



DONALD WADE CHARLTON

November 24, 2025

He was born on 9 July 1935 in Oriskany, VA. His parents were Everett Charlton and Sarah "Sallie" Gertrude King Charlton. Donald Wade was their first son, and they raised him to love deeply, stand firm in his beliefs, be kind and fair to others, and trust in God. He carried these values with him throughout his entire 90 years. His love for his wife, Betty Jo, was only one demonstration of his deep love, and their 70 years of marriage are proof of these convictions.

Don and Betty raised two daughters, Angela and Susan, and he told the girls he loved them every time he saw them. He was proud of them as young children and throughout their adult lives, supporting and encouraging them at every turn. He rejoiced when they brought grandchildren into his and Betty's lives.

Don was also proud to be a US Veteran, having served 4 years in the US Navy and then 18 years in the US Air Force. He began his military career in the US Navy at the age of 17. His assignments included the USS Ticonderoga and the USS Coral Sea, and he loved to share stories about his travels to Guantanamo Bay, Gibraltar, France, Italy, Spain, Sicily, Greece, Turkey, Portugal, and Mallorca. Don left the Navy but enlisted in the US Air Force shortly thereafter, where his assignments include NC, MS, NJ, and Morocco. Don retired from the Air Force on 01 February 1974, and returned to his roots

in Virginia, where he started his new career in real estate and auctioneering. His rank at retirement was MSGT E-7, and his highest awards were the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Air Force Outstanding Unit award for work performed in the aftermath of Hurricane Camille. If you asked Don about his military career, he was the first to tell you he was proud to have served his country and his only regret was that he couldn't do it again, "just one more time."

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Everett and Sallie; his brother, Lawrence Flippo (Janie); his nephew, Jeff; and his niece, Sally Jane. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty Jo, and two daughters, Susan Wirt (Allen), Angela Charlton (Andrew Reczkowski – deceased), grandsons Matthew Wirt, Ryan Wirt (Brittany Jones), and Victor Reczkowski (Grace Grubb), and his only granddaughter, Elizabeth Reczkowski. Victor and Grace blessed him with two great-grandchildren, Andrew and Josephine Reczkowski. His brother, Pat Charlton (Barbara), niece, Jody Soroka (Dan), and nephew, Mark Flippo (Deborah), also help keep Don's memory alive.

The family will receive visitors at New Castle Christian Church on Saturday, 11/29/2025, at 2 pm, with the celebration of Don's life to begin at 3 pm. The internment will follow at Huffman Memorial Cemetery on Route 42.

Cemetery Details

Huffman Memorial Park

Cumberland Gap Rd.
NEW CASTLE, VA 24127

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

New Castle Christian Church
282 Salem Ave
New Castle, VA 24127
(540) 864-5212

Funeral Service

NOV **29**. 3:00 PM (ET)

New Castle Christian Church
282 Salem Ave
New Castle, VA 24127
(540) 864-5212

Interment

NOV **29** (ET)

Huffman Memorial Park
Cumberland Gap Rd.
NEW CASTLE, VA 24127

Tribute Wall



“ *Paitzel Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of DONALD WADE CHARLTON*



Paitzel Funeral Home - November 28, 2025 at 11:54 PM

SC

Sorry to hear of Don's passing I had a piece of property he sold for me I had received some paperwork from a cousin about our Charlton heritage which he had a company to research for him Pat and I have talked about this several times our name was traced back to the 16th century with Sir Edward Charlton I do want to pass on to the family my deepest condolences Steve Charlton

Steve Charlton - November 30, 2025 at 09:49 PM

CL

“ *So sorry to hear of Don's passing. He was a wonderful man--I admired him so much. We in Oriskany will surely miss him.*

Carol Lewis - November 30, 2025 at 09:04 PM

CO

“ *We are so very sorry to hear of Don's passing. I always enjoyed conversations with Don..full of wisdom and love of Craig County. Many prayers for his family. A life well lived!
Chris and Mike Ouellette*

chris Ouellette - November 30, 2025 at 03:48 PM

AH

“ *Annette Hannah lit a candle in memory of DONALD WADE CHARLTON*



Annette Hannah - November 29, 2025 at 09:23 AM

SM

“ *Susie Mattox lit a candle in memory of DONALD WADE CHARLTON*



Susie Mattox - November 29, 2025 at 08:33 AM

MR

“ *I am sad to hear of Don's passing. He was such a kind soul and a great friend. Heaven truly gained an angel. Prayers lifted for his family.*

Melanie Reynolds - November 28, 2025 at 06:51 PM

SD

“ *I went to work for don at charlton real estate in jan/1995.he was a great real estate teacher and friend.im thankful for the opportunity to work with him.working with don and pat for the past 31 yrs was one of the best decisions i ever made.i will miss don very much.my deepest sympathy to angie,susan,pat and their families.sheila&jimmy dehart*

Sheila dehart - November 27, 2025 at 07:36 AM

KD

“ Don was one of the friendliest people I knew. I never seen him without a smile on his face. He loved to talk whether it was on the street, in the store or wherever. I will miss him.

Kenny Davis - November 27, 2025 at 07:23 AM



“ Betsy All lit a candle in memory of DONALD WADE CHARLTON



Betsy All - November 27, 2025 at 06:48 AM

JM

“ I am so sad to hear of the passing of Mr. Charlton. Don and I became fast friends after his daughter Susan introduced us many years ago. I don't believe that I have ever met a finer individual than Don. He was always so gracious, kind and loyal. I know that Heaven is celebrating the arrival of one of God's greatest creations. Don will be truly missed on this side of eternity, but I look forward to fishing with him one day when I get there too.

Johnny Mason - November 26, 2025 at 06:44 PM

WL

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing. Don was a wonderful friend! We will miss him greatly. Prayers for Betty and family. Woody and Robin Lipps

Woody and Robin Lipps - November 26, 2025 at 09:40 AM