



## Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater

July 5, 1937 - June 8, 2021

Charles Wesley Atwater, 83, departed this life on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 in West Bloomfield, Michigan. He was born July 5, 1937 to the late Jeffery and Leora (May) Atwater in Jackson, Tennessee. Charles moved with his family to Saginaw, MI where he attended school, earning his diploma from Saginaw High School.

He spent the remainder of his life living in Flint, MI, where he lovingly raised 3 very grateful children, while serving a community of others. A devoted Christian, Charles served as Deacon at Christ the Liberator Presbyterian Church, Flint, MI for more than 30 years. Charles earned a Bachelor of Science of Education Degree (BSE) degree from Central State University and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree from Eastern Michigan University. These degrees best prepared him to follow his mission to serve children. He was most grateful that God put him in a position that allowed him to affect the lives of youth at risk, as he prepared them to be ready for the world and engaged in efforts that would lead to life-long learning and future success.

He spent his entire professional career in service to children. Charles began his career in education at Pierson Elementary School in Flint and was later promoted to Assistant Principal at the same school. Charles served as educational leader at Parkland Elementary and Carpenter Road Elementary School, where he served as Principal, until he retired in 1999.

The accomplished athlete and sports fanatic, Charles was always a willing participant. Whether he was a player in the game, coaching a team, or serving as referee, he loved sports; or off the field, he always played to win. An extremely proficient bowler, Charles rolled several three, 300 perfect score games, earning a gold, diamond, and ruby "300 Level Ring," of which he was immensely proud. During the time he was a student attending Saginaw High School, local sports fans came out weekly to see this very talented, Trojan Warrior football superstar defeat the competition. Little did he know that the skills he had perfected in high school would lead him to fight in the same manner in his 1st postsecondary career position!

Charles enlisted in the US Marine Corps, where he was assigned to the Special Services division. His athletic talent and "never-give-up" determination earned him the enviable military assignment of football star! His gridiron talents led him to be invited to join the Hawaiian All-Star Team, where he played in the Hula Bowl in Honolulu, HI. After he began his career as an educator, Charles spent his nights, weekends and summer breaks employed by the CANUSA Games Association and as a Flint Community School Director. These positions gave him even more opportunities to serve children and his community for more than 40 years.

Charles will be lovingly remembered by those whom he loved dearly, one sister, Doris (John) Hinton, Saginaw, MI; 3 children; son, Rev. Frederick (Rhonda) King, Cedar Hill, TX, daughter, Patricia Meridy, Cincinnati, OH and son, Brian Atwater, Huntington Woods, MI; three grandchildren, Ryan, Erin, and Jennifer; six great-grandchildren, Donovan, McKenzie, Isaiah, Merissa, Brooklyn, and Reece; ex-spouse and great friend, Bette Atwater, with whom he continued to co-parent/grandparent/great-grandparent until his death. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, many, many other friends, and relatives.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Jeff and Leora Atwater; two brothers, Willie B. Hutch and Joe Atwater; two sisters, Mattie (Atwater) Erwin and Mary (Atwater) Doster.

His family would like to recognize and acknowledge with unending gratitude, Ted Watson, friend and surrogate son, who showed up early and often, whenever Charles was in need of assistance. Also, a very heartfelt thank you to niece, Bea and Stan, who opened their hearts and home to their Uncle Charles, both during the Flint water crisis and early-on in his illness, before he was hospitalized. We, his family, are profoundly grateful for the influence Deacon Charles Wesley Atwater had on our lives and the lives of so many others. He had a charismatic personality that he used to entertain and uplift or just simply to show love and acceptance to all whom surrounded him.

A funeral service will take place at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 19, 2021 at Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48607. Pastor Dennis Laffoon will officiate. Interment will take place in Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Road, Holly, Michigan 48442. Friends may call at Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48607, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. on Friday.

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.  
Holly, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 18. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home  
441 North Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607

## Funeral Service

JUN 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home  
441 North Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607

# Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Browne's Mortuary** - June 19, 2021 at 10:45 AM

IG

“ *Ira Lee Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Ira Lee Gilbert** - August 07, 2021 at 12:04 PM

JW

*Just now learning my good friend CHARLES ATWATERS passed away.a very caring and likeable man.,he would always stop by scot school. and challenge me to a wresling match,after my kids thought i was scared so i except the challenge,i knew what was going to happen.i was 10 yrs'younger than mr.atwater,so i locked up with him,i picked him over my head and lightly took him to the floor.he will be missed*

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**james watkins** - January 22, 2022 at 07:22 PM

SJ

“ In the fall of 1971 Coach Atwater was one of our assistant football coaches at Emerson Junior high school. Coach Waters and Atwater ran us into the ground our practices were tougher than the games. Coach Atwater would put on a helmet titan up his chin-strap and run us over. Come game time on Saturday no one was running us over. Emerson Junior high school was the 1971 All City Junior High Champion with a Perfect record of 7 Wines 0 Losses. On to Flint Northern High Schoo with that wining spirit and athleticism ingrained in us from Coach Atwater we went on to have seven all valley players. Rest in peace coach Atwater you truly made a difference in all of us players from that 1971 Emerson Junior high school undefeated team, thank you for those hard lessons!!!

Steven R. Jones  
New York City



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**Steven R. Jones** - June 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Gary Chick lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



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**Gary Chick** - June 20, 2021 at 08:09 AM

SH

“ *Mr. Atwater was a very dedicated educator and principal. He always put the children first and made sure their needs were met. He had a sense of humor and always kept you laughing. Sometimes you didn't know if he was serious or just playing. He will surely be missed. Rest on, you really made a difference in so many lives.*



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**Shirley Henderson** - June 20, 2021 at 12:20 AM

TW

“ *Ricky, Trisha, Brian and Bette,*

*Memories warm my heart of the Atwater family during my family's years in Flint in the late 60s and early 70s. Charles was always a kind, gentle soul and just an all around good friend. That was true when visiting each other's homes, out at a party or an event and especially so when several couples went to Montego Bay for spring break. I last saw Charles, a few years ago, while visiting his church in Flint with a mutual friend. At that time, he was still the thoughtful and down to earth person that Ken (dec) and I knew decades ago. Charles is resting in peace while each of you will continue to cherish all of the good that he brought to your lives.*

*Much love,  
Toni S. Walters*

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**Toni Walters** - June 19, 2021 at 02:32 PM

JE

“ *Best Boss Ever !!!*



*Jeanette Cook*

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**Jeanette** - June 19, 2021 at 10:08 AM

CA

“ *Teacher, educator, neighbor, peer and friend. I met Mr. Atwater as a student. Our paths continued to criss cross and then Charles became one of my mentors when I became a principal. With each thread, my life became enriched by his knowledge and humor. Many prayers are going up for Mr. Atwater and his family.*



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**Cheryl Adkins** - June 19, 2021 at 08:28 AM

DM

“ *Duwanda Moman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Duwanda Moman** - June 19, 2021 at 12:41 AM

JT

“ *John And Lillian Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**John and Lillian Thomas** - June 18, 2021 at 09:20 PM

SH

“ Mr. Charles Atwater was a true educator and principal with the Flint Community Schools. He always put the students first and he loved the students entrusted in his care. The Flint and Saginaw Communities have lost a great Christian man. Rest on soldier job well done.



Shirley Henderson - June 18, 2021 at 08:52 PM

DM

“ R.I.H.P. Mr. Atwater! You will never be forgotten! Prayers & condolences to your family, extended family, friends & the many lives you touched! Deb Milling! 🙏❤️



Deborah Milling - June 18, 2021 at 07:27 PM

DW

“ Darlene Wedge lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



Darlene Wedge - June 18, 2021 at 05:07 PM

IH

“ Ida Harkless-Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



Ida Harkless-Gibson - June 18, 2021 at 04:22 PM

RC

“ *Mr Atwater was a great Burlington Dr. neighbor he always looked out for my grandma may he Rest In Peace*



Renee Coney - June 18, 2021 at 12:17 PM

MA

“ *Melinda Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



Melinda Anderson - June 18, 2021 at 11:57 AM

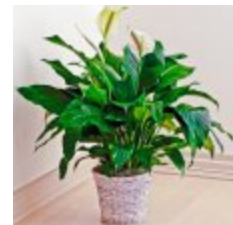
GM

“ *Mr. Atwater was my first principal as a teacher at Carpenter Road. He always gave support and encouragement to me, and showed true leadership and compassion to the Carpenter Road community. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.*

Gail Munroe - June 18, 2021 at 09:00 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater.*



June 17, 2021 at 02:13 PM

PM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**PD MERIDY** - June 17, 2021 at 10:57 AM

PM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**PD MERIDY** - June 17, 2021 at 10:54 AM

SE

“ *Sandra Epps`` lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Sandra Epps``** - June 16, 2021 at 09:13 PM

CW

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Charles Atwater at Carpenter Road School and attending Christ the Liberator Church. At our first meeting I explained that I had interviews with two other principals before I was expected to make a decision, he turned his phone toward me and said we can call them now and tell them your not coming. I actually stayed at Carpenter Road for the next twenty-two years. He was so caring, knew my extended family and stood with us during the illness of my sister and father. You will be greatly missed dear friend.Heavens choir has a new voice. God bless and keep you until we meet again.

Carla Wilson - June 16, 2021 at 08:36 PM

GF

My sincere condolences to the family. May God comfort you during this difficult time and know that he is well. Georgetta Fountain-Harris

Georgetta Fountain-Harris - June 18, 2021 at 12:05 AM

EP

“ To the family of Charles Atwater:  
Charles and I were in the service together. We were classmates as well. What a great man he was. I will miss you Charles. Rest in peace. God bless you my brother.

Edward Price Lansing, MI.

Edward Price - June 16, 2021 at 06:21 PM

HP

“ HOWARD R Price lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



HOWARD R Price - June 16, 2021 at 06:15 PM

VC

“ Vernita Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



Vernita Coleman - June 16, 2021 at 03:50 PM

RA

“ Earth has no sorrows that heaven can not heal. RIP Mr. "A" you will be missed. 🙏💙🙏  
Adams/Younger Family



ReGina J Adams - June 16, 2021 at 03:48 PM

AF

“ Alex Farrell&family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



alex farrell&family - June 16, 2021 at 02:21 PM



“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater.



June 16, 2021 at 12:48 PM

JR

“ *Janice Ruffin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Janice Ruffin** - June 15, 2021 at 09:04 PM

TR

“ *Tujunana Reaves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Tujunana Reaves** - June 15, 2021 at 09:03 PM

JR

“ *Janice Ruffin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Janice Ruffin** - June 15, 2021 at 08:56 PM

Jl

“ *Jill, Jillian and Robert Hurst III purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater.*



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**Jill, Jillian and Robert Hurst III** - June 15, 2021 at 07:20 PM

LW

“ I do not think anyone who attended Carpenter Road Elementary from Kindergarten through 6th grade, and I am now 45 years old. I do not think that anyone who attended Carpenter Road will ever forget Mr. Atwater.



*I never had to be disciplined, but I would often hear him tell others that he would jump down their throats and tap dance on their liver, lol.*

*Rest in Heaven, Mr. Charles Atwater.*

*Former, student, LaTonia Webber*

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**LaTonia Webber** - June 15, 2021 at 05:16 PM

AW

“ Audrey Watkins-Savage lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



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**Audrey Watkins-Savage** - June 15, 2021 at 07:47 AM

AC

“ Angela L. Carr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



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**Angela L. Carr** - June 14, 2021 at 04:35 PM

MC

“ *Uncle, your kind words, laughter and peaceful spirit will sorely be missed. My memories of all the good times while growing up will be pervasive in my thoughts and heart.*

*I love you Uncle Charles, I am happy that you are at peace.  
Marsha Carr*

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**Marsha Rachelle Carr** - June 14, 2021 at 09:39 AM

DG

“ *Delphine Greene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Delphine Greene** - June 13, 2021 at 09:29 PM

DW

“ *Dennetta Dunn Waters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Dennetta Dunn Waters** - June 13, 2021 at 07:36 PM

WB

“ *When I first hired into Flint Community Schools, Mr. Atwater was my principal. He was kind, helpful, and witty too! Other new teachers should have been as lucky as I was to have such a wonderful education leader. I will forever be a Carpenter Road Roadrunner. May you RIP Mr. Atwater.*

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**Wanda J. Bady** - June 13, 2021 at 07:10 PM

WB

“ Wanda J. Bady sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



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**Wanda J. Bady** - June 13, 2021 at 07:06 PM

AP

“ Thank GOD for the privilege of meeting you. RIP, our lost is heaven's gain.



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**Alberta Pruitt** - June 13, 2021 at 12:21 PM

VB

“ Vanessa Brackins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



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**Vanessa Brackins** - June 12, 2021 at 11:21 PM

VB

“ Vanessa Brackins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



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**Vanessa Brackins** - June 12, 2021 at 09:05 PM

LC

“ *Lillian Chandler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



Lillian Chandler - June 12, 2021 at 07:41 PM

SC

“ *Sandra Cabine lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



Sandra Cabine - June 12, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ *Yvette Wofford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



Yvette Wofford - June 12, 2021 at 06:25 PM

JM

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Atwater.*



Joan McKinnie-Sanders - June 12, 2021 at 04:48 PM

DB

“ Dorothy (HOLDEN) Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



Dorothy (HOLDEN) Brown - June 12, 2021 at 04:04 PM

FF

“ From the Pressley Family purchased the Healing Tears - All Pink for the family of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater.



From the Pressley Family - June 12, 2021 at 11:04 AM

EP

“ From your neighbor Eula Pressley, I will always remember the good snow day snow days that we shared. You will be missed dearly.



Eula Pressley - June 12, 2021 at 10:52 AM

KR

“ Prayers to the Atwater family.  
Everett & Kimberly Roberts



Kimberly Roberts - June 12, 2021 at 10:02 AM

JS

“ *Janie Surles-Cork sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Janie Surles-Cork** - June 12, 2021 at 09:36 AM

LC

“ *Lanary & Shirley Culpepper sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Lanary & Shirley Culpepper** - June 12, 2021 at 08:14 AM

PT

“ *Phyllis Thorne sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Phyllis Thorne** - June 12, 2021 at 02:49 AM

TW

“ *Rip to an amazing man, you touched a lot of ppl and for that we will always be grateful.*



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**Tara Whiteside** - June 11, 2021 at 11:34 PM

TW

“ Sincere Condolences and Prayers in the loss of Uncle Charles. May your memories provide a sense of comfort during this time - continue to trust in the Lord and allow your faith and Love for him to be a source for strength. God's Peace. Tracy and Melody Woods-Detroit

Tracy Woods - June 11, 2021 at 10:50 PM

KJ

“ Kevin Jordan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater




Kevin jordan - June 11, 2021 at 08:25 PM

AJ

“ ALICE FAYE JOHNSON sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater



ALICE FAYE JOHNSON - June 11, 2021 at 04:26 PM

 B  
Renée  
Brumfield

“ We love you Uncle ❤️

B Renée Brumfield - June 11, 2021 at 01:54 PM

KW

“ *Kendra Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Kendra Watson** - June 11, 2021 at 01:18 PM

DM

“ *I recall Mr. Atwater at Christ the Liberator and Trinity United Presbyterian Churches. He liked to honor the Veterans on Special occasions. Whenever he spoke at church he always made sure that his remarks were well prepared and thoughtful.*  
*Delphine Moore*

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**Delphine Moore** - June 11, 2021 at 11:39 AM

MD

“ *Mr&Mrs Bill Doxie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Mr&Mrs Bill Doxie** - June 11, 2021 at 10:52 AM

CW

“ *Calvin & Delores Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Calvin & Delores Williams** - June 11, 2021 at 10:20 AM

CG

“ *Mr. Atwater was a great educator. My sincere condolences, prayers, and love to my Nephew Saleem and family.* ”



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**Carol Gardner** - June 11, 2021 at 02:45 AM

SS

“ *Sheryl Anderson Steward lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater* ”



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**Sheryl Anderson Steward** - June 11, 2021 at 12:03 AM

VJ

“ *You will be greatly missed.* ”



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**Valerie J** - June 10, 2021 at 09:09 PM

SH

“ *For my daughter Bianca, Mr. Atwater was so kind to my daughter when she went to Carpenter Rd. School, to the family we love you* ”



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**Sylvestine Houston** - June 10, 2021 at 07:20 PM

BG

“ *Lov’U Unc Mr, Charles Atwater*



**Benny Gipson** - June 10, 2021 at 05:59 PM

DE

“ *Mr Atwater was a very special person. He was a father figure to all the Flint students. He was a very caring soul. He helped so many people.He will never be forgotten. Carpenter Road School was a great school because of Mr.A.He was the world greatest boss! I going to miss him. Love Deb Edson*



**Deborah Edson** - June 10, 2021 at 05:30 PM

BF

*PRAYERS going OUT TO ALL the families WHO will suffer from THE passing of cousin CHARLES ATWATER.*

**BRENDA FULLER** - June 11, 2021 at 09:22 PM

DM

*RIP CHARLES, MY FIRST COUSIN. YOU HAVE WENT TO JOIN OTHERS FAMILY AS WE'RE WAITING ON JESUS TO COME*

**DOROTHY MCBRIDE-TAYLOR** - June 11, 2021 at 09:28 PM

AC

*Uncle Charles you were a "STAND UP COMEDIAN" in your own right. You were such a breath of fresh air while in your presence in a room. A wise man and genuine person is your persona.I miss you so much. Your niece Angela Carr*

**Angela Carr** - June 14, 2021 at 04:44 PM

Andrea Gray

“ *Uncle Charles you have been such a inspiration to me and our entire family. Job well done uncle! You will missed. Love you to the moon and back*



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**Andrea Gray** - June 10, 2021 at 10:06 AM

KW

“ *Kimberly Woodley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Kimberly Woodley** - June 09, 2021 at 11:12 PM

BJ

“ *Brenda Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Charles Wesley Atwater*



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**Brenda Jones** - June 09, 2021 at 11:54 AM