



# Charles William Fentress

JUL 23, 1930 - SEP 18, 2023



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# Charles William Fentress

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**C**harles William Fentress, 93, passed from this life into eternal rest surrounded by his family on September 18, 2023 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Juanita Maxey Fentress, daughters Karen Ann Fentress and Elizabeth Fentress Hallmark, son-in-law Brian K. Hallmark, grandchildren Allison A. Hallmark, Charles McClure (Mack) Hallmark, nieces Jane Williams, Gayle Grizzard Allen, Lynn Holt Ragland, nephews Thom Grizzard, Ernest Berry Holt III, James Vance Fentress Jr., Samuel N. Fentress, Mark Kornmesser and a host of cherished nieces and nephews. In addition, he is survived by his beloved sister-in-law, Kathleen Maxey Emch. He is predeceased by parents, Dr. Sam Jones Fentress and Minnie Gee Fentress, siblings Dorothy Grizzard, Samuel Fentress, Virginia Fryer, Margaret Holt, and James V. Fentress.

Charles was born on July 23, 1930, at home, 112 East Cedar Street, Goodlettsville, Tennessee, delivered by his own father, Dr. Sam J. Fentress. Charles graduated from Goodlettsville high school in 1948 after attending The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. He attended Vanderbilt University where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, graduating in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts. He taught school for two years at Issac Litton Junior High where he taught science and served as an assistant coach in football, basketball, and track. He often said that the class of 1958 was the best group of high school students he ever knew; he maintained a life-long contact with these students. After teaching for two years, he joined the Cain-Sloan Company executive training program in the summer of 1956 where he met his beloved wife, Juanita Maxey. They married in 1958 and at his death they had celebrated 65 years of marriage. In 1969, he was promoted to personnel director at Cain-Sloan and to Vice President of Personnel. While at Cain-Sloan Charles continued his education at The Nashville School of Law and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1969.

In 1975, he ran a successful campaign for Nashville Davidson County Metropolitan Council in the 34th district. He served in the council until 1999.



## Obituary

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After leaving Cain-Sloan in 1987, he was president of the Argus Foundation, a Nashville political consulting firm. In 1991, he joined the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) as state director for Tennessee, retiring from NFIB in 1998. After his years at the NFIB he did legislative education for the Home Builders of Middle Tennessee.

Charles was active in other community and civic affairs throughout his life, holding membership in the Tennessee Bar Association, Alumni Association of Leadership Nashville, and the Vanderbilt Alumni Association where he was a Quinq. He was a member, and past-president, of the Nashville Boosters, The Nashville Exchange Club, served on the Board of Governors as a member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Board of the Nashville Memorial Hospital and was a charter member of the philanthropic Memorial Foundation Board. Charles also served on the Board of Junior Achievement, The Children's Museum and the Visitors Board at Franklin Road Academy.

Faith and family were integral to all Charles did in life and he cared deeply about his community. In addition, he was a life-long athlete and sports enthusiast. During retirement, he loved rounds of golf with friends at the Harpeth Hills Senior Golf group, tending with Juanita to their large vegetable garden, serving as a polling official, spending time with his grandchildren and attending sporting events with his family and close friends. Saturday mornings were often spent with "The Coffee Club" bantering about the political scene. He led a men's Bible study at Woodmont Christian Church for 35 years, treasuring the friendships formed there. He was an Elder at Woodmont Christian Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church and an Elder Emeritus of Stephens Valley Church where he was a member until his death.

Visitation will be Thursday September 21, 2023 from 3:00 pm- 6:00 pm at Woodmont Christian Church. The funeral will be held at Woodmont Christian Church on September 22, 2023 from 3:00 pm- 4:00 pm with visitation one hour before. There will be a graveside service on Saturday September 23, 2023 at 11 am. We will be meeting at the funeral home at 10:30 am on Saturday and going out to the burial together at 11 am.

The family would like to thank Blakeford Livewell, Dr. John Peach and his staff, Alive Hospice and the Pharmacy Staff at Brentwood Walgreens for their love and faithful service.

In lieu of flowers memorial can be sent to Stephens Valley Church, Woodmont Christian Church or Alive Hospice.



# Events

**Charles William Fentress**

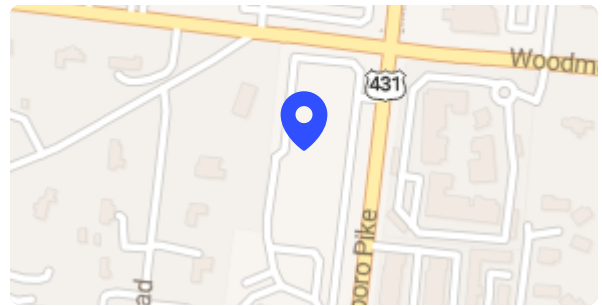
JUL 23, 1930 - SEP 18, 2023

## Visitation

**Thursday**, September 21, 2023

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM CT

**Woodmont Christian Church**  
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville TN 37215

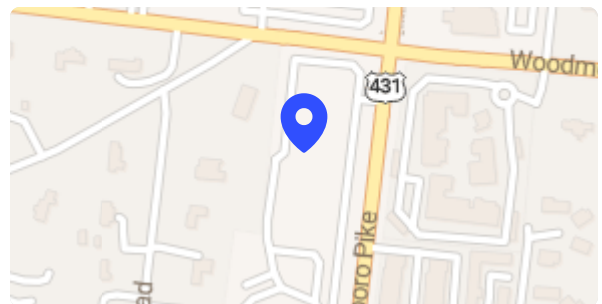


## Visitation

**Friday**, September 22, 2023

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CT

**Woodmont Christian Church**  
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville TN 37215

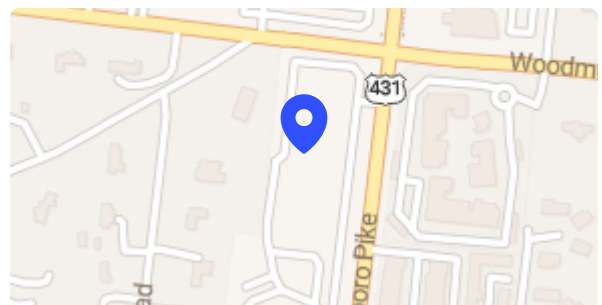


## Funeral Service

**Friday**, September 22, 2023

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT

**Woodmont Christian Church**  
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville TN 37215

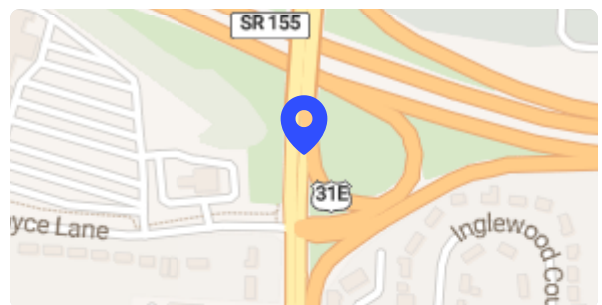


## Graveside

**Saturday**, September 23, 2023

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

**Historic Spring Hill Cemetery**  
5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville TN 37216





## Tribute Wall

**Charles William Fentress**

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LM

**Lucy Majors** posted:

Sending love and sympathy to the Fentress family. Charlie was an important part of my young adult years in Nashville. During the week, I had the joy of teaching Karen then Beth at FRA and on Sunday mornings I was blessed to be in the young couples class that Charlie taught. What fine role models he and Juanita were to me and to all our class. I'm glad we got to have him on "this side" for 93 years. His absence on our side beckons all of us to step up in lives of service to community, civic groups and especially in our faith journey. I hope to make personal contact with you much loved Fentresses. Lucy O'Neal Majors

September 25 at 3:59 AM

RM

**Robert G. McDowell** posted:

Charles was a true Southern gentleman and Christian. His service to the Nashville community and his church was beyond measure. His leadership qualities were an inspiration to those who knew him. He will be forever missed. Robert G. McDowell

September 21 at 3:12 AM

PQ

**Pat Quillen** posted:

Charles interviewed me in the spring of 1963 at the Tennessee Tech Student Union. I told him I had a nine month deferment from the US Army and then I would serve three and a half years on active duty. He told me the Executive Training Program would be completed by the time I left and if both of us were satisfied this was a good fit I could return to Cain-Sloan to continue my career. I considered that a wonderful opportunity. This was typical of this man who left such a legacy of leadership at Cain-Sloan as well as many contributions to his church and the city of Nashville. I'll remember him with tremendous respect. Pat Quillen Cookeville, TN

September 20 at 12:03 PM

LS

**Lois Stone** posted:

Larry and I enjoyed getting to know Charles through our membership in the various choirs where we attended. He was always in good spirits and contributed his musical talents with great enthusiasm. Lois Stone

September 20 at 6:41 AM



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TM

**Terry Mcdonald** posted:

Charlie was a treasured and dear friend. He interviewed me in my senior year at MTSU in 1964 and recommended me for the Executive Training program at Cain-Sloan. That led to a 22 year career there as a senior executive, working along side Charlie. We had lunch together often, played tennis as partners, and most of all, Charlie advised me on career, family, and giving back to the community. His love for Juanita and his daughters was obvious to all who knew him. Charlie will be remembered as "a good man."

September 19 at 2:09 PM

SB

**Stephanie Blansett** posted:

Beth, I did not know your Dad but I do know that you loved him very much. He was a blessing to your community and your family. An interesting side note, our granddaughter graduated from Webb in Bell Buckle in 2018, and my uncle and one of my cousins graduated from the Webb school in Claremont, CA decades ago! Small world. My prayers are with you and your family.. hold your memories close ❤️ Love and prayers sent Stephanie Blansett Metro School Health Supervisor (retired)

September 19 at 1:58 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Charles by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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