

*Homegoing Celebration for  
Charles Weldon Atlas*



*1939 - 2004*



*Tuesday, January 4, 2005  
Eleven O'Clock A.M.*

*New Shiloh Baptist Church  
1727 W. 15th Avenue  
Gary, Indiana*

*Reverend Henry Emery, Pastor  
Officiating*

## *Obituary*

**CHARLES WELDON ATLAS** was born the ninth child of Francis Joseph and Willie Mae Gibson Atlas, on March 7, 1939, in Lake Providence, Louisiana. He departed this life on Sunday, December 26, 2004.

Charles attended elementary school in Lake Providence, Louisiana, at the East Carroll Parish Training School. He attended high school at G. W. Griffin High School where he graduated in 1957. After completion of high school, he worked on the family farm and with his brother Phillip for two years and managed to save enough money to enroll at Tennessee State University in 1959. He studied there for two years. After TSU, Charles ventured to Chicago to live and work. In 1962 he was drafted into the United States Army where he served as an Ammunitions Storage Specialist with the 606th Ordnance Company at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Charles often said that after basic training, life in the military afforded him some of the "most fun weekends" he ever had.

After a two-year tour in the Army, "C. W." or "Chuck" as family and friends called him, resumed his civilian life in Chicago. He worked several different jobs while attending the Industrial Engineering College of Chicago. There, "C. W." completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering Technology. He accepted a position at GTE Corporation of Chicago as a Time Study Engineer. Chuck retired from this position after twenty years. During his tenure at GTE, he enrolled at Chicago State University where he completed a Master's Degree in Engineering. After retiring from GTE, he was recruited for a position as a faculty member at Northern Illinois University. He served in this capacity for the better part of fifteen years.

While growing up on the farm and attending elementary school, Charles developed and became a very good athlete. Boxing, basketball and baseball were sports in which he participated and excelled. As a baseball player, he was a starting pitcher on the G. W. Griffin High School "Hornets" baseball team. He took up the game of golf while living and working in Chicago. Golf was truly his passion. Wherever he traveled, he found a golf course. Some of his opponents expressed amazement and awe at the acuity of his skill as a golfer.

"C. W." had several other hobbies and special interests that gave him joy. Perhaps second to golfing was cooking. At one time he had a membership in a cooking club. One testimony to his love of cooking was the fact that he actually bought, installed and cooked on a commercial (restaurant size) stove. Yes, he was serious! The ultimate testimony, however, was in the various "feasts" at his place. The "mmms," the "oohs," and "aahs" were about all you could hear during these silent eating times with family and friends. Other favorite hobbies and special interests included hunting, photography, gardening and traveling.

In 1993 he was nominated and elected as President of Atlas Hood-Lane Enterprises (a family owned and operated Corporation). Charles served in this capacity with due diligence, effectiveness and vigilance as he managed the affairs of the Corporation and family. To this end, the family will be eternally grateful.

Even though he was a man of strong will and conviction, he will be remembered mostly as a jovial, fun-loving person who loved life and enjoyed it immensely.



**CHARLES WELDON ATLAS** was preceded in death by his parents, Francis Joseph and Willie Mae Atlas and three of his siblings: Francis Joseph Atlas Jr., Nora Louise Jefferson and Ethel Mae Sparrow. He leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his life: three sisters, Susie Lee Ammons of Chicago, Illinois; Florence Marie Atlas of Lake Providence, Louisiana; and Annie Elizabeth Chatman of Southfield, Michigan; five brothers, Phillip King (Verice Mae) Atlas of Bastrop, Louisiana; Lawrence Atlas of Oakland, California; Edward Delano Atlas of Austin, Texas; John Wesley (Arthurlean) Atlas of Detroit, Michigan; and Willie James Atlas of Southfield, Michigan; two aunts, Ethel Edna Atlas of Davenport, Iowa; and Annie Ruth Atlas of Chicago, Illinois; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and associates.

### *As We Saw Our Brother*

*There is something good to be found in everything*

**Phillip "P. K."**—"He was nice, easy-going, and had a big sense of humor. He could see the humor in every situation, no matter how bad things got."

*A man of velvet and steel*

**Susie "Sister Babe"**—"He had a gentleness about him, with some rough edges. He was always in control, even until the last minute. He was a true leader. He was always helping people."

*The rock of Gibraltar*

**Florence**—"He was kind-hearted, outgoing, everybody enjoyed him. He was smart and dependable; you could always depend on him."

*Once the band is on the plow, never look back*

**Lawrence "Brother"**—"He was full of jokes and laughter. He never gave up until the job was completed. His middle name was persistence. He had very good athletic instincts."

*Laughter is the music of the soul*

**Edward**—"Chuck was my best friend; he was honest, fun to be with, straightforward, decent and forgiving in his generosity. You could count on him to provide some fun and laughter."

*That's what friends are for, keep smiling, keep shining, knowing I could always count on you;*

*In good times, in bad times you were on my side forevermore...that's what friends are for*

**Annie Elizabeth**—"Most people called my brother Charles, Charlie or Chuck, but to me he was my "C. W.," my partner. We traveled around the world together. He was the ninth child, I was the tenth. He was there to help me. He was funny, fussy, kind and thoughtful; he liked to take care of me; he was my brother; he was my best friend; and I will miss him dearly."

*Out of the abundance of a man's heart*

**John**—"He was a man with a big heart, loyal, a giver, a server, one who believed that anything worth doing was worth doing right. Do it well or not at all."

*In a word*

**Willie**—"Intensity"—nothing half speed; the man had a "mean" curve ball."

# Order of Service

*Processional*..... *Clergy and Family*

*Musical Selection* ..... *New Shilob Baptist Church*

*"Blessed Assurance"*

*Scripture Reading:*

*Old Testament* ..... *Psalm 1:1-6*

*New Testament* ..... *Matthew 5:1-12*

*Prayer*..... *Reverend Henry Emery*

*Musical Selection* ..... *New Shilob Baptist Church*

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

*Acknowledgements*.....

*Tributes (Two Minutes)*..... *Edward D. Atlas*

*John W. Atlas*

*Others*

*Obituary*..... *Jeanne Sparrow*

*Musical Selection* ..... *New Shilob Baptist Church*

*"Surely Goodness and Mercy"*

*Eulogy*..... *Reverend Henry Emery*

*Recessional*..... *Clergy and Family*

*"I'll Fly Away"*

*Usber Service*..... *New Shilob Baptist Church*



## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

*Steve Atlas*  
*Vincent Atlas*  
*Derek Atlas*  
*Bobby Jefferson Jr.*  
*Nicholas Atlas*  
*Glen Thompson*

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

<i>Phillip King Atlas</i>	<i>Madis Atlas Perry</i>
<i>Lawrence Atlas</i>	<i>Dawn Atlas Thompson</i>
<i>Edward Delano Atlas</i>	<i>Jeanne Marie Sparrow</i>
<i>John Wesley Atlas</i>	<i>Candace Atlas</i>
<i>Willie James Atlas</i>	<i>Jamila Atlas Turner</i>
<i>Cordell Atlas</i>	<i>Amina Atlas Jenkins</i>
<i>Barbara Rhodes-Bridges</i>	<i>Constance Atlas</i>
<i>Sbeila Ellis</i>	<i>Timothy Phillip</i>
<i>Cheryl Atlas Smith</i>	<i>Allen Sparrow</i>
<i>Janice Atlas Hawkins</i>	<i>Antoinette Atlas</i>
<i>L. Tanya Atlas Harris</i>	<i>Bobby Jefferson Sr.</i>

*Charlie Thompson*

## INTERMENT

Elmwood Cemetery  
1200 Elmwood  
Detroit, Michigan

## SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Alpha Mortuary, Inc.  
"The Caring Professionals"  
421 W. 5th Avenue  
Gary, Indiana 46402

Swanson Funeral Home  
14751 W. McNichols  
Detroit, Michigan 48235

## PROGRAMS BY

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