

Charles Ray Norton

October 8, 1932 - May 6, 2025

Charles Norton

Charles Norton, age 92, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2025. Charles Ray Norton was born October 8th 1932 in Ada, Oklahoma to Henry Jewel Norton and Lottie Vanita (McElmurry) Norton. He attended school at Ada where he excelled in sports, especially track. He began truck driving at the age of 16. He continued driving until he was drafted into the Korean War. Charles served in the United States Army with an attachment to the United States Air Force where he helped to build runways. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army at the end of the war in 1954.

After the war, he went back to driving trucks in the oilfield. He met the love of his life, Rita Elkins, when he stopped for lunch at the restaurant where Rita worked in Ratliff City, Oklahoma. Later they eloped to Gainesville, Texas with Rita's cousin, Alice Short and Tom McKelvain on November 9, 1958.

After a few years, they welcomed a baby daughter, Janet Lynn. Charles then took a job driving trucks for Lee Way Motor Freight located in Oklahoma City, OK. He retired after 20 years. During his truck driving career, he was honored with a watch for driving a million miles without any accidents.

Upon retirement he and Rita moved to Rosedale, OK where Rita grew up.

Charles began to raise steers and put on team roping events. They became active members in the Rosedale First Baptist Church, where they served the Lord faithfully.

Charles was always good-hearted and full of fun. His hobbies were coon hunting with his brother-in-law, Dale Elkins, watching car races, riding horses, fishing, going to the lake, watching his granddaughters play sports and cheer at ballgames, and of course taking Rita wherever she wanted to go on vacations. His smile, good-heartedness, orneriness, and wit will be dearly missed.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Lottie Norton; his wife, Rita; two sisters, Wanda Bowers, and Patricia Scarberry.

Charles is survived by his daughter, Janet Little and her husband Roland of Wayne; granddaughters, Julie Gentry and her husband Mike of Wayne, Krista Boles and her husband Justin of Rosedale; great-grandkids, Addison Porter, Rhett Boles, Ozzie Gentry, Raylynn Boles, and Ruger Boles.

The family would like to express their love and gratitude to Sunset Nursing Home and Loving Care Hospice, for loving and taking care of their sweet Charles as if he was a part of their family.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 9th at the First Baptist Church in Rosedale, OK, with burial services at the Hopping Cemetery located just east of Wayne, OK.

Cemetery Details

Hopping Cemetery

14255-14497 Hopping Ave
Wayne, OK 73095

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Rosedale First Baptist Church
37740 Arkansas Ave.
Rosedale, OK 74831

Tribute Wall

AL

“ I always enjoyed visiting with Charlie and Rita. They were amazing people! Now they are together in heaven again. Praying for his awesome family.



Adrienne E. Foshee Lang - May 09, 2025 at 08:16 AM

SC

“ I loved listening to Charles' stories about his life. He was nice guy. I loved he's laughter. I worked as a housekeeper at Sunset where he was. RIP Charles you will be missed.

Sherry Charlson - May 08, 2025 at 01:02 PM

ME

“ He was one of my favorites at Sunset. His room was right next to our therapy room , and I took him as my little man to care for. He was a special little guy not only, because his sweet wife Rita was my history teacher at school growing up, but he was such a sweet soul. I would always make sure he ate before I left in the evenings!

He would always tell me how much he loved her!

Well Charles you are with your sweet love of your life (Mrs. Norton / Rita)

Blessings and prayers for the family!

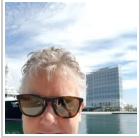
Melanie Elliott

Melanie - May 08, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ *Rest in peace, Uncle Charlie! You were the absolute best and I will always love and cherish my memories of you!* ”

mary shanks - May 08, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ *I will miss seeing sweet Charles at Sunset. I loved his smile and could always count on his back rubs! ❤️* ”

Ronda Simmons - May 07, 2025 at 04:59 PM