



Charles Ruel Fraser

June 12, 1919 - October 29, 2013

Charles Ruel Fraser, age 94 of Bolivar, passed away at 11:45 AM Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at the Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar after a brief illness. He was born on June 12, 1919 in Polk, MO, to Elgie R. Fraser and Elpha M. (Hood) Fraser.

From the time he was a young boy, Charles worked in the family's general store, which gave him a valuable education in business at a very early age. This practical education, combined with a strong work ethic, enabled him to succeed in whatever business venture he attempted. Charles owned and operated grocery stores in Bolivar, Stockton, Buffalo, Eldorado Springs and Lebanon. His store was the first super market in Bolivar and Polk County. Before opening the grocery store he attended college in Springfield and was a member of the SMS Boxing team.

Charles met his wife, Georgia Lee Marsh, while in college at SMS. They married on February 12, 1942 in Louisburg, MO. He and Georgia operated the store until he was asked to run the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank of Bolivar in the fall of 1961. Although he had no previous banking experience, he was a natural for the job. He was president, CEO, and Chairman of the Board and by 1963, he had the fastest percentage growing bank in the state. The bank later merged with Commerce Bank of Kansas City and the name was change to the Commerce Bank of Bolivar. Charles remained as president, CEO and

Chairman of the Board until his retirement at age 65. He continued to remain very busy and active in community affairs.

In the 1970's Charles, along with Clifford Cribbs and Bob Butler, founded the first nursing home in Bolivar. Charles was also one of the founders of the Bolivar Land Development Company and was currently the sole owner. He also started the Industrial Development Corporation of Bolivar to draw industry into the city. He received an appointment from Washington, DC, and worked for many years as council member and chairman of the Small Business Administration serving the Bolivar area. Charles was the finance chairman and a board member of the Modern American Life Insurance Company of Springfield, MO until it was sold. He also served on the Bolivar City Council and as President and board member of the Chamber Of Commerce , as well as board member of the Commerce Bank of Springfield. He was recognized for his service to the community with the 21st Civic Service Award and was awarded an honorary doctorate from SBU.

When his sons were young, Charles and Jim Strange started the first Little League Baseball team in Bolivar, the Fraser Yankees. The league has grown to include many teams, for both boys and girls of all ages. He also was one of the originators of the Kiwanis Club in Bolivar.

Charles and Georgia liked the same things; playing bridge, golfing and traveling-- but they especially loved their children and grandchildren and their church, First Baptist Church of Bolivar.

Charles and Georgia enjoyed a very happy life together until she died in 1993. Charles later enjoyed many years with Elizabeth Teters of Bolivar until she passed away at the end of last year.

Surviving Charles are his two sons, Michael Fraser and wife Linda of Bolivar;

and Pat Fraser and wife Penny of Bolivar. His Five Grandchildren, Rob Fraser and wife Lauren, Ryan Fraser and wife Hayley, Larry Fraser and wife Andrea, Jarrett Fraser and wife Angela, Justin Fraser and wife Tracy; and six great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life for Charles R. Fraser will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 11:00 AM in the Butler Funeral Home Chapel in Bolivar, MO with Rev. Ray Leininger officiating. A brief visitation will precede the Celebration at 10:00 AM. Burial will follow in the Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home of Bolivar, MO.

In lieu of Flowers the family requests Memorial Contribution be made to the First Baptist Church of Bolivar, 316 N. Main, Bolivar, MO 65613 or the Polk County Humane Society, 4404 S. 82nd Rd., Bolivar, MO 65613

Friends and Family may sign the guest book at www.butlerfuneralhome.com

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles Ruel Fraser*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Charles Ruel Fraser*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *My name is Mike. I talked with (and) knew Charles in recent years. It started at one of the nursing homes in Bolivar. My dad was there for a short time. While there, Charles would come in there to visit. He and his son would also go to McDonalds on Saturdays and I would see him there. He would visit with me, my Mom and Aunt while there. I looked forward to the little visits. He was a very nice man and someone who I am happy to have met.*

The Hildebrands - November 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike, so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and Prayers for you and your family.*

Ralph & TEXAS Buckner

Texas Bucknet - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Charles was a good friend and mentor when we were young. God Bless him,
Robert and Sheri Hale*

Robert and Sheri Hale - November 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Mike. We will miss your Dad at Kenny's cafe.*

Jack & Arlene Palmer

Jack & Arlene Palmer - November 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Brian Mitchell has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*

Brian Mitchell - November 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Charle's passing.*

Jerald Andrews - November 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Thoughts and prayers with the family at this time...*

Dennis & Kathy Mauck - November 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Mike and Family, I have always enjoyed visiting with your Dad. Has a young man trying to make it Bolivar he and your mother were very helpful to me. When I went to work at a competing bank he offered advise in the banking world and encouraged me to be my best. He will be missed by many, has he has helped many. We will keep your family in our prayers.*

Matt Henenberg - November 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

C(

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family in your loss of a great man.*

Captain Clyde O. Wimberly, U.S. Vavy (Ret) - November 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Mike & Pat, we're so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family. God Bless you all.*

Robert & Tricia Price - November 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ *Rob & Lauren, Jarrett & Angela--We are saddened to hear of the passing of your grandpa. We will remember your grandpa's awnry grin and sense of humor. It trickled down through the Fraser family for sure. Sorry for your loss, Abby & Darrin, Dani & Denny Inglis*

Abby & Darrin Inglis - November 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *Mike and Family: Our sympathy goes out to you at the passing of your Dad. Our memories of him and your mother are synonymous with what made Bolivar a wonderful place to live and work. Remember when Georgia had me (Kay) and Jim Skarvan and Terry Smith come over to your home to practice dancing because we were all planning to go to our first dance at the Girl Scout house. What a successful and full life Charles led, and we pray you will be comforted by precious memories and the love of God and friends.*

Larry and Kay

Larry and Kay McColm Davis - October 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Mike and family,
Sorry to hear about Charles passing. He was a good person and I
always enjoyed the opportunity to visit with him.

Lawrence

Lawrence Anderson - October 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ very proud to have known Charles and his family

phil stottlemyre - October 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Ken and Debbie Keil - October 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ We are sending hugs and prayers to your family. We are so sorry for
your loss.

Larry and Elizabeth Turner - October 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Mike and Pat: My prayers are with you and your families in the
passing of your Dad. I know you will greatly miss him, but I along
with his others neighbors will so much miss him mowing his lawn
daily and making sure his neighbors were fine even though he was
our elder. In my thoughts and prayers.

Karolyn Degraffenreid - October 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ *I have fond memories of my husband and I playing golf with Charles and Elizebeth on Sunday afternoons at the Bolivar Golf Club. He was a fine man!* ”

Nancy Crowell - October 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Charles Ruel Fraser* ”

Dannie and Mary Jane Hubert - October 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM