



## Charles William Rushing

May 9, 1939 - February 1, 2023

Departing this life on February 1, 2023, Charles William Rushing was a fourth generation Floridian born on May 9, 1939, to William Wesley, timberman and farmer, and Audrey Bethel (Garrett) Rushing, homemaker and volunteer. Although born in Blountstown, the vast majority of his youth was lived in DeFuniak Springs, Florida surrounded by multiple generations of extended family. Growing up in rural, undeveloped Walton County, Charles William hunted the vast woods, fished the bay, water-skied the lakes, dominated turkey shoots with his dad, tinkered with cars, and occasionally outsped local deputies only to arrive home and find them on the porch chatting with his mother and daddy.

Raised with a strong work ethic, Charles delivered prescriptions and worked the counter at Fisher's Drugstore, drove a hearse for Cleary's Funeral Home, and miscellaneous odd jobs during high school. Most memorably, he hit the airwaves in 1955 as WZEP's first rock & roll DJ. After completing his senior year at Walton County High in 1958, Charles was off to Paris Island for Marine Corps basic training. Originally recruited as a clarinetist for the Marine Corps band, Corporal Rushing's affinity for electronics and radar was identified, leading to a strongly encouraged request for reassignment which ultimately benefited him professionally and personally for the rest of his life.

Following his 4-year stint in the Corps, Chuck settled in Tallahassee and began working and attending college on the GI Bill. Chuck graduated cum laude in Criminology from Florida State University in 1974, thereby launching a lifelong passion for and commitment to training professional, ethical, effective law enforcement officers. His first contribution in this pursuit was producing police training films as a teaching assistant during his Master's coursework.

In 1975, Mr. Rushing found his slice of paradise at the newly established Lively Law Enforcement Academy (later renamed Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy) in Tallahassee, one of the original locations certified to offer training to law enforcement agencies in a six-county region. Mr. Rushing provided instruction, coordinated curriculum, and administered at the academy for the next 29 years until his retirement in 2002. He began with 3 classrooms in an office plaza and ended with a 375-acre training complex consisting of an administrative building, training and instructional facilities, firearms ranges, driving ranges, on-site cafeteria, 64-bed housing facility, man-made lake, and more.

As a Reserve officer with the Tallahassee Police Department from 1967-2011, Sgt. Rushing practiced what he preached. From patrolling Tennessee Street to running the FSU/FAMU football game shuttles to managing TPD's school crossing guard program, Sgt. Rushing continued to mentor his former trainees beyond the academy as well as provide a role model for other officers on the street.

Following his full retirement from the Academy and TPD, Chuck relished

porch time, cups of coffee with family/friends, DIYing home projects, Gold Wing road trips, reading, westerns/documentaries, charting expenditures, and balancing checkbooks. But time with his grandchildren brought him the greatest joy by far.

Charles William, Corporal Rushing, Mr. Rushing, Sgt. Rushing, Chuck, Daddy, Granddaddy was predeceased by his parents William Wesley and Audrey Bethel (Garrett) Rushing. Remaining to celebrate his life are his loving wife of almost 40 years, Sandra Ann (Holcomb); sister and brother-in-law Charlotte Audrey (Rushing) and James Gaspers (Scottsbluff, NE); daughter and son-in-law Tanja Annette (Rushing) and W. Stewart Clendinen (Tallahassee); son and daughter-in-law Charles William II and Casey Noelle (Collins) Rushing (Tallahassee); stepson Anthony David Jennings (Memphis, TN); grandchildren Carl Wesley and Haley Anne (Carpenter) Clendinen (Huntsville, AL), Rebecca Anne Clendinen (Kingston, ON, CA), Braeleigh Jeanette Rushing (Tallahassee), Ava Pearl Rushing (Tallahassee), and great-granddaughter Adalyn James Clendinen (Huntsville, AL); niece Michelle Audrey (Alan) Salsbery (Texas City, TX), nephew Michael William (Lisa) Gaspers and great niece Audrey Ellen Gaspers (Scottsbluff, NE).

The visitation on Sunday, February 5, 2023 from 4pm-6pm and the funeral service on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 10:30am will both be held at Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee followed by burial at the Tallahassee National Cemetery at 1:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Parkinson's Foundation or Big Bend Hospice.

—“912 Tallahassee...signing off.”—

Rocky Bevis and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) are assisting the Rushing family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Previous Events

## The Family Will Receive Friends

FEB 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Funeral Service

FEB 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Reception

---

FEB 6. 11:15 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

# Tribute Wall

ND

“ I graduated from Pat Thomas Criminal Justice Academy in 1997, and Mr. Rushing was the Law Enforcement Coordinator then. I am about to retire, and I came across the notification of his passing. I remember Mr. Rushing as a kind and caring person who was a wonderful liason between our BRC class and FSU, and I send my condolences for his loss.

---

**N. Dunn** - April 25, 2023 at 07:27 PM

HY

“ Have fond memories of those days back in the last century when I was recruited to be a "volunteer" instructor at Lively. Enjoyed working with Chuck and the guidance he glady provided for all those basic classes Howard Young

---

**Howard Young** - February 07, 2023 at 01:50 PM

MM

“ Like so many of us in law enforcement in this area Chuck was the first person to ever give me lessons on how to police when I started at the academy in 1985. Over the coming decades I got to work with him and at the end of his career at TPD be his "supervisor"; even though I was in no way superior to him or that he needed oversight.

*I never gave the school crossing guard program a second thought because I knew Chuck had it under control.*

*I will be forever grateful for the lessons he taught me and will remember him at as a kind man who never had a bad word to say about anyone, a humble public servant, masterful teacher and someone I was proud to call a friend.*

*So sorry for your loss, you are all in my prayers.*

---

**Mark Meadows** - February 06, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles William Rushing.



---

February 05, 2023 at 04:12 PM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of Charles William's passing. It was always wonderful to look up and see him come in the store. Daddy and I enjoyed all of our visits. Praying for you.

---

**Shirley Adkison McAnelly** - February 04, 2023 at 02:35 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Charles William Rushing.*



February 04, 2023 at 02:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles William Rushing.*



February 04, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Charles William Rushing.*



February 04, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *Judy & Bill #929 purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Charles William Rushing.*



**Judy & Bill #929** - February 04, 2023 at 09:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Charles William Rushing.



---

February 03, 2023 at 09:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Charles William Rushing.



---

February 03, 2023 at 09:31 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Charles William Rushing.



---

February 03, 2023 at 07:42 PM