



Dr. Charles Benjamin Colaw

May 3, 1919 - July 18, 2012

Dr. Charles Benjamin (C.B.) Colaw

Charles Benjamin Colaw, of Bartlesville, died, surrounded by family, at the age of 93, at 7:35 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2012, at the Sterling House South in Bartlesville, OK.

Services for Dr. Colaw will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at First Wesleyan Church in Bartlesville. Graveside will follow at the Memorial Park Cemetery directed by the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory. Services are open to the public.

Visitation will be held at the Stumpff Funeral Home Friday, July 20, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. where the family will receive guests.

Grandpa Bearers and escorts will be his grandchildren and will include David Colaw, Darrel Colaw, Stephen L. Colaw, S. Brent Colaw, Michael K. Colaw, and Bradlee Hadsell. All remaining grandchildren will serve as honorary Grandpa Bearers and include Kathy Lindquist, Cindy Nicolai, Shari Sauer, Sheila Bee, Julie Colaw, Michael C. Colaw, Patrick Colaw, John Colaw, Jana Hughes, M. Charles Colaw, Andrea Nichols, also nephews Jeff and Kevin Hay.

Memorial funds have been established and those who wish may send their contributions to First Wesleyan Church, 1776 Silver Lake Road, Bartlesville, OK and/or Oklahoma Wesleyan University, 2201 Silver Lake Road, Bartlesville, OK 74006.

Charles Benjamin Jr., the son of Charles Benjamin Sr. and Emma Sarilda (Powell) Colaw, was born in rural Wilson County, Kansas on May 3, 1919. He grew up on the family farm near Fredonia, KS, and for eight years walked several miles each day to the one room school house where he met the love of his life, Mabel Estella Kauth.

On August 22, 1937 C.B. and Mabel were married in the home of Mabel's parents. He and Mabel farmed, ranched and operated a retail oil distributing company until they answered the call to full-time ministry in 1947. The Colaws served as pastors at Woodlawn, Sharon Springs and Oakley, all in Kansas. In 1956, Rev. Colaw was elected as District Superintendent of what would become the Tri-State District of the Wesleyan Church and re-located to Blackwell, OK, where they also served as pastors of the local church. He remained as District Superintendent for 34 years.

Rev. Colaw served as a member of the Board of Trustees of what is now Oklahoma Wesleyan University and its antecedent schools since 1956. He was instrumental in locating OWU to the present campus in Bartlesville in 1959, when a flat tire led him to the property, which was for sale.

Colaw and his family moved from Blackwell to Bartlesville in 1959 and started First Wesleyan Church and were charter members.

He served as chairman of the Board of Trustees at OWU from 1981 to 2001. After his retirement as chairman, he continued to serve as Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees. For 51 years, he never missed a board meeting or a

graduation. Dr. Colaw also served the Wesleyan Church on their General Board of Administration, General Executive Council, General Commission on Administration, General Commission on Christian Education, Chairman of the Wesleyan Pension Fund, General Committee on Special Nominations, secretary of the General Commission on Educational Institutions and chairman of the General Officers Salary Committee. Dr. Colaw was a 38 year member of the Bartlesville Rotary Club where he was also Past President and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was also one of the founding board members of the Green Country Village.

In 2001, a women's dormitory on the campus of OWU was named in C.B. and Mabel's honor.

C.B. is survived by his children, Charles Colaw and his wife June of Yukon, OK; N. Rene Colaw and wife Sara of Bartlesville; Max Colaw and wife Ruth Ann of Bartlesville; Stephen Colaw and wife Joyce of Bartlesville; Judy Hadsell and husband Marion of Hopeton, OK; Joe W. Colaw and wife Dawn of Bartlesville; and Bernetta Hay and husband Ron of Bartlesville;¹⁷ grandchildren, 51 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren. One brother Dr. Bishop Emerson S. Colaw and wife Jane; one sister Rev. Marjorie Jantz Owens and husband Rev. Verdene Owens. He was preceded in death by his wife Mabel Estella Colaw on August 27, 2010, parents Charles and Emma Colaw, and two daughters-in-law, Vanita Kay Barrows Colaw and Betty Ann Friend Colaw.

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Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Charles Benjamin Colaw*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Dr. Charles Benjamin Colaw*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *We will most assuredly miss Dr. Colaw. What a great man of God he was! He and Mabel were such sweet people and were always pleasant to be around. I (Roger) really looked up to him and appreciated so much how he encouraged me in my position as Chairman of the OWU BOT. He was a mentor to me and I continually sought his advice. It will not be the same without him at the meetings. CB and Mabel leave behind a wonderful family to carry on their legacy. We thank God for each one of them and I know CB and Mabel are proud of each of them. May God bless the Colaw family richly in the days ahead.*

Roger & Marijean Metcalf - July 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dear Colaw Family,

Christy and I were in Haiti when Dr. Colaw passed. Saw the news today.

You are in our thoughts and prayers. We will always remember the wonderful smile and tremendous love of CB and Mabel. They visited and encouraged us during our son's illness shortly after he was born.

We praise God for the promise and hope of reunion and resurrection because of Christ!

The Mike and Reva Schultz family

Rev. Michael Schultz - July 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *He was a mentor to my father, Francis Hubbard, and a dear friend who always remembered my name as a student at BWC. What a precious man of God, now rejoicing with the angels!*

Beverly Hubbard Hoge - July 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *What a great man of God. I remember when he came to our church(Fairlawn Heights Wesleyan in Topeka, Ks. and he spoke on tithing. That was the first Jim and I had ever heard that concept. We have given to the Lord ever since. My sympathies to his family. (especially Jana and Tim).*

Jim and Linda Hodgson - July 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Hi again, I know it is hard to give up your father. It is hard to believe I have known the Colaw over 50 years. Love, Dorothy

Dorothy (Knight) Ryman - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ You were such a blessing in our lives. Thank you for your love and guidance through the many years!! What a wonderful example you have been to so many. Our loss is truly Heaven's gain.

Teresa Lee - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Hi, I'm sorry to hear of your loss of C.B. Colaw. I know it is to give up your father, but just know he is waiting for all of us. Love, Dorothy Ryman

Dorothy (Knight) Ryman - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Dr. Charles Benjamin Colaw

Charles & Louise Dodson - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ZC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family. He was Martin's and my DS since 1971. The Wesleyan Church has lost a great leader.

Zelda Capehart - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ My heart, thoughts, and prayers go out to each of you. What an amazing "legacy" C.B. left behind for his family, his community, and his church. An amazing gentleman with a kind heart and big smile. He will be missed. May his memories never fade and may his legacy live on in each life he touch. Love each of you, "Coffee"

Karen (Coffee) Sanders - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Max,
I know you'll miss your Dad. By all accounts, he was a great man and The Wesleyan Church has lost a great servant leader. But, we know that all of Heaven is rejoicing this day because a saint has come home.

Blessings and peace to you and your family.

Joann Eastburn

Joann Eastburn - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ Wonderful memories of Dr. Colaw from my childhood when he would visit our church in Caruthersville, MO yearly as DS. Will never forget him calling me in April of 2000 after our 16 y/o son died from cancer...he said " I understand our dear Brantley is in heaven this morning"....he prayed and cried with me... What a wonderful man of God he was...praying for the entire family.... Love to you all.

Vicky Fairey - July 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Thank you for your faithful example of commitment and service to God.

Dr. Charles J & Roberta McCallum - July 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Rev. Colaw. One of my favorites was when he did morning devotions for the youth at Tri-State District Family camp back in the 1980s. I looked forward to hearing his stories and learning from the Word. His encouraging words were always a blessing to me.

Vay Facione - July 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Our deepest sympathies for the loss of Charles. May the legacy of your life be honored through cherished memories.

Staff at Stumpff Funeral Home - July 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM