

*Charles
Henry
Spurling*



*A
Celebration
of Life*

Memorial Service

Saturday

December 20, 2014

12 pm - 3 pm

Sharonville Convention Center

Sunrise -

April 23, 1936

Sunset -

December 7, 2014

Charles Henry Spurling died peacefully on December 7, 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio at the age of seventy-eight.



Charles is survived by his wife Gwendolyn Spurling, his children Michael (Rhonda) Spurling, Carlos Robinson, LaWanda Johnson, Jamie (Melinda) Spurling, Robin Spurling, Keith (Tammy) Spurling, Brad Spurling, Mark Hill, Charles Washington, and his sister, Henrietta Johnson. Other survivors include 33 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, 5 great/great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, cousins, and an uncountable number of friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Montford Spurling, his mother Caudie Caffie—Frazier—Spurling, his siblings Vivian Spurling, Sylvia Spurling, Lee Spurling, Grover Frazier, Melvin Frazier, Helen Frazier, Frankie Crawford, Mary Welborn, and his son Gary Williams.

Charles was born on April 23, 1936 in Lincoln Heights, OH, the youngest of ten children. He married Gwendolyn Matthews in 1961.



Charles had music in his blood. His father played the guitar and his mother sang in the church choir. He taught himself to play the guitar at age 9. Besides playing guitar and keyboard, he was also a natural composer. He recorded and wrote many songs for himself and other artists. Later he worked for Syd Nathan, owner of King Recording Company as their A&R Producer responsible for talent scouting and artist development.

A reporter once stated, songwriting, Charles says, is as natural as breathing: “All I’ve got to do is find a chord structure that I like, or a drumbeat that I like, and from the time that I was born to now, I can write songs just like that. It’s like starting all over again.”

He wrote songs for and worked with such artists as James Brown, Hank Ballard, Marva Whitney, Junior McCants, Connie Austin, Randy Crawford, Bootsy Collins, Catfish Collins, Righteous Sisters, LoveJoys, Holidays, and Carmen Electra. Also, living in Lincoln Heights he grew up with the Isley Brothers. “I had a doo-wop group called the Swans at that time, when I was thirteen years old. The Isley Brothers would be under the streetlights and we’d be on the street across from them. They’d sing a song and we’d sing a song. Those were good days.”

Some of the songs Charles is famous for are Buddy Boy, Popcorn Charlie, Unwind Yourself, The Boy Needs Someone to Love, She Cried Just a Minute, Don’t Let Him Hurt You Baby, Let Me Be (A Steppin’ Soul), Mr. Cool, and That’s My Zone (He’s Pickin’ On).

Another great passion of his was boxing. He was an amateur boxer and once had the opportunity to spar with Muhammad Ali. Anyone who knew Charles knew he was tough and didn’t take no “*stuff*” off of anyone. He also instilled this in his children. “Don’t start any trouble, but if it finds you, you finish it” he would always say.

Charles Spurling will be greatly missed by many, he was a kind, loving man and would do anything for anyone as long as you didn’t rub him the wrong way. He was a legend in many ways and will be remembered as a character to everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

The song may have ended,

but the melody lingers on....

Irving Berlin



Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, visits, condolence cards and flowers.

*In everything give thanks: for this is the will
of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18