



Charles Roy Horton

January 16, 1940 - October 12, 2025

Dr. Charles Roy Horton, 85, of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on October 12, 2025, at Baptist Reynolds Hospice House.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Adele; his son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Betsy Horton; his granddaughter and her husband, Margaret and Colin Kegel; his grandson, Jack Horton; his brother and sister-in-law, Bryan and Sheri; and his sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Mark Hart.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elnora Clara Wilson Horton and Charlie Oden Horton; his daughter, Camela Adele Horton; and his sister, Eleanor Horton Wright.

Charles was born on January 16, 1940, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Charlie Oden Horton and Elnora Clara Wilson Horton. He graduated from Byrd High School in Shreveport before earning a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Louisiana Monroe (1964–1967). He went on to receive his Ph.D. in Medical Pharmacology from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine (1968–1970), followed by post-doctoral studies in Medical Pharmacology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (1970–1971) and Biomedical Engineering at Louisiana Tech University (1975–1976).

Charles devoted his life to education, science, and ministry. He taught

Biomedical Engineering at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana, for 12 years (1976–1988), where he inspired students and colleagues with his intellect, curiosity, and warmth. In 1988, he and his wife, Adele, moved to Memphis, where he served as Associate Professor and Director of Planning at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center until his retirement in 2000.

Charles's first love was for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His faith shaped every part of his life, and he was quick to share the hope he had in Christ. Yet he didn't stop at words—he lived his faith daily. When someone shared a need or struggle, he wouldn't simply promise to pray; he would pause right then and pray with them. His life was a reflection of the Gospel he believed, full of compassion and sincerity.

After his faith in Christ, the greatest joy of Charles's life was his 62-year marriage to his beloved wife, Adele. Together they built a life filled with joy, laughter, and steadfast devotion. They shared adventures near and far—from camping trips and a train journey

through Canada to travels in Italy—and celebrated the anniversary of their very first date every year.

Charles also deeply loved his friends and family. He was the kind of person who stayed in touch with everyone. He loved talking on the phone, catching up, and sharing stories. He was part of a family group chat that buzzed daily with messages, jokes, and dinner plans—it was just one more way he stayed connected to those he loved.

His love extended well beyond family and friends. He lived out the words of Jesus: “In as much as you have done it unto the least of my brethren, you have done it unto me.” It wasn't unusual for him to meet a stranger who

seemed to be in need and invite them home for dinner. Charles didn't just talk about God's love—he showed it. He cared for people deeply, welcomed them with warmth and humility, and loved them the way Jesus would.

A Memorial Service celebrating Charles's life will be held on Monday, October 20, 2025, at The Chapel at Hope Church Memphis (8500 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38018). Visitation will be from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m., followed by the service at 11:30 a.m., officiated by Reverend David Morris. Kirk McGuire, teacher of Charles and Adele's most recent Sunday School class, will share a scripture reading, and Gray Allison, also a Sunday School teacher and close friend, will offer the eulogy.

Charles's warmth, wisdom, and steadfast faith left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. He will be deeply missed but joyfully remembered by family, friends, and countless lives he touched through his teaching and ministry.