



Charles Fuller Sharrard Jr.

September 28, 1926 - June 29, 2022

On June 29, 2022, Charles Fuller Sharrard, Jr. completed his earthly life and passed away in Alhambra, Illinois, at the age of 95. Charles was born September 28, 1926, in Wheeling, West Virginia. His parents were Charles F. Sharrard, Sr. and Nena Montgomery (Stafford) Sharrard. After his parents divorced, he lived in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, with his mother and her parents and his Uncle Buddy (Cyrus B. Stafford) who was the hero of his youth. Charles' mother remarried to John T. Shaw and his father remarried to Gertrude Maria Louise Graef. Charles grew up in Glen Ellyn; Coolidge, Arizona; Livonia, Missouri; and Oak Park, Illinois. He enlisted in the Army after graduating from Oak Park High School and served as a Military Police officer in post-war Germany. During his service he became interested in photography and, upon returning to the States, he completed education at the Wilshire Photography School in Los Angeles. He returned to Oak Park and took a job at the Ken Schmidt Studio, the first step of a storied career in commercial photography. In 1955, Charles married his sweetheart, Carol Ann Bouker, and after a few years in Oak Park, they moved to Glen Ellyn. They had three sons: Charles F. Sharrard III (Troy, IL), Richard F. Sharrard (Jo Ellen Moore, Glen Carbon, IL), and Gregory F. Sharrard (Jerolyn Crist, Dowagiac, MI). When the marriage ended in 1969, Charles moved to Chicago and the boys spent weekends with him. Soon after starting at the Ken Schmidt Studio, Charles' boundless enthusiasm for the work led to his real calling as the sales representative for the studio, making pitches at advertising agencies and bringing in new jobs. He forged relationships, making friends in the industry. Before long, Charles and several of those friends formed their own studio; they purchased Shigeta-Wright Associates and moved their studio to the Old Town neighborhood of Chicago.

Charles, his partners, and their photographers, built Shigeta-Wright Associates into one of the premier commercial photography studios in the Midwest. They were known for their food photography, wrap-around lighting effects and problem-solving abilities. Many of Charles' best friends were artists from advertising agencies he worked with. For his 80th birthday, a great many of his co-workers and associates came to Chicago to celebrate and recall stories of their adventures in the business.

For the past 20 years, Charles and the love of his life, Faye Hilder, have been inseparable partners in the pursuit of grand retirement. They enjoyed dancing, travel, dining out, and

visiting family and friends. In addition to Faye and his three sons, Charles is survived by: his dear sister Mary Gayle Sharrard Johnson and husband, Ronn Johnson, St. Petersburg, FL; granddaughter, Cassandra Sharrard Studebaker and husband Matt, Maryville, IL; grandson, Richard F. Sharrard, Jr. and wife Danielle, Worden, IL; and great grandchildren, Ainsley S. Turnbough, Quincy J. Sharrard, and Jonah L. Studebaker. Always positive, always generous, Charles loved the people in his life, and they loved him. He completed two volumes of his memoirs and had started on the third. When recently asked what he would like to be remembered for, he said his sense of humor. The Charles we know would probably wrap up this life story with "Abada, abada, abada, that's all folks!" We will miss him in so many ways. A celebration of life with family and friends will be held in Chicago at a later date. Weber & Rodney Funeral Home in Edwardsville is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be expressed online at weberfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ Thinking of you and your family. Priscilla & Tim



Tim - July 09 at 11:34 PM

 Daryl
Buesking

“ Rick sorry to hear about your dad. You are in my prayers

Daryl Buesking - July 06 at 02:43 PM