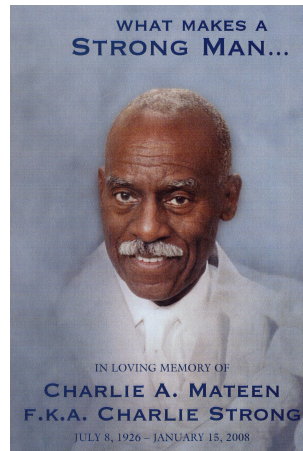


With The Name of G-d, Most Merciful Benefactor, Most Merciful Redeemer



Charlie A. Mateen, formerly known as Charlie Strong, was born to Will and Mattie Ann Strong, Sr. on July 8, 1926 in Texarkana, TX and passed on January 15, 2008. Charlie was raised in Henseley, AR where he met the love of his life, Marie Barnes and they married on February 15, 1944 and celebrated 63 years of marriage together and were one month shy of 64 years. There were eight children born to this union and Charlie accepted Islam in 1960 and he lived his life as a sincere and devoted Muslim and was an “excellent” of a Husband and Father.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Claude Strong and Sahala-Deen Mateen, formerly known as Will Strong, one sister Rosie Mae Barnes, two sons, Allen Strong and Lamar Strong, three grandsons, Askia (Doss) Shakir, Kashif Muhammad and Aaron Strong, one great-granddaughter, Samaira Hayden and one sister-in-law, Mary Mateen.

Charlie leaves to cherish his loving memory his devoted wife, Marie K. Mateen; sons, Jameel Mateen and Steve (Gwen) Strong of Gary, IN and Raymond Strong of Minneapolis, MN; three daughters, Nadiyah Muhammad and Reanell (Ronnie) Bradley of Gary, IN and Margaret (Benjamin) Headd of San Mateo, CA; twenty-four grandchildren, thirty-seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, a host of Special Nieces and Nephews and one Special Brother and Friend in faith, Rahman Ali.

Charlie and Marie opened up their own fruit and vegetable business, “Sister Marie’s Produce” at 25th and Washington Street in Gary, IN in February 1975. Charlie also peddled his fruits and vegetables off of his truck, which was his passion because he enjoyed meeting and getting to know people. Charlie was a caring and giving person. He helped so many people and children while in business. He was affectionately called the “Vegetable Man”. He loved flowers and opened a vegetable plant and flower shop on 22nd and Broadway in Gary.

Charlie loved his morning walks and loved meeting with his buddies at McDonald and he was an avid pool player.

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The Best

*God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be.
So He put His Arms around you
And whispered “Come to Me”.
With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.*

Love Lives On

*Those we love remain with us
for love itself lives on,
And cherished memories never fade
Because a love one’s gone...
Those we love can never be
more than a thought apart
For as long as there is memory,
They’ll live on in the heart.*

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