



Charles "Charlie" Absten

September 11, 1967 - June 25, 2016

Charles F. "Charlie" Absten, 48, of Liberty, WV died tragically in an automobile accident on Cross Lanes Dr., Nitro, WV Saturday, June 25, 2016.

Born September 11, 1967 in Ohio, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Adam and Hazel Absten; Uncles, Dennie, Dake and Tommy Absten; grandparents-in-law, John and Connie Sprites and Kathryn Whetzel; sister-in-law, Cindy Sprites McCormick.

Charlie was a 1985 graduate of Poca High School. He began his career shortly thereafter as a bus driver with Putnam County Schools, where he was employed for over 25 years. He attended West Virginia State University, achieving his Board of Regents' degree while working. Many of his students will remember the bus trips when he would stop for ice cream and treat them to his music. He was a founding member of Charlie Absten and Distant Thunder, where he fulfilled his dream of performing country music. The bands' gigs and travels throughout the surrounding area were always filled with talent and passion. The local music scene has lost one of its most vibrant performers.

His passion for the outdoors extended to hunting and golfing, as well as a variety of others; in which there are too many to mention. He had an abundance of family and friends that simply loved him dearly. He was loved by

all that knew him.

Surviving are his wife, Karen Sprites Absten and their daughter, Cecilia of Cross Lanes; his parents, Norma and Manny Moles of Liberty; his sister, Darlena (Gene) Walters of Winfield, WV; his brothers, Stanley and Gene Moles of Florida and Tony (Sandy) Moles of Nitro, WV. Also surviving are the Sprites family, whom he held as his own, father and mother-in-law, Raymond and Charlotte Sprites of Pittsburgh, PA; brothers-in-law and their families, James and Julie Sprites of Pittsburgh and their children, Olivia and Raymond, Todd and Lisa Sprites of Clarksburg, MD and their children, Christopher, Jeremy and Madison, Scott McCormick of Pittsburgh and he and Cindy's children, Taura, Noelle, and Anna and Taura's daughter, Callie.

Also surviving are siblings at heart, Wendy Noffsinger Parsons and TJ Noffsinger; nieces and nephews, Adam, Brandon and Kaitlyn Walters of Winfield and Tyler Moles of Nitro; aunts and uncles, Ruth Reed, Rosalee (Leroy) Harrison, Bud (Yvonne Absten, Luella DeWeese, Deanna (Bill) DeWeese, Theodore Moles and Eva (Tim) Noffsinger, whom he considered his second momma and daddy.

A service to celebrate the life of Charlie Absten will be held 2pm Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at Chapman Funeral Home, Winfield with Pastor Doug McComas officiating. Burial will be in Barnett Chapel Cemetery, Liberty, WV. Visitation will be held from 5-9pm Tuesday at the funeral home. You may visit Charlie's tribute page at www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com to share memories with the family.

Memorial contributions can be made toward an education fund for Cecilia at any branch of City National Bank.

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located in Winfield, WV is

honored to serve the Absten/Moles family.

Cemetery Details

Barnett Chapel

Liberty, WV 25124

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 28. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home, Winfield
12848 Winfield Road
Winfield, WV 25213
(304) 586-2542
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Celebration of Life

JUN 29. 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Charles "Charlie" Absten

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ For some moments in life there are no words to fully express our sorrow. With my deepest sympathy for your loss -- Tammy (Thornton) Iden
From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. -Psalm 61:2

Tammy Thornton Iden - June 29, 2016 at 10:58 AM



“ To Norma, Manny and Darlene I want to express my love for your family and Charlie. I cannot find words to say to help at this time but everyone is in my prayers. I still cannot believe it has happend and I am sure you cannot believe it either. Charlie was that special guy that had that perfect smile and could lift you up when you were down. He always had something funny to say. I haven't seen him for many years but I have seen him long enough a couple times to see that smile that he is known for. My great nieces talked about him being their bus driver and how they liked it when he drove. I am sure his wife and daughter are going through great grief also but I didn't know them. I just hope you can see how happy I was to go through school with him for many year and always enjoyed him being around. He will be greatly missed.

Love you all
Trisha Fisher Sigman

Trisha Fisher Sigman - June 29, 2016 at 08:36 AM

LB

“ To all the family, so sorry for your loss. You will be in our prayers.

Sheldon and Linda Bailey

Linda Bailey - June 28, 2016 at 07:47 PM

CH

“ Corrine Hall sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles "Charlie" Absten



Corrine Hall - June 28, 2016 at 05:58 PM

JT

“ We are so sadden by the death of Charlie. We knew him from Cross Lanes UMC and he gave our grandson, Evan Kuhn, golf lessons. He even built a golf club for Evan. We knew him as a patient and kind man. This world is a better place because he was part of it. Karen, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

--Jack and Joyce Townsend

Joyce Townsend - June 28, 2016 at 03:53 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jason Songer - June 28, 2016 at 03:32 PM

TG

“ Manny & Norma, So sorry for your loss. Remember when he was young. May God's peace n prescence surround and comfort the entire family at this time.
CONDOLENCES, Tina Keathley Gibson



Tina Gibson - June 28, 2016 at 02:57 PM

VR

“ I performed with Charlie in the Stan McDaniel Band. He surely was an entertainer and enjoyed being around people. I am glad to have known him. He was friendly, generous and a highly respected gentleman. My heart breaks to know he's gone and my memories of him will not be forgotten. I send my deepest, sincere condolences to Karen and Cecilia and pray for God's love and comfort to embrace all the family. Love and Prayers, Victoria

Victoria Robinson - June 28, 2016 at 02:23 PM



“ Glory Fox'Slate lit a candle in memory of Charles "Charlie" Absten



Glory Fox'Slate - June 28, 2016 at 01:20 PM

CH

“ Karen and family, please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Charlie is sadly missed.

Chuck Hatfield - June 28, 2016 at 01:06 PM

AE

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of this wonderful man! Charlie was my bus driver from middle school up until I started driving myself in high school. I remember how he always let us listen to the radio in the mornings on the way to school which was always my favorite. I'll never forget.. While I was driving myself to class on a backroad, I hit a pot hole and two of my tires instantly busted. There I was stranded, no cell phone, nothing.. I started walking down the road, by myself, bawling my eyes out trying to get to the nearest gas station to call my dad, I was scared to death. All of a sudden, a minivan stops and I heard a familiar voice say "I thought that was you!" I've never been so relieved.. It was Charlie. He was off duty in between runs and he just so happened to be driving down that same road I was on. He had his beautiful little girl in the back seat with him. He let me use his cell to call my dad.. and when I was unable to get ahold of him, Charlie drove me all the way home. I'll never forget how he saved me that day. Such a genuinely nice guy. The world definitely lost a wonderful man. My thoughts, prayers and sympathy to his wife and daughter during this difficult time.

-Amanda Edgell

Amanda Edgell - June 28, 2016 at 01:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.



June 28, 2016 at 11:18 AM



“ 76 files added to the album Life Tributes



Chapman Funeral Homes - June 28, 2016 at 10:13 AM



“ The Lemley Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.



The Lemley Family - June 28, 2016 at 08:52 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Charlie's passing... He was a great guy with great talent!!! He will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him :(



Sue Rollins - June 28, 2016 at 08:06 AM

BP

“ Karen, Cecilia and the entire Moles and Sprites family... No words can express the shock and sadness I feel about this tragedy that has been thrust upon your families. Karen and I have known you since around the time our kids first started at Poca Elementary roughly 10 years ago but we feel like we have known Charlie much longer than the time that we have been fortunate to.

I honestly don't think I can come up with one other person I know who touched as many different lives as Charlie has whether through driving the bus, playing music, playing golf and working on golf clubs for people or just being a part of the community... he was truly one of the most giving people I have ever come in contact with and the world will be a little less bright because of his passing. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you every day going forward.
The Peters family - Bob, Karen, Isaac, Hannah and Derek Whiteside.

Bob Peters - June 28, 2016 at 07:57 AM

KD

“ Karen - I am without words. I am so saddened to hear this news. I first met Charlie at Confidence when he drove a bus and took us on several field trips. My thoughts are with you, your daughter and family. Karen Davies

Karen Davies - June 28, 2016 at 07:04 AM

TC

“ Tina, Skinny, Glen, Brian, & Clayton Cook purchased the Home in Heaven Throw for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.



Tina, Skinny, Glen, Brian, & Clayton Cook - June 28, 2016 at 01:11 AM

WD

“ *With Love and Sympathy, Mary DiLonardo purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.*



With Love and Sympathy, Mary DiLonardo - June 27, 2016 at 10:48 PM

PW

“ *Karen, Although I never had the pleasure of working with you personally, I know you through the elementary and my good friends Marcie Walters and Sarah Inghram. I wanted to express my sincere condolences for your loss of Charlie. I worked with him at Poca Middle first as a teacher and later as the assistant principal several years ago. Charlie was one of those guys you enjoyed seeing coming through the door of the school, usually with your beautiful daughter in his arms. He was a happy and uplifting guy to be around. We loved to see him behind the wheel when we took field trips...he added to the experience in such a positive manner. As the disciplinarian for bus drivers, I knew when he brought me a problem...which was rare....it was one that needed dealt with because he was not a driver that had trouble handling any situation. The kids loved him and appreciated the respect he gave them and so gave him respect in return. One memory I have was him pulling in behind the school in his truck with a bear in the back that he had hunted. He allowed the kids to see such a beautiful and powerful animal close up...he was that kind of guy. Sharing and teaching. The lives he touched are numerous. He will be missed and thought of as a talented, kind, athletic, all-round great guy. Peggy Persinger Workman*

Peggy Workman - June 27, 2016 at 09:50 PM

JM

“ Charlie always had a smile and a hug. Loved his daughter dearly. So sorry for your loss Karen and family. Sending much love your way.

Joni Burford Mazelon

Joni Mazelon - June 27, 2016 at 09:42 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.



June 27, 2016 at 08:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.



June 27, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.



June 27, 2016 at 06:29 PM

MP

“ Charlie drove both our kids to school for years. He was the best school bus driver any parent could ask for. He will be truly missed. Karen and Cecelia are in our prayers. We are so sorry for your loss. The Peters' family

melissa peters - June 27, 2016 at 05:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Absten.



June 27, 2016 at 05:52 PM

CH

“ I am so saddened to hear of Charlie's passing. I thought so very highly of Charlie. It has been an honor to have worked with him very closely for the last 9 years. He was a dedicated employee with a great work ethic. He would go the extra mile to make sure the kids were taken care of and got home safely. He was one of Putnam County's finest and will be greatly missed. Charlie Tribble - Director of Transportation for Putnam County Schools.

CharlieTribble - June 27, 2016 at 05:27 PM

TH

“ Tracy Hancock lit a candle in memory of Charles "Charlie" Absten



Tracy Hancock - June 27, 2016 at 03:50 PM

DM

“ I remember that little boy, that came to our little trailer, and asked Lynn, "can Delmas come out and play". RIP my friend love ya.
Delmas and Lynn Moles

Delmas Moles - June 27, 2016 at 02:38 PM

CC

“ The family are in our thoughts and prayers.
Charlie was an amazing person.

Carrie, Herman, and Haley Clements



Carrie Clements - June 27, 2016 at 01:37 PM

TD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Terry Dunn - June 27, 2016 at 01:01 PM

TD

“ Charlie had a way of making you feel special. He could always cheer you up if you were having a bad day. That smile just lit up a room. He was a true good friend. We had so many good times at lunch and at his gigs. I will miss him more than words can say. Love and miss my friend. My prayers go out to Karen and his daughter Cecilia. I know she was the light of his life. Prayers for all his family and the many friends he had made throughout his life.



Terry Dunn - June 27, 2016 at 01:01 PM

HE

“ Im very sorry for your loss.. charlie was a wonderful man and very full of spirit. He was always so happy and smiling and making everyone else smile. He had such a beautiful voice and I loved hearing him sing. He will truly be missed by everyone. R.I.p Charlie gone but never forgotten



Heather - June 27, 2016 at 10:36 AM

EO

“ I remember when Charlie first started driving the school bus for Putnam County. My daughter, who was a Poca high school student at that time came home from school upset because she didn't ride the bus home from school talking about what a good looking new bus driver they had. I believe that was the sentiment of most of the girls at the school. Lol. Later years I had the privilege of working with Charlie. As substitute drivers it was an honor to drive his bus, because he was the most cared for and cleanest bus in the whole fleet of Putnam County. He took pride in his work and he loved his kids. I mourn his loss today as many others do. As I know many other stare. He was a very upstanding He was a great guy to work with, he was always ready to answer any question I may have had and you knew he cared, really cared about the students and co-workers. I personally enjoyed it when he would bring Cecelia into the bus lounge she had that head full of curly hair and was so smart. Charlie was so proud of her. He was a man of integrity and you could take him at his word. Although I haven't worked in Putnam County since I moved to Florida, an although I haven't worked in Putnam County since I moved to Florida, I know he will be sorely missed by those who knew him and loved him. I'm thankful for my memories of him and my prayers are with Karen and Cecilia in this time of their grief.

Eloise Ord - June 27, 2016 at 09:46 AM

SM

“ To Charlies family I would like to tell you how very sorry I am that this has happened. My love and prayers are with you. Charlie and I became friends many years ago long before we worked together. He is one of a kind. He took me four wheeling for the first time. We had a blast. He laughed so much that day mainly at me after he made mud rain down on me. Charlie and I taught line dancing at PMS to the students and some faculty, so much fun. He was there for me when I was bald from chemo. We had awesome water battles at the bus lounge breaking all the rules on the last day of school. Even after I retired any time I was out in my yard, walking the dog or just passing on the highway he always blew that bus horn and waved. I will truly miss him but I will hold on to my wonderful memories.

Love and Prayers,
Sharon Meadows

Sharon Meadows - June 27, 2016 at 09:46 AM