



Charles Ward Kromer

AUG 7, 1937 - DEC 8, 2020



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Charles Ward Kromer

AUG 7, 1937 - DEC 8, 2020

Weslaco/Farmington: Charles Ward Kromer Jr. 83, went to be with the Lord Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Charles was born on August 7, 1937, to Charles Ward Kromer Sr. and Vera Gladys Ryan on a cotton farm in Hollis, Oklahoma. The family moved to San Antonio, where Charles and his brother and sister grew up. Charles was a natural athlete and excelled in competitive sports. He was most competitive in basketball and track.

He funded his college education by playing on the Texas A&I basketball team. Charles was also active in ROTC while in college. After graduating from Texas A&I, Charles earned his Master's Degree from Sul Ross State University, where he began his part-time career of refereeing college games, a second job he continued throughout his life.

Sul Ross is also where he met his soul mate, Alyce Ray. Charles and Alyce were married in 1965, and it was a whirlwind of adventure. They started their family in Somerset, Texas, where Charles worked as a teacher, principal, and head coach. While in Somerset, Charles coached the varsity girls basketball team taking them to the Texas state finals.

He was also one of the founding coaches in Texas to petition for girls track to become a UIL event. Charles worked his way up to Superintendent of Schools, and his career required the family to move often. Charles accepted a position in the Rio Grande Valley as the head girls basketball coach in the mid-80s.

While in Weslaco, Charles was the founder and first president of the RGV Basketball Coaches Association. He also led the Weslaco Pantherettes to compete in the Texas state regional basketball championships, where he had the privilege of coaching his oldest daughter Alyssa. In 1993, the couple moved to Farmington, New Mexico with their twin teenage daughters, Misty and Kristy.



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Charles worked as head coach for the Shiprock Girl's Varsity Basketball team, leading them to state competition every year until his retirement. Although retired, Charles and Alyce both became adjunct instructors at San Juan College. Not surprisingly, Charles came out of retirement to take on another coaching position, leading the Kirtland Varsity girls basketball team to win the New Mexico State Championship, a long-awaited career goal.

Charles was also instrumental in revitalizing the Kirtland Youth Association, an after school and summer program serving the youth in the San Juan, New Mexico area. He facilitated the funding of a brand new facility. Kirtland's community was so thankful for his help, they named their brand new gym, "Charles Ward Kromer Jr." Gymnasium, and dedicated the day to him.

Although education and coaching were Charles's chosen professions, he was about so much more. He continued refereeing games throughout his entire life, always working a second job to ensure he met his family's needs. Some of these evening games were hours away from home, but Charles never turned down a job and never complained.

He was six hours shy of earning his Ph.D., but raising five children required lots of extra refereeing in the evenings, so the family took precedence, and sacrifice came naturally to Charles. Charles was a talented woodworker, learning from his father, who was a carpenter.

Every time the family moved to a new home, Charles remodeled it before the family moved in. Ensuring that his carpentry skills were passed on, he taught both his sons, Kevin and Chris not only construction but the valuable lesson of hard work and doing things right the first time. He built clocks, furniture, cradles, rocking horses, and toy boxes for his kids and grandchildren and even helped renovate gym floors.

Charles lived and breathed sports. As a young boy his father signed him up to compete in Golden Gloves where he learned to fight. His favorite teams were the Astros, Spurs, and Cowboys, but he loved all sports and competitions. Charles was a great cook and enjoyed barbecuing for his family and friends.

Charles knew a little bit about everything. He had lots of careers and hobbies that shaped his knowledge. To name a few, Charles had a pilot's license, he worked on the King Ranch, where he even tried his hand at riding bulls. He drove an ambulance, worked at a funeral home, taught



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driver's education, managed an office supply store, sold school fundraising programs in a thirty-seven county territory in west Texas, and even became an ordained pastor.

Becoming an ordained pastor, one of his countless goals, was the most important of all. He was able to dedicate and baptize many of his grandchildren. Charles's Christianity is evident throughout his career and life. He visited nursing homes to spread God's word and founded Mountaintop Ministries in Farmington, New Mexico.

Charles and Alyce moved back to Weslaco, Texas, in 2017 and joined the First Baptist Church in Weslaco. Charles continued to serve, leading the Christian Youth Basketball League just last year. Charles lived a life of faithfulness, integrity, compassion, dedication, humility, and generosity.

He led by example, and his character was firm and never wavered, a true disciple of Christ. Charles is preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Vera Kromer, and sister, Josephine Eutzy (Les). Charles is survived by his loving wife of over fifty-five years, Alyce, children, Kevin Kromer (Debbie) of Harlingen, Alyssa Edwards (LTC (Ret) Dominick) of Boxsprings, GA, Chris Kromer (Sylvia) of Weslaco, Kristy Vaughan (William "Ty") of La Feria, Misty Bakane (Johnny) of Louisville, KY, brother, COL (Ret) Bill Kromer (Joy), grandchildren, Madison Nicole Kromer, Benjamin, Joshua (Katie), and Danielle Edwards, Christian, Cameron, Brenden Kromer, Hunter, Austin, Caleb Vaughan, John, Molly, Charlotte, and Lily Bakane.

Visitation will be Monday, December 14th, 4-8 pm, at McCaleb Funeral Home. A celebration of life will be Tuesday, December 15th, 10 am, at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. Contributions can be made to RGV Mid Valley Camps, memo, the "Future Charles Kromer Scholarship Fund" and mailed to PO Box 534 Weslaco, TX 78596.



Tribute Wall

Charles Ward Kromer

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JF

Joe Filoteo posted:

I wish to extend my sincere condolences to the entire Kromer family in the loss of Coach Charles Kromer. The coaching family of the RGV will always remember Coach Kromer as a passionate and motivating mentor to us all and especially to his players that he touched and groomed as individuals. It was an honor and privilege to have been associated with him and family. God bless you. Coach Joe Filoteo Edinburg High (ECISD)

December 20 at 6:54 AM

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December 20 at 6:54 AM

JP

Janet Peterson posted:

That should say "love to you, Alice."

December 16 at 3:24 PM

JP

Janet Peterson posted:

As director of professional development at San Juan College, I worked with Charles and Alice when they taught at San Juan College. Charles was dedicated to working with our students. He was engaged and wonderful to work with. I am honored to have worked with him. May he Rest In Peace. Love you to, Alice.

December 16 at 3:23 PM

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December 16 at 3:23 PM

CY

Chenoa Yazzie posted:

Coach Kromer was a great basketball coach, he coached with passion and fire. He coached me, my last 2 years of High School in Bloomfield NM. I would often see him around the community at the grocery stores. The last time was in 2014 I believe. He had great impact on our team and players those 2 years. Im very blessed to have been coached by him. RIP

December 16 at 12:22 PM

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December 16 at 12:22 PM



Anonymous sent a Lavender & White Standing Spray to the Kromer family.



December 14 at 8:49 AM

FF

Friends & Family posted:

Lavender & White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 14 at 8:49 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Healing Tears - Blue and White to the Kromer family.



December 14 at 3:51 AM



Friends & Family posted:

Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 14 at 3:51 AM



Anonymous sent a Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray to the Kromer family.



December 13 at 7:01 PM



Friends & Family posted:

Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 13 at 7:01 PM



Anonymous sent a Shades of Purple to the Kromer family.



December 13 at 3:09 PM



Friends & Family posted:

Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 13 at 3:09 PM



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Mary Kathryn (Kathy) Icr Lamotte posted:

My Dad, Don Ice, who lives in Farmington, NM read about the passing of Charles in the Farmington Daily Times this morning. He found Charles' name to be interesting and wanted to know if he had any relatives from the West Virginia / Pennsylvania area. My father's name was Ward Kraemer Ice and one of his brothers was Kromer Ice. Just didn't know if this was coincidental or if there was any family connection. God bless your family and the outstanding life of Charles. Kathy (Ice) LaMotte
kathy.lamotte@icloud.com

December 13 at 9:26 AM



Mary Kathryn (Kathy) Icr Lamotte posted:

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kathy.lamotte@icloud.com

December 13 at 9:26 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Lily to the Kromer family.



December 13 at 3:33 AM



Anonymous sent a Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket to the Kromer family.



December 12 at 10:07 PM



Friends & Family posted:

Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 12 at 10:07 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White to the Kromer family.

December 12 at 3:54 PM



Friends & Family posted:

Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 12 at 3:54 PM



Anonymous sent a White Standing Spray to the Kromer family.

December 12 at 1:40 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Lily to the Kromer family.

December 12 at 7:51 AM



Friends & Family posted:

Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 12 at 7:51 AM



Anonymous sent a Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White to the Kromer family.

December 12 at 6:38 AM





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Kirtland Youth Association sent a Lavender & White Standing Spray to the Kromer family.



December 12 at 6:26 AM



Friends & Family posted:

Kirtland Youth Association purchased the Lavender & White Standing Spray for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 12 at 6:26 AM



Cheryl R Benally posted:

Sending my deepest condolences to Coach Kromer's family. Charles worked endlessly as he was our Executive Director for the Kirtland Youth Association. He contributed so many hours to advocate for new youth facilities in Kirtland NM. He worked along side my late husband, Lynn. Both of them were fierce and driven to implore and expand the youth facility. He was also my daughter's basketball coach at KCHS. Although they were state runner's up, he led a group of young ladies to be leaders. What more to have a gymnasium named after Coach Kromer... our KYA Board of Directors bid him a well deserved farewell when he proclaimed his retirement and moved to Texas. Charles you were instrumental to our community and my family! May you rest peacefully and my continued prayers to Alice and family. Ahéhee Mr. Charles Kromer!

December 11 at 12:27 PM



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EZ

Eric Zamora posted:

Coach, thank you for the opportunity you gave me while at KCHS. As a young coach, I learned a lot from you. You helped me reach my goals as a professional and more importantly, taught me some things about life. Thank you sir! Much love coach! Rest easy!

December 11 at 11:43 AM

EZ

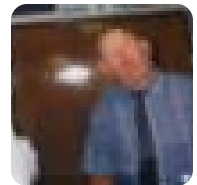
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December 11 at 11:43 AM

GD

Greg N Liz Douglas shared an album called **Memories Album**.



December 11 at 8:50 AM

GD

Greg N Liz Douglas posted:

So sorry to everyone in the Kromer family. I got to know him as a coach, but I also knew him as Alyssa's dad when we had an infinite number of hang outs and sleep overs in high school. Prayers for all of you.

December 11 at 8:45 AM

GD

Greg N Liz Douglas posted:

So sorry to everyone in the Kromer family. I got to know him as a coach, but I also knew him as Alyssa's dad when we had an infinite number of hang outs and sleep overs in high school. Prayers for all of you.

December 11 at 8:45 AM



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Jimmy And Merle Kromer Norman, Oklahoma sent a Love's Embrace Roses – White to the Kromer family.



December 10 at 9:17 AM



Friends & Family posted:

Jimmy and Merle Kromer Norman, Oklahoma purchased the Love's Embrace Roses " White for the family of Charles Ward Kromer Jr..

December 10 at 9:17 AM



Charley Tyler posted:

Coach Kromer impacted many young people through his coaching & teaching career. But his faith in God was an even greater impact on so very many people. Coach recruited me to deliver gospel messages to a local nursing home, Cedar Ridge in Farmington, NM. I was blessed to serve with him sharing devotional, prayers & songs with many residents! He was a saint to so very many! Praying for his wife & family! May God's Holy Spirit comfort your heart with love & your mind with memories! By: Charley Tyler

December 10 at 8:02 AM



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Media

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Greg N Liz Douglas shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

December 11 at 8:50 AM



Three legendary coaches hanging together. WHS 1992



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Charles by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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