



## Charles E. Willett Jr.

January 16, 2025

Charles E. Willett, Jr, 64, passed away peacefully in his home in Suffolk, Virginia on January 16, 2025. He was known by his family as “Bud”, and his friends and co-workers called him “Chuck”. His passing comes as a deep loss, yet we find comfort in the memories of the everlasting love we shared with him.

He was a cherished member of our family, known for his gentleness, infectious laugh and a heart of gold. He had a very quiet nature and was a man of few words. Even as a child, he was referred to as “the little old man”.

He is survived by the love of his life, Linda Sumrell, who he shared cherished memories with for over 20 years. He is also survived by his sisters, Dara Willett, Karen Willett Tyree; his nephews, Jason Jaeger, Justin Willett, and Jacob Tyree; niece Hannah Tyree; great nephews Jude Rivera, and Jonah Tyree; and beloved fur babies, Salty and Pepper.

He was predeceased by his grandparents S/Major Joseph and S/Major Agnes Willett who were Salvation Army officers in Portsmouth, Virginia for many years; as well as his parents Charles and Anna Mae Willett; aunt Elizabeth Willett; uncle Joseph Willett, Jr and his wife Carolyn Willett; brother Stephen Willett; his sister Charlene Willett.

Chuck graduated from Churchland High School. After graduation he pursued his first real job at Virginia International Terminals. He started as a runner and eventually retired as a cargo supervisor with a dedicated career of over 40 years. He made many lifetime friends and was fondly thought of by many of them.

Our beloved Chuck found the greatest joy in the simplest things. He loved to listen to music from the 60s and 70s and also loved watching the classic film The Wizard of Oz and it's star Judy Garland. He also enjoyed picking crabs on a hot summer day.

In his retirement, he loved spending quiet nights with his sweetheart Linda and their dogs Salty and Pepper. They often visited their trailer in the Outer Banks and enjoyed the serenity there together.

A celebration of his life will be held at Loving Funeral Home, 3225 Academy Ave. Portsmouth, VA 23703, on Thursday, January 23rd at 2:00 PM.

He was a true animal lover. In honor of his love of animals please consider a memorial donation to an animal rescue of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel  
3225 Academy Ave  
Portsmouth, VA 23703

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ *Sending my love and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends. May you find peace, comfort and strength in the days ahead.*

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**Ashley Williams** - January 21, 2025 at 08:40 PM

DH

“ *Very tough for me to write this. He was my great friend for more than 50 years. We shared political thoughts, jokes, secrets between us, out of town adventures and misadventures, and quality time on many bar stools. I don't remember any disagreements and we always had each other's back. The stories and memories are made for a book. Most I am unable to repeat, lol. Not here, anyway. We were somewhat distant in the latter years but when we caught up, the laughs were as genuine as it gets. Love ya Tip. And thank you Linda for all the comfort you gave my buddy. ❤️*

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**Doug Hamilton** - January 21, 2025 at 07:13 PM

SW

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Chuck’s passing. He was a person I knew for many years as an in law, and I feel fortunate to have known him. His kindness, integrity, and the impact he made on all who knew him will be remembered.

*During this difficult time, please know that my thoughts are with you. May you find comfort in the cherished memories you shared with him and in the knowledge that he touched so many lives in such a meaningful way.*

*With heartfelt sympathy,*

*Stan Williams*

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**Stan Williams** - January 21, 2025 at 06:24 PM

SC

“ Stephanie Cupka purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Charles E. Willett Jr..



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**Stephanie Cupka** - January 21, 2025 at 03:25 PM

SC

“ Stephanie Cupka planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles E. Willett Jr..

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**Stephanie Cupka** - January 21, 2025 at 03:25 PM

HS

“ *Hannah Tyree & Alex Smith purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Charles E. Willett Jr..*



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**Hannah Tyree & Alex Smith** - January 21, 2025 at 03:18 PM

DT

“ *Dale Tyree purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Charles E. Willett Jr..*



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**Dale Tyree** - January 21, 2025 at 03:11 PM

AW

“ Chuck’s gentle soul and caring nature made him a beacon of comfort to those around him. His ability to listen with genuine interest and engage in meaningful conversations was a gift he shared generously. Whether catching up during family gatherings or offering a sympathetic ear, Chuck had a way of making everyone feel heard and valued.

A dedicated worker and loyal friend, Chuck’s commitment to his loved ones was unwavering. His deep bond with his aunt Libby and sisters Karen and Dara was a testament to the love he both gave and inspired in others as well as Linda. Though Chuck is no longer with us physically, his spirit lives on in the kindness we show to others, the attentive ear we lend to friends in need, and the warm conversations we share. His legacy reminds us to approach life with compassion, to work hard, and to cherish the connections we make along the way.

Chuck, your presence in our lives was a blessing, and your memory will continue to bring warmth to our hearts. We will miss your gentleness. May we honor your memory by embodying the love and kindness you showed to all.

Condolences,  
Adam Williams

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**Adam Williams** - January 21, 2025 at 01:28 PM

CW

“ Condolences to the families, Bud was a kind and humble man and I have very fond memories and stories, hearing stories of the Dockyard. Dara and Karen you are in my thoughts and prayers. Linda please stay strong during this difficult time. We love you all.

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**Chris Williams** - January 21, 2025 at 01:26 PM

SM

“ Chuck was a co-worker of mine for years at Virginia Int'l Terminals in Portsmouth. Always an easy going person. You made work fun. We will miss you Chuck. Stephen McGraw

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**STEPHEN MCGRAW** - January 21, 2025 at 07:12 AM

SB

“ Graduated from High School with Chuck. So many memories of years together at school. Such a great person. Being a Longshoreman I would run into him time and again at work. It was always great to see him and catch up for a few. My thoughts and prayers are with his family I'm so sorry for your loss. A wonderful guy and classmate.

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**Stephen Boroody** - January 21, 2025 at 06:08 AM

CW

“ Chuck as we call him was my 1st cousin. He had a calm and great nature. He loved a good chuckle also. I have great memories of Chuck when we were younger, he came and stayed with us some in the summers, great memories. You will truly be missed Chuck! A Willett legacy gone to soon but certainly not forgotten! Sending our love and prayers to his family, you are not forgotten either! Love to all !

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**carol williams** - January 20, 2025 at 10:41 PM