



## John Charles Townes, IV

March 5, 1936 - April 10, 2006

John Charles Townes, IV, age 70, was born in Houston on March 5, 1936, and passed of natural causes in the comfort of his home while surrounded by his loving family, on April 6, 2006. He attended Kincaid and St. Thomas High Schools in Houston, and graduated from the Judson School in Scottsdale, Arizona in 1954. Thereafter, he served his country in the Air Force as a radio interceptor stationed in Japan between 1954 and 1959. He later graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in criminology and resided in Huntsville, Texas for 23 years before moving to Austin, Texas, where he co-founded Phoenix Records. A passion of his, the music business led to collaborative efforts with the likes of legendary producer Andy Johns and celebrated Austin guitarist Lance Keltner, his close friend and business partner. Charles loved touring Europe with "the band" and Phoenix Records' release of several acclaimed albums was a highlight of his professional life. In addition, he was a member of the Lion's Club and Knights of Columbus. Charles is preceded in death by his parents, John Charles Townes, III and Aileen Copley Townes, his brothers Copley and Michael Townes, grandparents, E.E. Townes, a founder and dean of South Texas College of Law, and Elsie Garrett Townes, George Noble Copley, proprietor of Goggan Music Co., and Evelyn Goggan Copley, and great-grandparents, Judge John Charles Townes, first dean of UT Law School, and Kate Wildbahn Townes. He is survived by his devoted wife of 34 years, Shirley Steely Townes, son Trevor Garrett Townes, and wife, Christa, of Spring, Texas, daughters Kathrine,

Kathleen and Kristina Townes, as well as special friends John Robertson and Dario Savino, all of Austin, and grandchildren Amy and Collin Gilbert and Garrett and Abigail Townes. In addition, Charles leaves surrogate grandsons, David and Adam Peyton, of Austin, special nephew, John Peyton and wife Sheryl, sisters Susan Parker Gesford and husband Arlion of Goodrich, Aileen McHenry Jones and husband Art of Houston, brother-in-law Kelvin Steely and wife DeAnn of Huntsville, and former wife Gail Edmonston of Brenham, as well as numerous close nieces, nephews and friends, all of whom mourn his loss. We love and miss you Dad, Gundaddy, Granddaddy, Big Daddy, Uncle Charles, John Charles, Shorty! Serving as pallbearers will be Buddy Parker, Zachary Steely, Adam Peyton, Dario Savino, John Robertson, John Swartz, Chuck Fields, and Lynn Taylor. Honorary pallbearers will be David Peyton, II, Garrett Townes, Collin Gilbert, Arlion Gesford, George Townes, Dan Wright, Ralph Pipes, Mac Price, Bob Parker and Charles Valdez. The family will receive friends at Cook Walden Chapel of the Hills, 9700 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, TX on Sunday, April 9, 2006, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Funeral Services will be held at Cook Walden Monday, April 10, 2006, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Family visitation will also be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Rd., Huntsville, Texas, on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Graveside services will follow at 1:00 p.m. at Blackjack Cemetery under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com) Donations in the memory of John Charles Townes, IV may be made to the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and the American Diabetes Association.

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Charles Townes, IV*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Hi Shirley: this is a few years late in writing you, but I will remember Charles always. You know I love you all as my family. Charles and I always had so much fun laughing and teasing with each other. I'm sad your journey with Charles wasn't longer, but you have memories forever. I am so glad to have the memories of him and his family. I love and the children. Prayers and Blessings, Sharon Hocut, Shepherd, Texas*

*When Susan called me, I "I CRYED !". I know he is in heaven with Nanny, Michael, Copely and his dad and other members of his family. One day we will all see him after we see Jesus.*

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**Sharon Cole-Nelson Hocut** - July 18, 2010 at 10:47 PM



“ *shirley, it has been many years, but i am truly sorry to hear of john charles death. mary taylor porterfield*

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**mary taylor porterfield** - May 01, 2006 at 01:28 PM



“ *Charles was definitely a person who made an impact on those fortunate enough to know him. He had an adventuresome spirit and an unforgettable personality. I will miss him and send my deepest sympathies to Shirley and family and Susan and family.*

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**Lloyd H. Wright** - April 16, 2006 at 06:07 PM

RC

“ *Its always sad to lose a dear friend. Bob remembers a trip with him to Austin prior to his moving there. After eating at a restaurant, they were both determined to leave the tip and ended up leaving a twenty because in the "discussion", they forgot to pick it up. At least they made the waitress happy. His memory always brings a smile. We will miss him mightily.*

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**Robert & Gwen Conner** - April 11, 2006 at 10:29 AM

CV

“ *Dear Shirley & Family, I am very sorry for your great loss. J.C. was one of a kind and he will truly be missed by all. I wish I had made it to his B-Day party this past month. I know he would have asked me for some tamales.....It was really an honor to have known him and worked with him. I know he will always be with all of you and will be watching over all of you. It seems like yesterday when we worked side by side..27 plus years....how time flies! I know first hand the pain yall are all going through.....but time, prayer, and just remembering does actually help heal yourloss. If yall ever need anything please don't hesitate to call..God Bless you all.. Your friend always...Charley Valdez*

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**Charley Valdez** - April 11, 2006 at 08:39 AM

KB

“ *Dear Shirley and family, I am so sorry to hearof the loss of your husband. It has been a long time since we have seen or had any contact with each other, but I have often thought of the fun times we shared as friends and co-workers at HMH. Gosh!How time passes. Please accept my thoughts,prayers and expression of deepest sympathy at this trying time in your life.*

*Sincerely,  
Kay Dixon Burch  
Trinity, Tx.*

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**Kay Dixon Burch** - April 10, 2006 at 10:13 PM

CC

“ Dear Trevor and Family,  
I am sorry for your loss. I know you all have many memories of Charles that will give you the courage to carry on. With sympathy,  
Christine

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**Christine Covelli** - April 10, 2006 at 10:15 AM

TC

“ Dear Mrs. Townes, Kathleen and family, I will always have fond memories of Mr. Townes carting me and Kathleen around after school or to this or that party, concert, etc... I also have a nice memory of him at my wedding - dancing around and having a good time. Mr. Townes and your family have been so good to me. Thank you and know you are all in our thoughts and prayers.  
Teresa and Eddie Castillo

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**Teresa Goines Castillo** - April 10, 2006 at 09:22 AM

TT

“ I miss you Dad, but I'm happy you made it up-I knew you could do it. Now all is right, and all is good. Say hi to Meemee for me and look after your grandkids-they're counting on you. We all love you so much. Your son, Trevor.

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**Trevor Townes** - April 10, 2006 at 08:34 AM

JC

“ Dear Mrs. Townes, Trevor & family, Kathrine & family, & Kristina: I'm so sorry to learn about Mr. Townes's passing. He, like your family in general, was very kind to me. Please know that you are in my prayers. May the many good memories sustain you.

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**Jocelyn del Carmen** - April 09, 2006 at 10:01 PM

GR

“ Shirley, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I have walked in your shoes and I know your pain and emptiness and my heart goes out to you. I can't take your hurt away but I can share it with you.

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**Geneva Higginbotham Ray** - April 09, 2006 at 09:22 PM

CR

“ SHIRLEY AND FAMILY, I AM TRULY SORRY I MISSED THE MARCH 5TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AS I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO SEE SHORTY ONE MORE TIME. I AM GLAD I GOT TO SEE A LOT OF YOU TODAY. I MET A WONDERFUL BUNCH OF FOLKS AND THAT FIGURES FOR SHORTY. IF I EVER WRITE A BOOK HE'LL HAVE A CHAPTER. A VERY SPECIAL FELLOW. I WILL CONTACT SEVERAL FRIENDS OF HIS THAT MIGHT NOT KNOW HE HAS GONE AHEAD OF US. SINCERELY, CASEY

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**CASEY RUBEY** - April 09, 2006 at 07:57 PM

AG

“ I will miss you so much Gundaddy but I'm not sad about you leaving, I know you needed to and I know who you are with so it doesn't worry me. Thank you for teaching us so many things, you never stopped doing that, even to your last hours. I love you so much and I look forward to seeing you again and getting to know those in our family that you loved so much that I never met.

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**Amy Gilbert** - April 09, 2006 at 11:42 AM

KA

“ Dear Daddy,

*I am so grateful to have had you for a dad--you were the best. We always talked about winning te lottery-you've won by going up and I won by having you as a father, I will miss you terribly.*

*All my love,  
Punkin*

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**Kathrine** - April 09, 2006 at 10:41 AM

EW

“ Shirley, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. May God Bless and take care of you and your family  
With love , Eloise Calvin Wells

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**Eloise Calvin Wells** - April 09, 2006 at 10:10 AM

MD

“ Shirley and family,  
We just want to let you all know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all. I wish I had known Charles better but I can always remember your family coming over to our house (Grannies) for Christmas and Charles always laughing and cracking jokes.  
Take care of yourselves and God Bless to all.  
Matt & Lynette Dobbins

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**Matt & Lynette Dobbins** - April 08, 2006 at 08:15 PM

JP

“ *Uncle Charles is so special to me and my family. Just watching him taught us how to enjoy life. Uncle Charles introduced me to great blues music at a very young age...the reason I play harmonica professionally and produce award winning syndicated blues radio programming today.*

*Uncle Charles will live in our hearts forever. See ya on the other side.*

*John, Sheryl, Candace, Bridget, Natalie and John Gabriel Peyton*

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**John Peyton** - April 07, 2006 at 09:57 PM