



## Charles McLendon, Jr.

February 2, 1947 - November 29, 2020

The Rev. Dr. Charles H. McLendon, Jr., PhD

Dr. McLendon was born February 1947 in Decatur, Ga. He grew up on a farm outside of Conyers, Ga. Dr. McLendon finished Oxford College and Emory University, with membership in the Chi Phi Fraternity. With limited funding, he worked his way through Emory as a retail clothing salesman, choir director and a singer with the Chastain Park Broadway Musical Theater of Atlanta. After completing Emory, he enrolled in Law school finishing with a Juris Doctor of Law. He served six years in the Army Reserve with the 310th Civil Affairs of Chamblee, Ga, and went on to complete a master of Divinity with specializations in Religious Education and Clinical Psychology. He was ordained to work with the Virginia General Assembly monitoring issues of Church-State Separation and Religious Liberty.

Dr. McLendon continued his ministry by directing choirs and pastoring local churches in Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia before becoming licensed as an insurance agent. He then began servicing the National Headquarters of The Presbyterian Church in America. In this capacity, he covered the property and liability needs to the denomination, including their missionaries worldwide. He served them for over 25 years. He also had his own independent agency in Conyers, Ga. For 25 years, he enjoyed serving during the Christmas season as Santa for regional malls in the Southeast, Northeast and as far

West as Texas. His last educational endeavor was completion of a joint doctorate: Doctor of Divinity in Crisis Resolution and a PhD., in Spiritual Philosophy. Dr. McLendon's ministry and life is best summarized by saying: He loved people and encouraged their smiles.

He was predeceased by his father, Charles Harry McLendon; mother, Emajo McLendon Lewis; brother, Walter H. McLendon; son, Charles Hamilton McLendon. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Gena McLendon; brother, Joe F. McLendon and wife Renee, Boseman, Montana; son and daughter-in-law, Charles McLendon III and Nicole of Cumming, Georgia; daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer Lynn Bishop and Cliff of Atlanta, Georgia; grandchildren, Wyatt, Grant, Amelie, Felicity as well as many nieces and nephews. There will be a small family graveside service at Scot Ward's Green Meadow Memorial Gardens in Conyers, Ga. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no visitation but the service will be recorded and a link will be provided at a later date on the Scot Ward Website. Charitable gifts in memory of Charles H. McLendon may be sent to Presbyterian Church of America, 1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 105, Lawrenceville, GA 30043 or online at PCAac.org. Condolences may be submitted online at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, Ga 30012

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eblGuFkz9vd1BAUHEBZexqLbPpwvSJ\\_U](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eblGuFkz9vd1BAUHEBZexqLbPpwvSJ_U)

# Cemetery Details

## **Green Meadow Memorial Gardens**

677 American Legion Rd.  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Graveside Service*



---

**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - December 18, 2020 at 03:17 PM

JR

“Charlie McLendon loved his Lord and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and in my observation happily served him for many, many years. He was quite an interesting character in the best sense of that expression. He could be in a very serious conversation regarding spiritual matters, or discuss serious aspects of current events, discuss the topics of religious liberty, or enter into issues of government, history, philosophy and such, or design an insurance portfolio for a church denomination, or disappear for six weeks or so to be Santa Claus to a thousand kids during the Christmas season. I am not sure in absolute terms, but I do not believe there was anyone else quite like him among the people the great and living God made in his generation.

*I met him because he had designed a set of insurance policies to serve the Presbyterian Church in America at a time when very few wanted to take on that kind of task. The system he set up has been tweaked a little in the flow of time as changes came (like the need for cyber insurance), but the basic plan is still in place and is serving the church now.*

*I along with many others are sorry for his passing and I am sure family and friends who loved him miss him and grieve the loss. But I am glad for his life and faith, and I trust he is by the grace and love of God now with his Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, in that far, far better place.*

*May God, our heavenly Father, by his Holy Spirit comfort and bless all who miss his presence.*

*John W. Robertson  
PCA Business Administrator  
Presbyterian Church in America*

---

John Robertson - December 10, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles McLendon, Jr..*



---

December 06, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ *Renee McLendon sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles McLendon, Jr.*



---

**Renee McLendon** - December 05, 2020 at 12:43 PM



“ *Renee McLendon lit a candle in memory of Charles McLendon, Jr.*



---

**Renee McLendon** - December 05, 2020 at 12:42 PM

LO

“ I, like many others, believe Charlie embodied the wonderful attributes of Santa. He was kind, jovial and a great listener. More than just becoming Santa, Charlie used the opportunity as the giver of gifts to point others to the Giver of life. The true essence of who he was was firmly established in his faith of the Lord Jesus. I never understood how being Santa and celebrating the birth of Christ could hold the same space in someone's life until I met Charlie. He lived it well. Gena, Jenny, Chuck and the extended McLendon family, my heart goes out to you in your time of sorrow. I pray you will sense the Lord's comfort through the precious memories you shared together.  
In Love,  
Lori Justus

---

**Lori** - December 03, 2020 at 08:43 PM

JJ

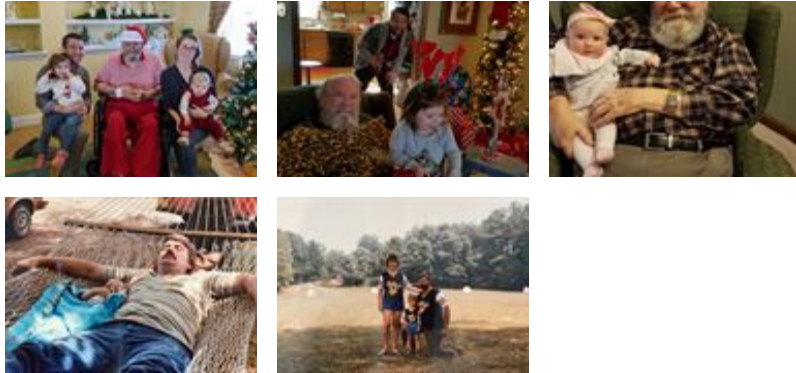
“ Thanks for being a good friend to our family, Charlie. I wish the McLendon family the best, he will be missed by many. Santa Claus will be missed,  
Jim Justus

---

**Jim** - December 03, 2020 at 08:41 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - December 03, 2020 at 04:10 PM

JM

“ *JOE F MCLENDON lit a candle in memory of Charles McLendon, Jr.*



**JOE F MCLENDON** - December 02, 2020 at 03:26 PM

JB

“ *Joe~Renee~Melissa~Kristin~Jake~ Brandy~Brooke purchased the Reflections of Glory Wreath for the family of Charles McLendon, Jr..*



**Joe~Renee~Melissa~Kristin~Jake~ Brandy~Brooke** -  
December 02, 2020 at 03:12 PM

PK

“ Ernest has known Charles and his family most of his life. However we together along with our son, Shea, shared some stories with Charles for Charles became our medical insurance agent for many years. Their were many wonderful discussions about religion, family, and a subject meaningful to us - traumatic brain injury. Charles and Shea both had had a history with TBI. Charles didn't let TBI stop him one bit from becoming a successful individual in ALL that he did. Charles shared some great and humorous Santa stories.

*Gina and family, we are deeply sorrowful for your grief and rejoicing with the hope we all get to see "Santa" again in his NEW Santa suit in our heavenly home.*

*Sending our thoughts and prayers with "HIS Love".*

*Peggy, Ernest and Shea Kirkpatrick*

---

**Peggy Kirkpatrick** - December 02, 2020 at 01:12 PM

JB

“ I came to know Charles several years ago, getting his hair ready for his “Santa” visits! I always enjoyed my time with him, he was full of knowledge, an expert on many subjects! He always referred to me as “the miracle on Monticello street”! That was the location I work on! I am saddened by the loss of such a fine person! My prayers go out to the family, may you be comforted by his memories!

*Jeff Blomberg*

---

**Jeff Blomberg** - December 02, 2020 at 09:25 AM

KM

*I've had the pleasure of knowing the Mclendon family since high school.*

*Such a sweet family.I remember meeting Charles when I was first married he gave me some good advice in child rearing.He said to me remember you can't teach a child they learn from what you do.That always stuck with me.He was such a kind and sweet soul and the most beautiful santa I had ever met. My heart breaks for Ms Gina and their family. Prayers and hugs for all of them.*

*Kathy (Huffman) mcdonald*

---

**Kathleen McDonald** - December 02, 2020 at 10:46 AM

ZS

*My sincerest condolences to the family. I remember Charles coming over to the house to practice with my dad. He had a beautiful voice. To this day I still remember his warm up routine and how I would fall asleep to his voice when I was a little girl when we live on South Hicks Circle. He will be missed and remembered.*

---

**Zena Skipper** - December 03, 2020 at 08:51 AM

DJ

*Charles was one of the most brilliant students that I had the pleasure with which to work. When Charles was in high school, he won first place in vocal competition. Charles also won first place in speaking and won third in the nation in speaking. Charles had a great personality and will be missed. Rest in peace.*

*James Skipper Phd.*

---

**Dr. James H. Skipper, Jr.** - December 03, 2020 at 10:53 AM