



## Charles W. Kester Jr.

January 19, 2022

Charles Wells Kester, Jr, (June 11, 1931 - Jan. 19, 2022), devoted son of Charles and Amy Helena (Schlieder) Kester and brother of Mary Martha "Irene" Kester, grew up in the Strawberry Mansion section of Philadelphia. In his youth, Charles showed his patriotism and commitment to civic duty by performing scrap and paper drives as a boy scout during WWII. Before serving as an electronics technician aboard the USS Cowell (DD-547) in the US Navy during the Korean conflict, Charles partially completed a degree in accounting at Temple University

Charles spent his working career at RCA but his wide and diverse interests were the center of his life. Restoring antique cars, bowling, leading the RCA investment club, sailing, sculling on the Schuylkill River, and flying (he soloed in 1963) were among his many interests. He became active with the Burlington County Library system serving as a board member for The Friends of the Burlington County Library. He assisted with book sales and supervised donations for the Burlington County library's summer outdoor concert series.

Charles enthusiastically sought out knowledge and new experiences. He visited museums of art, museums of antique cars and sculpture gardens. He attended Revolutionary War reenactments and toured many historic homes in the tri-state area. A life-long lover of boats and boating he was a member of the Philadelphia Ship Model Society and enjoyed touring the Battleship New Jersey and the historic ship that brought the first Swedes to the new world: the

Kalmar Nyckel.

Always a lover of the arts, good food and wine, Charles held season tickets to the Philadelphia Orchestra for many years and loved attending theater on Broadway and in Philadelphia. Charles introduced friends and family to a broad range of ethnic restaurants. But his much anticipated yearly outings were the Strawberry Festival and the Chicken and Waffle dinners at Kulp Church in the Roaring Creek Valley highlighting his appreciation of the simple joys he learned from his humble upbringing during the great depression.

A true Renaissance man, Charles was a voracious reader and researcher. He assembled an extensive personal library with books on many subjects reflecting his insatiable search for knowledge. He was an intensive note taker with a command of subjects as diverse as historic architecture and furniture spanning many eras, to natural history, yachting and aviation. He used his acquired knowledge in attending, participating and even assisting with area auctions. He loved to share his knowledge and was eager to discuss a wide array of topics with anyone who expressed interest.

Charles will be warmly remembered by his first cousins - Sally, Carol, Quentin Jr. and Bryan - through his beloved uncle, Quentin C. Schlieder, who predeceased him in 2016, many Schlieder relatives from central Pennsylvania and his many friends and neighbors from the decades he spent at his historic home in Mount Laurel NJ.

Donations in memory of Charles may be made to Friends of Burlington County Library Inc. 5 Pioneer Blvd. Westampton N.J. 08060

Charles requested no funeral service, however, arrangements will be made at a later date for a celebration of his life.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Charles W. Kester Jr.*

October 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *Charles W. Kester Jr.*

November 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Charles Kesters Jaguar*



**Kim Asack** - June 16, 2022 at 05:51 PM

CC

“ Charles was my cousin, 16 years older, and away in the Navy in my memories. But I remember his room, filled with intricate model ships and, planes that were suspended from the ceiling. It took 40 years before we reconnected and discovered so many shared interests.

*In the last 20 years there were many visits and outings shared with Irene, Winnie and Fred. We visited and learned about antiques and auctions, art museums, historic homes and gardens and Historic Philadelphia. There were rides through the Eastern shore countryside to favorite Chesapeake Bay towns, Old Newcastle, and introduction to small town New Jersey history. Every trip ended with a special favorite restaurant. And there were special yearly returns to the family farm country and Strawberry Festival.*

*I will miss Charles' enthusiasm and good humor. He had a connection to so many people because of his interests and intelligence and he was a wonderful teacher and tour guide. I will miss him.*

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**Carol Chapman, cousin** - January 29, 2022 at 11:56 AM

KA

“ 1 file added to the album Charles Kesters Jaguar



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**Kim Asack** - January 28, 2022 at 10:32 AM

KH

“ I'd like to share a card I received from Charles in 2017 because he said it perfectly. I have it hanging on my wall as a reminder to live! I always enjoyed time spent with him.

“ Dear Krista.

*Live, Living, being is such an incredible serendipity. a serendipity – being an adventure where the journey is more important than the destination. Embrace enjoy cherish and savor – each moment, each second, each thought, each heartbeat, each breath, each aspiration, each and every day (always). reap all rewards graciously, view setbacks as opportunities for improvement , always be grateful thankful and exceedingly appreciative for life's beautiful blessings. my best Charles”*



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**Kristina H.** - January 27, 2022 at 05:06 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album Schlieder Cousins



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**Bryan Schlieder** - January 27, 2022 at 04:20 PM

LJ

“ Charles was a dedicated Board Member for the Friends of the Burlington County Library Headquarters for years! He was very instrumental with our ongoing fund-raising activities to support the Burlington County communities: attending the Board Meetings with good suggestions-based on his years of experienced, actively participating in the Friends four times a year four-day Book Sales; helping with set up and clean up. Charles did the risky job of putting the signs out on the busy intersection street areas! Always inquiring if there was something he could do to help with the needed fund-raising activities, always had great suggestions! Without folks like Charle's our Friends of the Burlington County Library group could not fund the many Communities enrichment programs such as the Children's Summer Reading for three months, the Story Walk at the Burlington County Library Headquarters, or the multiply virtual programs for the last couple of years during the pandemic etc... which benefitted thousands of families.

Plus, shortly after the pandemic started a couple of years ago, our donations understandable drastically dropped off and the library was closed for accepting donations from the public. Yet after some time passed, we had a very small window to have a needed limited outdoor book sale, but we were very short of books to sell.

Charle's although he was not doing well and in rehab, nevertheless, came to the rescue and donated thousands of very much needed books from his personal collection to our Friends group which significantly aided us in a very successful couple of outdoor Book Sales adding to our ability to fund additional virtual programs thru the library at a critical dismal time for us all with the pandemic havoc surging.

So, Charles will definitely be missed by our Friends Board and also was an exceptional friend!

Larry Jenkins, Board President: Friends of the Burlington County Library, Inc.

**larry Jenkins** - January 27, 2022 at 08:27 AM

JS

*My adult daughters and I have sent donations to the library in Charles' memory. We are cousins of Charles and have been to visit him every couple of years. Aunt Amy even babysat our daughter for a few days when Teri was a couple years old.*

**Janice & Bary Schlieder** - March 27, 2022 at 12:46 AM

KA

“ *Kimberly Asack lit a candle in memory of Charles W. Kester Jr.*



**Kimberly Asack** - January 26, 2022 at 03:48 PM

CS

“ *We met Charles through my daughter and Son in law ,Kimberly and Brian Asack .He quickly became one of our favorite persons. He Joined in on all of our holidays and occasions. He was a joy to be around. We enjoyed talking to him as he had so much knowledge to share . A perfect Gentleman. We will miss him . The world has lost a wonderful person. May he Rest in Peace .*



**Christine Sherwood** - January 26, 2022 at 12:57 PM

SH

“ A vivid memory of Charles was his passion for cars! When I was about 10 years old he came to our house in his very spiffy Jaguar XKE. He was so proud of that car. He took me for a ride around the block! My 1st time in a sports car - very memorable.

Sally Helms

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**sally Schlieder Helms** - January 26, 2022 at 12:08 PM

SC

Sally, please know that the Jaguar XKE lives today with our good friend, Joe, in Florida. We saw it in November and it has been kept in pristine condition and is our friend's favorite car in his collection. It's a good feeling to know it has a safe home. Sally Curatola

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**Sally Curatola** - January 28, 2022 at 11:14 AM

NS

I am so saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Kester. "Mr. Kester" as I always called him, was a dear friend to my parents Bud and Dot Rust. They met through antique auctions and soon became best of friends. He was a walking encyclopedia on antiques and history. I also had the pleasure of spending many Saturday night Chinese dinners with Mom, Dad and friends along with a jug of wine. What wonderful memories. My last phone call with him was wishing me a happy birthday and filling me in on the history of pieces of furniture that my parents had purchased at auction that I cherish here in my home. Visits to his home was like stepping back into time. What an amazing gentleman! I too had the opportunity to get a ride in that awesome Jag! I was honored to have been asked! I had a few rides in the Mustang as well! He will be greatly missed for sure. I lift my glass of white zinfandel in an antique glass to the many years of Chinese dinner times together!

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**Nancy Rust Sutherland** - October 28, 2022 at 06:50 PM