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Hooray! Dr. Charles Iliya Has Overcome The Coronavirus!



Dr. Charles Iliya



by Hayley FitzPatrick

One man who has devoted his life to saving others experienced what his family describes as a "miracle" after battling COVID-19 in a Dallas, Texas, hospital.

Dr. Charles A. Iliya, a trauma surgeon in the emergency department at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas for 30 years, started to feel sick and experience COVID-19 symptoms on March 12.

His wife, Rebecca Iliya, a retired nurse, also felt ill at the time, so the couple decided to self-quarantine. However, according to the couple's youngest child, Elizabeth Iliya, 25, her father, who had **no pre-existing health issues**, was doing "so much worse" than her mother.

"He was sleeping 20 hours a day. He wasn't taking a lot of fluids. He was having trouble breathing," Elizabeth Iliya said, recalling her father's symptoms in an interview with "Good Morning America."

Elizabeth Iliya said that her father had to call three times to get a test because they were not widely available at the time. Charles Iliya was finally tested for COVID-19 on March 15 and didn't receive his positive test result until March 21, a day after he was admitted to the emergency room at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas. Her mother did not get tested and continued to quarantine.

"I thought he just wasn't taking enough fluid and he was just going to get an IV and get out of the hospital in a couple days," she said. "But when he got to the hospital, he started having respiratory issues, and within three days he was on a ventilator."

After Iliya was put in a medically induced coma and placed on a ventilator on March 23, his condition was not improving. The family was given extremely low odds that he would make it through the night, Elizabeth Iliya said.

Three days later, her father's health deteriorated so much that she and her three siblings, Paul Iliya, 32, Catherine Iliya, 31, and Peter Iliya, 28, said goodbye to him over FaceTime. "We were able to just tell him that we loved him and missed him so much and we were ready for him to come home," Elizabeth Iliya said.

She added that she couldn't believe she was even in the position where she and her family were saying goodbye to her father. "When we were sitting there FaceTiming I didn't know what I felt. I just wanted him to hear my voice," she said.

"I felt like life really wasn't fair in that moment," she continued. "My dad has worked his entire life saving other people and working with his patients, and he was about to die alone [surrounded by] people that he knew, but were not his family."

However, seven days later, on April 2, she was able to speak to her father again when he was taken out of the medically induced coma. She said his doctors felt it was time for him to try to breathe on his own, and he has been improving every day since.

"I definitely saw my dad cry, which I cannot say I've ever seen before in my life," she added. "His discharge was not only for him, but for all the health care workers that worked so diligently and tirelessly to help him and reunite him with us."

In a video featuring his discharge from the hospital, Charles Iliya told the crowd: "I just want to thank everybody. I know it took a lot of people and a lot of praying and a lot of effort, and I do appreciate it. I know that I've kind of been given a second chance, so I better make good use of it...I don't think I could've made it without y'all."

With Iliya now in recovery, the family is giving thanks for health care workers across the nation, specifically the team in Dallas that saved their father.

She credits the hospital staff and team of doctors, nurses and patient techs at Texas Health Presbyterian -- many which her father knows well and has worked with for years -- for helping him pull through.

This amazing recovery hits home to me because he removed my husband's gallbladder in 2015 and also performed surgery on my friend, former Sulphur Springs resident Randall Choate several years ago. Joy Wilson

There is good news in our country-we just need to report it!



At The Corral Gate



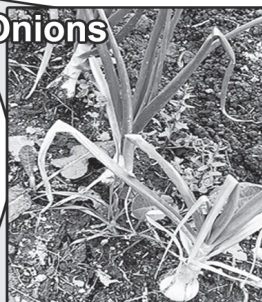
People are really getting into gardening! I mean, Spring is garden time for the old guard in NE Texas. We may garden because our parents gardened or farmed. We might garden because we know there's nothing like the taste of fresh produce. Especially home-grown tomatoes! And many younger people and growing families are gardening because it's a handy food source and because it's healthy as well as smart for body, mind and spirit. I'm glad to see anyone take up a shovel or hoe and learn to get familiar with it and the soil that's underneath their feet. Lately, the earth worms I am uncovering in my backyard garden are getting huge in size! Even a worm has a job to do in nature, and they do it with gusto. All their lives, they aerate and improve the soil, and while they may end up on the end of a fish hook, I imagine they did exactly what they wanted to do during their lifetime. Can we say as much?



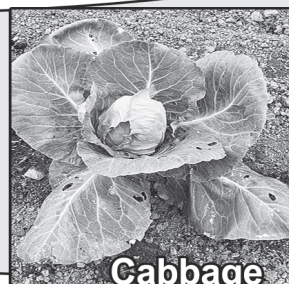
Marlon's potato patch

Do you know Marlon Webb? Marlon once had a pretty thriving business and a location in town where he sold fresh produce. He brought it to town in a refrigerated van and the vegetables were beautiful and robust. He had bushels of peas, and also offered tomatoes, peppers, squash, fresh greens and onions, and later on in the summer, oodles of okra as well as a few outstanding varieties of watermelons and cantaloupes. Back then, it was one of the pleasures of Summer to pull over and make your selections from Marlon's stand, knowing it was all fresh, organic, homegrown and an enduring part of life in small town Texas. And then, Marlon disappeared! And the next Spring, he didn't set up his stand, and not the next year either, and as the years went on, Webbs Farm Fresh Produce gradually became just a fond memory. But guess what, I found him or rather he found me! Lo and behold, Marlon is alive and well and still farming out in the Arbala area. You know, I've rarely met anyone more joyful and thankful as he, and so happy to be able to do what he loves. Despite the aches, pains and limitations of carrying the title of Senior Citizen, Marlon is a Christian example of gratefulness to be living and working in the beautiful world which God made by His own hands. Recently, I was reminded that the first man was made in a garden!

Onions



Bees at work in the English pea vines



Cabbage

I stopped by to see Marlon on April 9. I found him mowing on the zero turn, while his friend Gary Mayers ran the disc on an unplanted patch. See, the ground had dried up a little bit but more rain was due that night, so Gary pitched in. Lately, farmers have had to risk getting stuck each time they get out into their fields! I didn't disturb the two guys because they were busy, but I did take some photos of some of Marlon's gardens and patches.

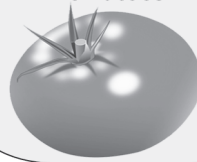
I'm not sure if this is a real saying, but it occurred to me the other day when I was putting away my garden gloves. "Every day you spend in the garden adds a day to your life" Funny, my mother claimed that about fishing and I heard someone else claim it about the golf course. Maybe it's just doing what one enjoys! Anyhow, I guess it's true. Thanks Marlon, for the pictures and the friendship. Look for me to stop by again when it's 'home grown tomaters' time!



Marlon Webb

Marlon Webb turned 69 on his birthday April 17. He's a military veteran, retired postal worker and graduate of SSSH Class of 1969. He is married to Donna Easley Webb.

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Gary Mayers helping out before more rainfall arrives

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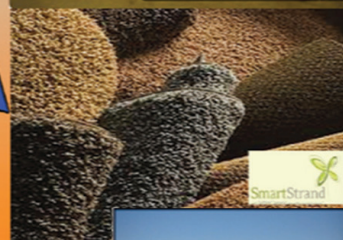
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Joshua 1:9

My Senior 2020! Love, Mimi

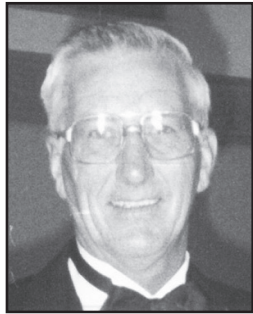
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George William Bell

A Memorial Service and Celebration of Life for George Bell, age 79, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at a later date. Mr. Bell passed away on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at Christus Mother Frances Hospital, Sulphur Springs, TX.

George William was born on September 30, 1940 in Sulphur Springs, to G.W. Bell and Thelma Armstrong Bell. He married his high school sweetheart, Bobbee Bunch in Sulphur Springs on June 23, 1959.

He was a retired self-employed auto dealer. George was a member of Central Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Bobbee; son, Scott Bell and wife Dana of Mansfield; daughter, Lisa Bell Eckerd of McKinney; grandchildren, Dan Daniel and wife, Lindy, Crystal Daniel, Garrett Bell, Megan Bell, Jordan Eckerd, Elle

Eckerd; five great grandchildren; sister, Carolyn McKinney and husband, Dan; brothers, Archie Bell and wife,

Jimmie, James Bell and wife, Becky. George was preceded in death by his parents; son, Bubba Bell, daughter, Julie Daniel; brother, Henry Bell; sisters, Margaret Clark, Patricia Rogers, Dollie Temples. Arrangements by Murray Orwosky.

Benny Matthews

Graveside funeral Services for Benny Matthews were Friday, April 17, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at Weaver Cemetery in Saltillo, Texas. Visitation, come and go, was held at Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home on Thursday, April 16, at 4:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Benny Matthews, age 68, of Saltillo, Texas passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2020. He was born on October 11, 1951, in Sulphur Springs, Texas to William Matthews and Addie Hokes Matthews. Benny was a retired law enforcement officer and a veteran of the U.S. Army and the Army National Guard.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Roy Matthews and Derrell Matthews; and sister, Bobbie Parris.

Benny is survived by his son, Michael Matthews of Saltillo, Texas; brother, Leo Matthews of Saltillo, Texas; and sister, Mollie White of Saltillo, Texas and a host of nieces and nephews.



Judith Ann Slatter

Judith Ann Slatter, age 74, of Brashear, passed away Friday, April 17, 2020, at Senior Suites Care and Rehab in Emory. Memorial will be held by family at a later date, when restrictions are lifted.

Judith Ann Slatter was born on October 12, 1945, in Sturgeon Bay, WI, to the parentage of Clayton and Juanita Mann Gustafson. Judi married Larry Slatter on February 12, 1972 in Sault Ste Marie, MI. She worked as the secretary for Lawrence Propane for 10+ years, while raising her family. She was a Christian, and a long-time member of Miller Grove Baptist Church. She was a fun and loving, wonderful grandmother who loved her family very much. She will truly be missed.

Survivors include: Husband: Larry Slatter of Emory; Daughter: Shannon Millard, and husband, Bruce, of Sulphur Springs; Grandchildren: Daylan Millard and Reid Burns; Great-grandson: Jadx Cummings; Sisters: Annett Inman of Michigan and JoAnn Witter of Las Vegas; Numerous other loving family and friends. Preceded in death by: Parents.

Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home of Emory is in charge of the arrangements.



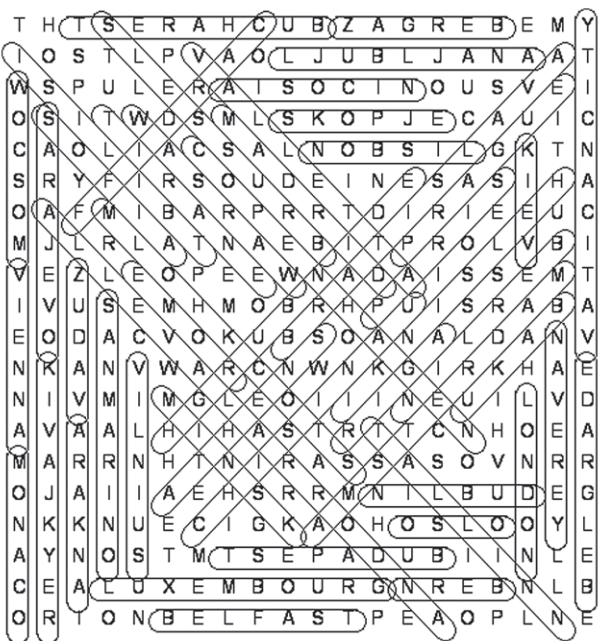
Linda Maria Kellum Jones

Private family graveside services for Linda Maria Kellum Jones, age 77, of Campbell, will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at Greenview Cemetery with Pastor Pam Zolczer officiating. A come and go visitation will be held during regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Linda passed away on Sunday, April 19, 2020 at Hunt Regional Hospital in Greenville, TX. She was born on May 23, 1942 in Dallas, TX, the daughter of Joseph and Margaret Cruse Kellum.

She married Duane "Butch" Jones on June 17, 1960 in Dike, TX. He preceded her in death in 2014. She worked in middle management as a cashier for Safeway Grocery Store. She also did tax preparation for AARP. She is survived by son, Keith Jones of Campbell, daughters, Gina Vittetoe Giles and husband Jamy of Commerce, Lisa Jones Gentry

of Bonham, sisters, Nina Kellum Alford of Sulphur Springs, Judith Kellum Gowins of Kaufman, grandchildren, Casey Harrison and husband Phil, Jessica Saldana and husband Miguel, Brody Vittetoe and wife Chelsea, Molly Jones, and great-grandchildren, Evie Jones, Grady Vittetoe, Penelope Harrison, Jude Harrison, Reed Vittetoe, and one on the way. In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, son in law, Jeff Vittetoe, daughter in law, Kelly Jones, and brother in law, James Gowins. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Answers



Miscellaneous

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A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN

Tumbleweed Smith



Stevie Ray Vaughan had an unusually brilliant talent with a guitar. At the height of his career he was killed in a helicopter crash near Chicago in 1990. He was 35. One of his close friends said, "That boy came from nowhere and went everywhere." Kirby Warnock, a filmmaker who lives in Fort Stockton, is doing a documentary about Stevie and his brother Jimmy. The title of the documentary is FROM NOWHERE.

Tumbleweed Smith

"We were very blessed that Jimmy Vaughan, Stevie's older brother, totally cooperated with us," says Kirby. "There has been several books about Stevie Ray Vaughn and at least two documentaries, but none of them has the person who knew him best, his older brother Jimmy. He did not cooperate with any of those books or films, so we were lucky to get him. He provided us with a bunch of old photographs, home movies and real insight from the person who knew Stevie Ray Vaughan the best. Jimmy and Stevie shared a bedroom growing up in the family home in Oak Cliff. Everybody thinks they were from Austin but they were born and raised in Oak Cliff. They didn't move to Austin until they were 18 or 20. They were already accomplished guitar players by the time they got to Austin. They really learned their craft in Dallas playing night clubs when they were 13 or 14 then moved to Austin and played in bars down there. That's where they kind of took off."

Kirby got hold of some of their early band mates who played with them in Oak Cliff before they were famous.

"I got some great interviews with them and some great old photographs. You're going to learn stuff about Stevie Ray Vaughan you never knew before from this film because we've got people who were in the room with him when all this happened and they're telling their stories. We have some great stories."

In 1976, Kirby was working for a music magazine in Dallas and met Jimmy.

"I went to see him play. He was playing at a place in downtown Dallas called The Texas Chili Parlor and I got to know him there. I wrote an article about him and his band The Fabulous Thunderbirds, so I would just stay in touch with him. Through him I found out about his younger brother Stevie. I interviewed both Jimmy and Stevie a lot before they hit it big.

"All these years later I approached Jimmy, knowing that he had ben declining all requests to talk about this. I finally said to him 'if you don't tell this story now, you're gonna die one day and everybody can say whatever they want. We need t get the story from you now while you're alive because once you're gone you won't have any control over the story being told.' He agreed with that and helped us get interviews with Eric Clapton and Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top and Jackson Brown, people that played with him and helped them out when they were climbing the ladder."

The film is due out soon. Kirby's company is Trans Pecos Productions.

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