christ. Know that God blesses richly those who believe in him and pray. Our God is GREAT !!

I am truly sorry for your loss.

Sincerely,

Valerie and David Johnson##imported-begin##Valerie Johnson##imported-end##

April 28, 2007 at 01:42 PM



“ *Mary and family, Kathie and I send our deepest regrets for your loss. Fred was a fine man and it was my honor and privilege to have known him as a friend and as a patient. Though we drifted apart over the years, I will cherish his memory. On more than one occasion he went out of his way to help me and I will always be grateful. I'll never forget how impressive he looked in his full police uniform when he arrived as my guest at the Hartsville Rotary Club. He gave a very interesting and informative program that day and the whole club was enthralled.##imported-begin##Dr. & Mrs. William A. Davis, Jr.##imported-end##*

April 27, 2007 at 11:00 PM



“ One of the finest men we've known. We'll miss you.

John and Irma###imported-begin##John Fordham###imported-end##

April 27, 2007 at 02:33 PM



“ Aunt Mary and Family, It's so hard to believe that Uncle Freddie is gone, but know that he will always be in our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. We have all been blessed to have had him in our lives. He was without doubt the "leader of the pack" and he gifted us with many lessons and values that will carry us through. His spirit lives on in those whose lives he touched, and they were many. I ran across this verse that makes me think of Uncle Freddie and his place in the family - take comfort in knowing he is in a better place and one day we will all be together again: *The Broken Chain* - We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone; for part of us went with you, the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide, and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same; but as God calls us one by one, the Chain will link again. God Bless. Love, Kim and Celia###imported-begin##Kim Alton###imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 10:38 PM



“ Dear Aunt Mary and Family,

I was saddened to hear that Uncle Freddy had passed away. I'm sure he's taking good care of grandma. It seems like only yesterday, when I was a four year old niece and living in the Harvey house behind Grandma Petersen's. Miami was having a real bad storm and we were flooded. Grandma told Uncle Freddie to come rescue us and he did. I remember him hoisting me up on his shoulders and wading back to grandma's, where of course she made us all sit on the floor in the middle of the front room. I thought at the time he was a grown man, but of course he was probably only about 16, just a kid himself. Anyway, I think thats when I had my first crush --on my own uncle. The last time I saw Uncle Freddy was in Montana at Uncle Bobby's and also at Dave's funeral in Homestead. Of course, he made sure we all enjoyed his wonderful barbeque and his great sense of humor. I know we are all better to have been a part of his family. I love and miss you all. Donna###imported-begin###Donna deAraujo (June Varnadoe's daughter)###imported-end###

April 26, 2007 at 10:04 PM



“ WE love and miss you very much fred. can't say how much you both mean to the both of us.###imported-begin###Wesley N Sibil Bacon###imported-end###

April 26, 2007 at 09:26 PM



“ From a brother in policing and a friend of someone whom was influenced in staggeringly important ways by Director Ritch -- Tony Charron.

Loving peace to those left behind.##imported-begin##Alex Ferguson##imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 09:26 PM



“ I would like to say that it has been an honor being related to Uncle Freddy, he has always been a favorite of mine, I can't put into words how much I loved this man. Growing up as a little girl summer visits, at Uncle Fred's, and Aunt Mary's, was the greatest time I've ever had, playing in the pool, cookouts. It's a great loss, but God is getting a very wonderful, loving, caring man, we've had our time with Uncle Freddy. Now it's his time to be at peace. Tommy would like for me to say, he loved Uncle Fred as well, and he has never met a man, who had the up most respect for people. I and now the last thing I would like to say is, we all have suffered a very big loss, but I believe Uncle Freddy, would want us to move on and be at peace as well, as I know he is in heaven. My love is with everyone, we love and miss you Uncle Freddy.

Love always Shirley n Tommy Hogan##imported-begin##Shirley And Tommy Hogan##imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 09:23 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy on your loss. Director Ritch will be missed and I thank him so much for the opportunity he gave me when others would not. I was the last officer Director Ritch hired before his retirement from the Hartsville Police Department. May God bless and keep you in your time of sorrow.

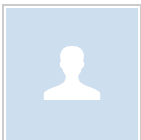
Lloyd & Dawn Greer##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd R Greer##imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 05:52 PM



“ Fred,
We loved you from the first day you came into our lives. And over the years the many kind things you did for our Mother and each of us was your Gifts to back to us. You was the backbone to our Family's . From the Rodgers, Petersen and Ritch Family's, may you rest in peace and be free of suffering. I know you will watch over us from above and say hello to Mother from all of us. " So Mote it be
"##imported-begin##WilliamRodgers##imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 11:01 AM



“ God bless all of Chief Richs family, I know you will miss him greatly. I met the Chief through a mutual friend (Eddie Bryant) years ago and want you to know that he was an inspiration to me.##imported-begin##Chief Harold Brown##imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 10:35 AM



“ Aunt Mary-My prayers are with you and the rest of the family. Uncle Freddie was a truly blessed and special person. He is suffering no more. Remember we love you very much and will always be here for you. Love-Shannon, Daniel, and Mollie###imported-begin###Shannon Davis and kids###imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 09:29 AM



“ There are not enough words to express the loss we will all suffer without Freddy. He has been a friend to me for 40 yrs and more than that for JC. Our hearts go out to all of his family. He was very much loved and cared for by all who met him. Goodbye Lawman - we will miss you greatly.
Johanna & JC aka Jimmy###imported-begin###Johanna Fitzhugh & JC Thornton###imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 07:11 AM



“ Mary, you have always been there for all of us. Fred and Mary, Aunt Mary and Uncle Freddy, I am so grateful we all were together. Only Freddy had the nerve to shave his head into a Mohawk, ride a Schwinn radio bike, drive a Model A Ford with a trundle seat and wear his hair slicked into a DA. One of a kind, Mom's called him Liberace because he always had a smile and a sense of humor. Mary, your in my prayers, you are exceptional, remember Freddy loves you always. He was capable of forgiving and understanding his fellow man. I miss him, he was my brother, my confidant and my friend. Evelyn###imported-begin###Evelyn, Homminmae, or just plain Sis###imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 03:12 AM



“ Dear Mary and family, My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you. I'll miss Freddy deeply, he surely was a wonderful brother to me. May God's unfailing love bring you comfort. I love everyone and will always be here for you. Love your sister, Sloan##imported-begin##Sloan Amerson##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 10:45 PM



“ Dear Mary & the entire family: Mom (Lucy) and I are sad that Fred has passed away. I know that we have a great big family and I am happy to be one of them. Fred emailed me from time to time and sent funny jokes and some important information too. May God bless him and you and the entire family. Love Darlene, my mother Lucy, my husband Ron, and Sons (also after reading some of the other visitations one struck me in particular, I also remember playing with the other cousins at Great Grandma Cynthia Varnadoes home in Homestead - where Tom and Janet now live with their son Austin. I have such fond memories of everyone and that time. We used to just get together and enjoy each others company, have good food that the adults prepared.) We live in Miami, Florida.##imported-begin##Darlene (Lucy Sapp Grady's oldest daughter)Cheeseman & Family (Ron & Sons, Jimmy & family, Chris, Ronnie & David##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 10:11 PM



“ Dear Mary & the entire family: Mom (Lucy) and I are sad that Fred has passed away. I know that we have a great big family and I am happy to be one of them. Fred emailed me from time to time and sent funny jokes and some important information too. May God bless him and your and the entire family. Love Darlene, my mother Lucy, my husband Ron, and Sons (also after reading some of the other visitations one struck me in particular, I also remember playing with the other cousins at Great Grandma Cynthia Varnadoes home in Homestead - where Tom and Janet now live with their son Austin. I have such fond memories of everyone and that time.) We live in Miami, Florida.##imported-begin##Darlene (Lucy Sapp Grady's oldest daughter)Cheeseman & Family (Ron & Sons, Jimmy & family, Chris, Ronnie & David##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 10:07 PM



“ In my mind I can still hear Freddy's voice and see him as I did when I was a kid running around Aunt Cynthia's yard with the rest of my cousins. I always looked up to Freddy as a role model. And, I am proud that he became such a good man and touched so many hearts with his love and kindness. I didn't get to spend as much time with Fred as I would have really liked during my adult life but I will always cherish the happy times we shared as cousins growing up. I look forward to a family reunion in heaven when we will all meet again. God Bless and Keep Fred and Family.##imported-begin##Carley Walters##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 08:17 PM



“ Dear Aunt Mary,
My heart is with you, I can not express my sorrow at our loss, and what a loss it is. Uncle Fred was my idol when I was a little girl, and I'm 50 now and that feeling has never gone away. It always made my heart soar when he would get on the phone and say "hey Sugar Bear" He is truly the only man I've ever know in my life that touched everyones heart that knew him. Thank you for loving him and being there for him, We love you.##imported-begin##Marilyn,Larry, Andy & Dustin Campbell##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 08:01 PM



“ I CANT FIND WORDS TO SAY HOW MUCH COUSIN FRED WILL BE MISSED. ONLY GOOD MEMORIES WILL REMAIN IN MY MIND FOR FRED. THE TIME WE WENT TO SIGN UP FOR METRO TOGETHER,FREDS BIKE WITH THE RADIO,I CAN HEAR HIS VOICE NOW SAYING HELLO UNCLE GRADY AND AUNT LOUISE. ILL MISS HIS FUNNY E-MAILS . FRED WAS THE BEST OF THE BEST.MY LOVE AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL. JIM WALTERS##imported-begin##JIM WALTERS##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 07:48 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to the family. The Director (we still called him that even after he retired) took a chance on a young man more than 13 years ago and started my career at the Hartsville Police Department. He was always a positive example to young officer. I hope I made you proud sir. Be at peace.##imported-begin##Lt. Brian Rudick##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 03:44 PM



“ Aunt Mary,

I'm so sorry, words can't express. I'm so glad I got to visit ya'll when I did. I'm so glad he was my uncle, he was the kindest, most loving person I've ever known. I will miss him telling me I was his favorite niece, even though I know he loved all of us. I wish I could have taken his pain away. I love you forever uncle freddie.

Love,

Tina##imported-begin##Tina Morgan##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 10:44 AM



“ *I will truly miss uncle freddie's sense of humor and his loving ways towards friends of his loved ones Tina and Eve. I will always keep him in my heart.*

*Lots of love Robin##imported-begin##Robin G
Richardson##imported-end##*

April 25, 2007 at 08:23 AM



“ *It was a pleasure to have known you all these years and appreciate all the wonderful things you have done for me and my family.*

You will truly be missed and in our hearts forever.

*The Varnadoe Family
Homesead, Florida##imported-begin##Tom, Janet and Austin
Varnadoe##imported-end##*

April 25, 2007 at 07:47 AM



“*Mary and Family, May the Gentle hand of God bring that Peace that only God can bring to you at your time of loss.*

I am a childhood friend of "Freddy" and we grew up together and attended school down in Miami. Even as kids, Freddy was always a Gentle Giant of a guy, ever quick to be the first to lend a hand to aid and assist. I will always remember his great laugh and sense of humor. Eve has keep me informed of Freddy health over these last few years. May he now Rest in Peace. Times like these remind me of the story of Lazarus, whom Jesus loved dearly. His wife sent for Jesus, when Lazarus fell ill, to come and heal him. Jesus waited 4 days before he came and when he arrived Lazarus was dead and the family wept. Everyone was upset because they felt it was too late. Jesus raised him from death. Everyone was looking for a healing....Jesus was looking for a Resurrection! This also taught us that to be absent from the body was to be in the presence of God. Mourne not for Freddy, mourne for us who will miss him dearly till that Great Day when we will be Resurrected and reunited with Him in the Presence of God. Farewell my Masonic Brother, Go Rest High on that Mountain. God Bless,

*Ron Hooper###imported-begin###Ron Hooper, Franklin,
TN###imported-end###*

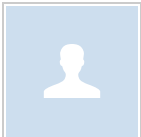
April 25, 2007 at 04:19 AM



“ To Mary, and the whole family,
We both are appreciative of the help and support that "Director Ritch" extended to us while we were with the Hartsvile Police Department. He gave Geri the opportunity to become a police officer and to serve the city in several capacities. To me, he was the kind of superior officer I greatly respected and with whom I enjoyed serving. To both of us, he was a friend.
We know that the separation you now know is painful, and we pray that God will be near to each one of you and give His comfort now and throughout the days to come. Take comfort in knowing that his labor is finished.

Sgt. Geraldine Jordan Munn, HPD (ret.)
Sgt. Garry Munn, Chesterfield Co.SO###imported-begin##Garry and Geraldine Munn###imported-end##

April 24, 2007 at 11:23 PM



“ Aunt Mary and Family, Uncle Fred was loving always there with a joke. When we was sad he would make you laugh. He gave us knowledge on so many things in life. He always told me he was waiting on a piece of my wedding cake. He wanted the second piece cut. I shall reserve the second piece in honor of Uncle Fred. I know one day I will see him at the eastren gate. I love and miss him very much. God's Blessings, Susan and Sam###imported-begin##Susan Petersen###imported-end##

April 24, 2007 at 06:43 PM



“ People come into ours lives and give us opportunity when they can, Director Ritch gave me a chance to improve the life of my family and me and I will always remember him for that. You will be missed greatly. Your family is in my prayers.##imported-begin##Angel "Drew" Tubbs##imported-end##

April 24, 2007 at 06:13 PM



“ Mary, Margie and I are deeply saddened by the news of Fred's passing. I'll always treasure his friendship, guidance, loyalty and gentle manner. He truly was an inspiration to me and others, and Hartsville is a better place for his being a part of it. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family this day. God Bless.##imported-begin##Jeff and Margie Hesser##imported-end##

April 24, 2007 at 12:37 PM



“ Mary and Family, It's so hard dealing with the loss of my beloved brother Fred.I know what ever God does, it shall be forever. Fred is now in God's loving peace, may we also embrace the peace at this time. I love you, Brother Paul##imported-begin##Paul V. Petersen##imported-end##

April 24, 2007 at 12:14 PM



“ Dearest Mary,
I have a priceless treasure that wealth can never buy. The true stories of a courageous man locked in my heart. My loving brother "Freddy". I want to share every detail to all around me - most of all I want you to know you are and always will be "Freddy's" sky of life. Flying high, Flying low- he is now your loving "Humming Bird". For I know he loves you so. I love you with all my heart. Your sister,
Darlene###imported-begin##Darlene P. Quick ###imported-end##

April 24, 2007 at 12:00 PM



“ Mary and Loving Family, God has brought us to this day to make Freds suffering depart. God blessed him with healing grace many times, renewing his health to recovery. Fred always shared his gratitude for the loving care and love you gave to him. Thank You for being his world. Know that God is also with you. He is holding your hand - your not alone. God is mercy, his loving grace gives all that ask peace. God gave his mighty power at 11:32am on the 23rd of April - when he spread open wide "Angle Wings" and placed them on Freddy. Fred has walked inside the golden gate - his duty on earth is complete. Fred is the keeper to many family hearts. Last night I found my star in the sky that shines so bright -I know its Freddy still watching over us. God Bless you - I love you,
Arline###imported-begin##Arline P. Alton###imported-end##

April 24, 2007 at 11:13 AM



“ MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CHIEF RITCH. MAY GOD BLESS YOU. I WORK WITH CHIEF RITCH IN HARTSVILLE IN 1981. HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST POLICE OFFICER'S I HAVE EVER KNOWN. MAY GOD BLESS HIM AND MAY HE REST IN PEACE.##imported-begin##RONNIE WATFORD-RET. JEFFERSON P.D.##imported-end##

April 23, 2007 at 10:04 PM



“ To the Ritch Family, I am deeply saddened to have read about Fred's passing. It is my prayers that God will comfort you during this difficult time, and give you the strength during the days ahead. He was a true friend and I will never forget his friendship.##imported-begin##Grady L. O'Neal##imported-end##

April 23, 2007 at 09:51 PM



“ Dearest Mary and Family,
I was so very sorry to hear of the passing of "Chief" Ritch. I was so glad he felt up to attending the Fire Department's Christmas Dinner this past year. As I enter my 23rd year of public service I have a very special place in my heart for Fred. As a young officer with the department I remmember him saying he was willing to take a challenge on hiring one of the first twenty- one year olds the department had ever hired. I am humbled and honored to have been able to say I was a member of the department in which he took so much pride. As I complete my final two years of public service I want to salule him for taking that callange. All our thoughts and preyers will be with you and all your family during this difficult time.
God Bless,
Tommy and Lisa Thomas
City of Hartsville Fire District.##imported-begin##Tommy Thomas##imported-end##

April 23, 2007 at 09:17 PM



“ Mary & the family,
Fred was my friend and a Brother.I will pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe will give you the Solace & Comfort to see you through these trying times. My prayers are with you and your family. I salute Fred as a fallen brother.##imported-begin##Victor A & Rebecca J Makowski##imported-end##

April 23, 2007 at 06:10 PM