



William "Sandy" Church

January 23, 1947 - October 3, 2023

William Buck Church Jr, known to many as Sandy, beloved resident of Mooresville, NC, avid Tarheel fan, and bad ass Marine, passed away peacefully in the morning of October 3rd. He was surrounded in love and appreciation while snuggled warmly under his Marine Corp blanket.

His spirit is carried on by his wife of over 52 years, Carey, and his son Chris and daughter Kathy, who have both developed complexes over how they are ever going to live up to his legendary status. Additionally, he leaves behind his loving daughter-in-law, Amber Hager Church and loyal son-in-law, Ted Hathcock. The lights of his life were his grandchildren Colby, Arden, Christopher, and Caroline. His sister Jane Hendrix, brother Jack Church, numerous nieces and nephews, and half the population of Mooresville are left with precious memories.

He is reunited with both his parents, William Buck Church and Joncie Nantz Church, who we know welcomed him with open arms and a hot dog all the way.

Sandy graduated from Mooresville Senior High in 1965, attended Mitchell Community College in Statesville, and joined the Marine Corp that later took him to Vietnam during which he "accidentally" blew up a water buffalo with a grenade launcher. He married Carey Belk after spotting her at the local What-

a-Burger. He became Athletic Director at the Mooresville Recreation Department where he served for 22 years, umpired or refereed literally every child who played Mooresville rec ball in the late 80s and early 90s, and became the first director at the Charles Mack Citizens Center on Main Street. After "retiring" Dad effortlessly held jobs at World Market where he may or may not have bought his family members merchandise at the employee discount and then at the local ABC store. He knew everyone and everyone knew him. Genealogy was his passion, and he had us related to so many people that Chris and Kathy seriously considered DNA tests before marrying their spouses.

Dad taught us many things in his life including...

Always pull for the Carolina Tarheels or anyone who is playing Duke.

Marines are the toughest branch. All others are second rate.

Play sports.

Life is too short not to eat cookies.

When driving through a tunnel, beep your horn.

The best shows are I Love Lucy, Andy Griffith, Gomer Pyle: USMC, Bonanza, and Gunsmoke.

Drive like it's the Daytona 500 when taking your daughter, who is in labor, to the hospital.

Thank the Veteran when you see them; they deserve it.

Overspend at Christmas. Every year.

Always show up.

He was everything a good person is. Our hero until the end. He will be missed beyond measure. Heaven just got a whole lot cooler.

Semper Fi, Dad.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 5th from 6:00PM-8:00PM at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, 494 E. Plaza Dr, Mooresville. Funeral services will

be held at 11:00AM on Friday, October 6th at Vanderburg United Methodist Church, 1809 Charlotte Hwy, Mooresville. Burial with full military honors will follow the service in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to S. Mitchell Mack Hospice House, 1325 Mecklenburg Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28115 or Vanderburg United Methodist Church, 1809 Charlotte Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28115.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Church family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Vanderburg United Methodist Church

1809 Charlotte Hwy
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

OCT 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Funeral Service

OCT 6. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Vanderburg United Methodist Church
1809 Charlotte Hwy
Mooresville, NC 28115

Graveside Service

OCT 6. 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM (ET)

Vanderburg United Methodist Church
1809 Charlotte Hwy
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

SS

“ So sad to hear of Sandy’s death. He was a very nice fellow and kind to me as a new MSHS student in 11th grade. I know he will be much missed in the community. Peace for you all.

Sherry Sherrill - October 31, 2023 at 12:03 AM

TN

“ Fine man and true “Carolina Blue”. No more calls discussed..... your Heavenly Father is in charge. Praying for those left behind.

Tom Nixon - October 06, 2023 at 01:41 PM

JH

“ Jimmy & Rachel Dean Hucks lit a candle in memory of William “Sandy” Church



Jimmy & Rachel Dean Hucks - October 06, 2023 at 01:40 PM

JB

“ Sorry for your loss
Sandy was a good man!! Always had a great time officiating with him

Joe Boyette - October 05, 2023 at 10:04 PM

CM

“ Cynthia McLaurin lit a candle in memory of William "Sandy" Church



Cynthia McLaurin - October 05, 2023 at 09:54 PM

CH

“ Growing up in Mooresville, Sandy was such a great mentor to so many young people. I had no idea he had served in Vietnam. But definitely knew he was a Carolina fan. What a great life. Will be missed.

Cliff Homesley - October 05, 2023 at 09:21 PM

BT

“ Imagine my surprise at finding Sandy was a Carolina fan!! Rest in peace Sandy.

Bill Thunberg - October 05, 2023 at 07:51 PM

GG

“ Gina, Bill, Mason & Adam Gremminger purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of William "Sandy" Church.



Gina, Bill, Mason & Adam Gremminger - October 05, 2023 at 05:51 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William "Sandy" Church.*



October 05, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ *I got to know Sandy as a little leaguer with the Mooresville Recreation Department. He was an umpire and he played ball in the early 70s where I watched my first baseball games live. A good friend over the years. My prayers are with his Family.*

Ritchie Oliphant - October 05, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Sandy" Church.*



October 05, 2023 at 12:41 PM



“ *Prayers and condolences for all!*

William D Bumgarner - October 05, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of William "Sandy" Church.



October 05, 2023 at 10:01 AM



“ Frankie loved growing up a few doors up from the Church family. While reading Sandy's obituary/tribute to Frankie this morning, we both cried and laughed at the same time because much of what Chris shared about his dad sounded like Frankie: the Tarheels, play sports, TV shows, overspend at Christmas! Chris, your tribute showed pure love for your dad❤️ Prayers for you all!
Frankie and Paula Thompson

Paula Thompson - October 05, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Sandy" Church.



October 05, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Sandy" Church.

October 05, 2023 at 09:27 AM

MC

“ Mike & Michelle Cleveland lit a candle in memory of William "Sandy" Church



Mike & Michelle Cleveland - October 04, 2023 at 10:37 PM

MC

I'll miss seeing Mr. Church ride his lawn mower. Prayers to the family.
Mike and Michelle Cleveland
Neighbors

Mike & Michelle Cleveland - October 04, 2023 at 10:40 PM

KC

“ Kathy White Cavin lit a candle in memory of William "Sandy" Church



Kathy White Cavin - October 04, 2023 at 09:16 PM

MS

“ Mike Smith lit a candle in memory of William "Sandy" Church



Mike Smith - October 04, 2023 at 08:11 PM



“ *Beverly Holt lit a candle in memory of William "Sandy" Church*



Beverly Holt - October 04, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Sandy and I had a great relationship when both of us were Town Employees. He was so easy going, and he never spoke poorly of anyone. Rest in Peace my dear friend!!!*

Barbara B Whittington - October 04, 2023 at 05:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Sandy" Church.*



October 04, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ *Cindy Jacobs lit a candle in memory of William "Sandy" Church*



Cindy Jacobs - October 04, 2023 at 02:55 PM

BM

“ Carey and family it was a wonderful gift to have met Sandy and to enjoy his Marine stories.
Sandy also gave amazing programs on his Confederate veterans.
Prayers with all of you at this time
Bobbie Motley
Chaplain Battle of Bentonville UDC



Bobbie Motley - October 04, 2023 at 02:47 PM

PT

“ My Uncle Sandy was larger than life he'd take us on tractor rides through the property when Chris, Kathy and I were kids. He amazed us all with not only his knowledge of history but how he took ancestry research to the next level..I never knew that the Belk family was related to so many people. My fondest memory was when my daughters were babies and we met him and Aunt Carey at Myrtle Beach he was the only one they wanted to hold them, he was their Marine. He also made sure to take them on a hay ride for their 1st 4th of July back home. He will always be in our hearts not only as an uncle but as a fellow veteran, when I decided to go in the Air Force he agreed with my Papaw that it was substandard to the Marine Corps. We will miss you and we will always love you.

Your niece,
Pam

Pam Little Taubman - October 04, 2023 at 12:48 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of William "Sandy" Church.*



October 04, 2023 at 12:40 PM