

A Tribute to C.C. "Charlie" Winn

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*Kend Baum
Well received -
Thanks
10/18*

Thank you, Charles. (Doraine)

What a privilege it is to echo the sentiments already expressed tonight as we pay tribute to a great American, a fiercely independent oil man, and my dear friend – Charlie Winn.

Here is a man who truly exemplifies the qualities that have defined the Boy Scouts of America throughout its history – character, integrity, and citizenship at its finest.

Many people know Charlie as a great family man, a phenomenally successful business executive, and an avid outdoorsman and hunter the likes of which this country hasn't seen since Teddy Roosevelt.

Here, too, is a man known for being a faithful friend, the first to help in time of need, and a generous benefactor to numerous people and causes – all without fanfare or recognition.

And perhaps most telling, here is an individual whose deeply held Christian faith is revealed – not from being worn on his shirtsleeves – but in countless acts of unassuming kindness.

Norma and I have been blessed to know Patsy and Charlie Winn as dear friends for more than 15 years.

And through all of those years, the only regret we've had is that we didn't get to know them sooner.

As former residents of Kingsville and Corpus Christi, Norma and I know why Patsy and Charlie chose to move here years ago – for many of the same reasons our son, Dr. Paxton Longwell and his wife, Cathy, and our three grandchildren are here also.

This is a great place to live and enjoy all aspects of life.

So to honor the Winns and the Boy Scouts is a further testimony to this great city.

A wise philosopher once said that there is nothing nobler or more admirable than when two people who see eye to eye keep house as man and wife – confounding their enemies and delighting their friends.

And so it is this evening that we would only be half right if we failed to honor the lives of both people who are in every way inseparable – a couple who delight their friends, but have no enemies to confound.

What makes Patsy and Charlie Winn so special?

It's a very long list.

And I'm sure each of you could describe the countless things that set them apart and endear them to us.

We could also recite the qualities they share and point to the excellent example they set for friends and strangers alike in the conduct of their everyday lives.

But the most compelling case that speaks to everything that comes to mind when we think of Patsy and Charlie Winn is the wonderful family they have raised – all bound together by their strength, love, and faith.

Norma and I have had the privilege of knowing them all – including their daughter, Stephanie;

C.A. and his wife, Nancy – the parents of Megan and Dillon;

Tom and his wife, Melissa – whose daughters are Amy and Sissy;

And finally, Southern and his wife, Cathy, who have five children – Cathy, Southern, Cody, Trey, and Nicole.

Patsy and Charlie have instilled in all their children – and I am sure in their grandchildren as well – the same qualities that we are recognizing in the family matriarch and patriarch tonight.

Like their mother and father, all are unselfish and possess a sincerity that makes them absolutely trustworthy and believable in their relationships.

They treat everyone they meet with kindness and respect – just as their parents do.

And most important – they share their parents' abiding faith in being a significant influence for good all along life's journey.

I have spent a lot of time in the bird fields with their sons – a place where you learn a lot about people.

And of course, the first thing you notice is that they are all incredible wing shots – just like their father.

But the most enduring lesson you learn about the Winns by spending time with their children is the legacy of character they have fostered in every member of the family.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Charlie and Patsy Winn have lived their lives and raised their children by a strikingly similar standard.

Their inspiration recalls the passage in the Book of Proverbs, which holds the promise: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

The qualities for which we celebrate the lives of Charlie and Patsy Winn tonight are the exemplary virtues of a deeply committed Christian family and the patriotic values of Scouting in America.

In honoring them, we reaffirm our faith in the future and our appreciation for all that they mean to each of us.

Charlie and Patsy – from all of us to each of you – thank you and God bless you.