



## Charles Stokes Jr.

October 11, 1926 - August 2, 2021

Charles E. Stokes, Jr. was born in Temple, Texas on October 11, 1926. His parents, Charles E. Stokes, Sr., and Esther Lawlis Stokes gave him a grand heritage on both sides of the family that included a Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church, Senators in Georgia before the Civil War, a governor of North Carolina militiamen with General Andrew Jackson at Horseshoe Bend and men and women that helped found Lampasas, Texas where he was raised.

Charles and his younger brother John Franklin, called Frank, grew up in Lampasas where his family had the Stokes Brothers Mercantile and the Stokes Brothers Bank. The brothers always said it was a wonderful place to grow up and still maintained friendships among classmates.

Charles went to Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, Texas. Since this was during World War II, he then went to school at Texas Tech, and graduated in 1943 with a basic engineering degree from the Army Specialized Training Program. He worked at many jobs, gaining experience in building and construction, and then graduated in 1948 from the University of Texas after receiving a B.B.A. Degree in Economics and Commodity Marketing. During those years he served apprenticeships at North Star Woolen Mills and Conant and Co., Inc. building a resume for his future.

After graduating from college, Charles traveled to Mexico City where, staying with family friends, he became fluent in Spanish. This helped him in his business dealings in Peru, where he opened a wool processing house in

Arequipa. At 26 years old and feeling pressure from the government against private enterprise, and also missing family and friends, Charles came back to the United States and bought a wool processing plant in New Braunfels, Texas.

In 1968 Charles earned his M.A. from the University of Texas at El Paso and in 1970, he earned his Doctorate in Economics from Tulane University in New Orleans. He also received a Fulbright Fellowship in 1970 for studies in South American Culture and Business.

After closing his wool mill in New Braunfels, Charles traveled all over the world buying and selling wool. Later he bought and sold ranches in Texas where he raised sheep and cattle, after going into partnership with his dear friend Wes Evans. Charles is survived by his daughter, Susana Cordano from Lima, Peru. He has two granddaughters, Silvana Gherzi Cordano de Rodriguez (Jorge Rodriguez Manucci) and Dr. Vanessas Gherzi Cordano de Soto (Manuel Ignacio Soto Falcon) and great grandsons, Francisco and Luca and Ignacio and Salvador.

He is also survived by his sister-in-law Stephanie Stokes of Friendswood, Texas. Other family members are his niece Mary Myslik (Ed) and nephews, John Stokes (Tina), Charlie Stokes (Lauren) and Stephen Stokes (Stephanie) plus great-nephews Christopher, Samuel, Street and Talan and great-nieces Emily, Amy, Juliana and Clara. Also, cousins from cities all over Texas will remember him.

Charles was funny and imaginative. When he told the family stories about his travels on the Amazon in a canoe with local people or journeys buying wool in Europe and Saudi Arabia, you could imagine yourself there. In 2000 he wrote and published a book called *The Amazon Bubble: World Rubber Monopoly*. He had worked on it for 40 years and the book is believed to be the only study of the Amazon rubber trade from the perspective of all South American countries involved. Charles traveled extensively after retiring from the wool business and loved boats and trains as this mode of locomotion.

We would like to thank his caregivers in the past months. Linda Gisolo from

San Angelo and Rosie Perez from San Antonio. Rosie has been an honorary member of our family for many years and her care of Charles was priceless. Thanks to Charles' long-time friends, Dr. Viki Forlano and Angie Wileke. Also, Julie and Welsey Evans who traveled with and cared for Charles for many years as business associates and dear friends, and their daughter Bailey who was like a grandchild to him. Honorary pallbearers are Matt Boyle, Kenneth Shelton, Vince Sikes and Herb Heflin.

Charles was loved and we are honored that he was and remains a member of our family.

There will be a graveside service at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lampasas with Monte Jones officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the Lampasas Animal Shelter in Charles' memory. Arrangements are entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home in Lampasas.

# Cemetery Details

**Oak Hill Cemetery**

# Previous Events

## **Graveside Service**

AUG 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Oak Hill Cemetery

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ Fly high beautiful friend fly high! The blessings you brought to my heart will forever live in me. Your vision, wisdom and knowledge was enjoyed in the Burning Bush Sunday School class. The strength of your backbone for God’s Word vs. the worldview life was an inspiration me. Your love, loyalty and willingness to provide assistance for mission work both local and abroad will forever help others. Your sense of humor was a joy to be around. Your concern for not only our country but all countries was always on your mind. Through the stories you told of your business and life adventures - I traveled the world. Because of our friendship I met and will forever love and treasure your amazing Peruvian family, your daughter Susanna, granddaughter’s Silvana and Vanessa, my home is their home. My condolences to all the members of your family. The world has lost an amazing gentleman that brought happiness to many, a treasure that will be missed forever. It was truly a pleasure and an honor to have you touch my life, until we meet again dear friend, thank you for all the blessings you bestowed upon us. God bless you.

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**Judy Lacy** - August 09, 2021 at 10:53 PM

MI

“ Desde Buenos Aires, Andrea y Miguel , hijos de Martin Levi les enviamos nuestro afecto y cariño.  
Nuestro Papá siempre nos dijo que Charlie era su gran amigo de la vida, compañero de aventuras en tantos viajes que realizaron tanto de placer como de negocios buscando lanas y oportunidades.  
Nuestro Papá siempre quizo a Charlie como a su hermano mayor.  
El ultimo encuentro de ellos fue en Mayo del 2018, meses antes de la partida de nuestro Padre.  
Estamos con Ustedes en estos momentos y les enviamos nuestro amor.  
Andrea y Miguel

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miguel - August 09, 2021 at 12:00 PM

SG

“ Grandpa Charles,  
It's very difficult to let you go but I know that you're in a beautiful and better place right now.  
Since the moment we met a new chapter begun in my life. A beautiful chapter that I will always keep in my heart and my heart. So many memories that I cherish and hope never forget. I find so funny the way you could challenge me and make me think from a different point of view and even the way you made me mad sometimes but you could also make me laugh and how you could be the sweetest.  
I always loved the way you called me Silvanita even though I'm over 40 now and mother of two and also how you saw me with loving generous eyes, no mattered how tired I looked you always said I looked beautiful and I know I was to your eyes.  
Grandpa Charles I am so happy we got to know each other. We had different opinions sometimes and we are both so stubborn but love was always above all.  
I love you always my so very intelligent brave grumpy grandpa. I will always keep you in my heart.  
Rest in peace grandpa Charles.



Silvana Gherzi - August 09, 2021 at 12:58 AM

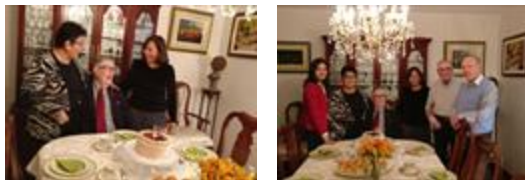
TD

“ *It is with great sadness that I received the news of the passing of Mr. Charles E. Stokes.*

*My condolences to his entire surviving family and especially to her only daughter Susana Cordano and his granddaughters Vanessa and Silvana.*

*I happened to know Mr. Charles Stokes from the tales and memories recounted by Susana and by the conversations I had with Mr. Stokes on his numerous trips to Peru to visit his Peruvian family. I can recount his great intelligence and sense of humor. His vast knowledge of history and current events in Peru. He was always willing to know current affairs and daily life in Peru. I also remember his amazing memory. Not only he remembered in details past events, but people that he knew while his long stay in Peru. It was always a pleasure to talk to him. And I treasure dearly those moments, because I felt how happy he was to be with his daughter Susana, his granddaughters and husbands and great grand kids. Mr. Stokes was proud of Susana, a self made and brave woman, who raised herself two amazing and caring daughters, both top professionals on their fields. On his last trips to Peru, Mr. Stokes mentioned to me how proud was he of Susana and Vanessa and Silvana.*

*Rest In Peace dear Mr. Charles E. Stokes. You had a long and productive life and made your mark in this work. It was an honor and a pleasure to meet you.*



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**Tula Durand** - August 09, 2021 at 12:37 AM

SC

“ Hello dad. You leaved so soon, I couldn't say goodbye. I live far away from you but we were so close because we understood and love each other and it will always be that way daddy.

One day you told me "if I go I will always be by your side wherever I am" and I know that's the way it will be.

I will always remember your laugh and our very long conversations and I promise not to cry so much even though you know I will always miss you. You will always live in my heart.

I love you daddy. A kiss to heaven.

Your daughter Susana



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**Susana Cordano** - August 09, 2021 at 12:12 AM

CC

Wonderful photos, nice memories!  
Susanita your father is in heaven and from there he will watch over you and your daughters !  
My prayers for his eternal rest !



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**cecilia Cornejo** - August 09, 2021 at 01:45 AM

VG

“ Charles, it was a privilege to meet you and enjoy so many wonderful moments. You will always be present in my heart. I take as a gift to remember your laugh, your sense of humor, your sharp intelligence, your elephant memory, your vision of life, your vision of entrepreneurship, your sense of honor and loyalty, your respect for the values of the family, your simplicity, and your generosity.

*How wonderful was our journey! You did everything in your hands to make as part of your life and you succeeded, we became a family.*

*I will continue working to make you proud.*

*Your granddaughter.  
Tu nieta que te admira.*

*Vanessa*



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Vanessa Gheresi - August 07, 2021 at 10:31 AM

GR

“ I love you Charles. Thank you for your kindness and for welcoming me into your home so many times.

*Charles loved to tell family stories. He was the only person I knew who could tell me about my mother and that was extra special for me. He was very fond of her and he let his love for her overflow onto me. Thank you Charles.*

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**George Rhys** - August 06, 2021 at 10:06 PM

ZH

*Mu condolences to his daughter Susana Cordano and his granddaughters Vanessa and Silvana .*

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**zarela Hidson** - August 09, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Stokes Jr..*



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August 05, 2021 at 10:13 PM