



Choukri J. Courban

December 26, 1938 - June 12, 2020

Choukri J. Courban, age 81, beloved husband of Antoinette Courban, passed away peacefully at home with his family on Friday, June 12, 2020.

Born December 26, 1938, in the Republic of Sierra Leone, Choukri was a son of the late Christo and Salma (Blell) Courban. Prior to retirement, he was a diamond miner. He and his wife were faithful members of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Antoinette; 1 son, Christo Courban and his wife Whitney of Myrtle Beach and 1 daughter, Sian Carufe and her husband Peter of Chicago, IL; 5 grandchildren: Kalila, Katya, Parker, Amelia, Atticus; 2 sisters: Nuhad, Nadia and 1 brother Samir.

Predeceasing in addition to his parents is his sister Laila.

Memorial prayers will be held at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 404 Maple St., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. Please contact the family or church for more information.

Memorial contributions may be made in Choukri's name to the American Cancer Society, 950 48th Ave. N, Suite 101, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

Please share your memories on the family's guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Carolina Forest Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MA

“ To Aunty Toni, Christo, Sian and all the extended family who knew and loved Uncle Chic, our deepest sympathy; but know he will live on in our wonderful memories of him as he jokes and laughs with those gone before including Farid.

We so wish we all lived closer and could be together to reminisce and share stories.

With love to all the family,

Joan, Mary, John and Linda Anthony

Mary Anthony - June 18, 2020 at 02:50 PM

AF

A donation was made to ACS in honour of Uncle Chic.

Anthony Family - June 18, 2020 at 03:24 PM

AB

“ Aunty Toni, Christo, Sian and the Whole Family, Uncle Choukri / Chick was an Amazing, Kind, Loving, Caring and Giving Man that everyone should Strive to be Like! May his Gentle Soul Rest in Perfect Eternal Peace! GOD Grant you all the Comfort and Peace through this Very Difficult Time!

Anita Bamin & The Bamin Family! ❤️

Anita Bamin - June 17, 2020 at 11:17 AM

MS

“ Where to begin?

As my sister said our Uncle stepped in and became our surrogate Dad. If not for him and aunty Toni I would not have moved to Australia, had my 2 wonderful sons and my grandson Ash. Coming to Australia I stayed with them both and one day they decided we were doing a road trip from Melbourne and heading north. It was a trip that I have to say was amazing I saw a lot of the East coast of Australia only one thing drove me mad ... Yes Christo and Sian.... Oh my goodness the arguments and fights. He would say in his calm voice. "boh Mona patient den nah pikin" (Mona be patient they are kids). I would say to myself "Yes nah you pikin dem cam siddom nah yah make me anty drive en ah go siddom nah front. (yes they are your children come and sit here let my aunty drive and I will sit in the front)..... I was 20 years old at the time and had no idea how hard it was for a 10 year old and 6 year old to sit in a car for hours on end. so for all me halahala sorry Christo and Sian.

My Uncle always had a joke or a song to sing a glass of scotch or brandy to drink and a was a wonderful cook. There was nothing he couldn't make. Even Plassas in Melbourne in 1978..... the Lebanese Orthodox priest in Melbourne had been in Sierra Leone and was bringing palm-oil in under the guise of holy oil...hmmmm well what can I say we Lebs are corrupt wherever we go.

Sending out all the love I can to my aunty Toni my cousins Christo and Sian their partners in life Whitney and Pete and all the beautiful grandchildren. Also to my Mum Nuhad, My aunty Nadia and my Uncle Sam at this sad time.



Mona Sadaka - June 16, 2020 at 03:03 AM

AD

“ My uncle was a sensitive, strong, and loving man; a soul I often thought, too gentle and kind for this world. Towards the end of his life, he often reminisced about the wonderful days when we all still lived together in Sierra Leone, as one big very close family, once upon a time.....

He really missed those days, and was always telling me to try and move closer so that life could be a bit similar to how it once was. I admired his strong family values, something also instilled in me by my Grandmother Salma, his Mother, so I could relate to his longing of being surrounded by family. We were by no means the postcard perfect family. We had our ups and downs, but we worked at maintaining the bond, because we both understood the sacredness of family.

Choukri Courban was so different from every single one of us. He was the most forgiving person I have ever known. A gift that none of us possess; the beauty and strength in Spirit, to forgive and forget. He was truly unique in this sense.

I am grateful that my son Daniel got to meet my uncle again as an adult and spend time with him over a few holidays, and he grew to love and respect him. He had a great admiration for Uncle Choukri, and in that, I find peace of heart and mind, that some beautiful memories of this wonderful man also lives through my son. Unfortunately my daughter never got round to meeting him again as an adult, but I have lots of great stories and photos to share with her, so that she may always know the great adventurous and talented Choukri Courban, our own Indiana Jones!

Uncle Choukri, I feel honoured that I could call you my uncle. You stepped into my life when I lost my father many years ago. You were my second love. I will treasure my wonderful memories of you for the rest of my life, and I look forward to meeting you again someday, somewhere in the universe, when we will all be together again, united in another circle of life. Till we meet again.

In the meantime, let the adventures begin!

Adamandia Diamantopoulos - June 15, 2020 at 06:48 PM

JG

“ *Dear Toni and family,
Please accept our heartfelt sympathy for your loss. May Choukri
rest in eternal peace.
With love from Patrick, Jennie and Roz xxx*

Jennie Garnem - June 15, 2020 at 01:59 PM

SY

“ *Dearest Toni, Christo, Sian, Nuhad, Nadia,
Sam and family, please accept our heartfelt
sympathy.*

*We never heard an ill word spoken of Chick.
He was kind, compassionate and a true
gentleman who will be greatly missed by the many who knew him.
May he rest in eternal peace.*

*With much love from Ghazi, Sherene, Peter, Paula and the family.
XXXX*

Sherene Yatim - June 15, 2020 at 10:08 AM



SS

“ *Sabah, Ivan and Serge purchased the Magnificen
t Life Spray for the family of Choukri J. Courban.*



Sabah, Ivan and Serge - June 15, 2020 at 07:58 AM

LY

“ Toni, Christo & Sian I was sorry to hear of the passing of Choukri, may his soul rest in peace.
I am sure he is now having a glass of whisky with Malik and laughing over their past escapades.

Leila Yanni - June 15, 2020 at 03:08 AM

RY

“ Auntie Toni, Christo & Sian please accept my Sympathies for your loss, may his soul rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult times.
I remember Uncle Chic growing up and spending many happy loving times at your house.
With Love Roula Yanni

Roula Yanni - June 15, 2020 at 03:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Choukri J. Courban.



June 14, 2020 at 09:33 PM

VM

“ I will always fondly remember my Uncle Chick as a kind and generous man. Growing up with my cousins in Sierra Leone we had the best times when we went to his pool parties at his house in Spur Road or the excursions to the beach. His wonderful cooking was well known to all. I hope you are having a nice cold beer up in heaven with my dad now. Give him a big hug from us. Our thoughts are with Auntie Toni, Christo and Sian at this difficult time. May his sould now rest in everlasting peace. xxx

Vlado Mileris - June 14, 2020 at 05:29 PM

JP

I have very fond memories of 'Uncle Chick' from my time in Freetown in the early 90s. I was there volunteering and working in international aid and I remember him from his restaurant Blue Dolphin. I used to go in and eat alone when I wanted to treat myself. Chick was always friendly and kind. I think he felt sorry for me, that I was alone, and so he would often encourage me to go over to their house for dinner. I took them up on it one night and went with a friend. We had a delicious meal, preceded by these amazing pickled vegetables which I had never experienced before. I felt grateful to be part of such a caring community as Freetown was in those days, and Chick and his family were a part of that. May he rest in peace. And my sincerest condolences to the family.
— Jenny Battaglini Perena

Jenny Battaglini Perena - June 14, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Choukri J. Courban.



June 14, 2020 at 05:01 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Choukri J. Courban.*



June 14, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ *Patrick and Lisa Blell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Choukri J. Courban.*



Patrick and Lisa Blell - June 14, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ *When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.*

I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love. I will always have a candle burning in my soul for my beloved cousin.

My love and deepest sympathy for the Courban's.

Gandhi

Gandhi Blell - June 14, 2020 at 03:10 PM

MD

“ I have so many memories of happier times with the Courban's. Uncle Chicori always made me feel part of his family whenever I was with them. He was so funny and yes in my opinion he made the best lobster at The Blue Dolphin. Ay Uncle Chicori May God Gie You Good Road 🙏

Michele Dworzak - June 14, 2020 at 02:35 PM

BH

“ Christo , Whitney my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family . May God continue to comfort and bless you and your family .



Beth Hood - June 14, 2020 at 02:32 PM

N(

“ Sending Aunty Toni, Christo, Sian and all your family big gentle hugs during this very sad time! Uncle Choukri has left some lovely memories behind and may these keep you all strong and make you smile (and cry). Pa Haroun will be there waiting to share some of his ' roast hog' with you and a glass of whisky! 'Dooyah Uncle tell dem all plenti kooshai from we way day na yah!' Lots of love Joan (Haroun), Nicolette and family!

nicolette sinclair (haroun) - June 14, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Choukri J. Courban.



June 14, 2020 at 01:21 PM

BC

“ *Beatrice Catalano lit a candle in memory of Choukri J. Courban*



Beatrice Catalano - June 14, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Choukri J. Courban.*



June 14, 2020 at 10:14 AM

SC

“ *Sam and Brandon Courban purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Choukri J. Courban.*



Sam and Brandon Courban - June 14, 2020 at 09:55 AM

SC

“ My elder brother Choukri or “Chick” as he was better known to family and friends was a kind and gentle soul but with a tremendous zest for The life. Life and soul of a party, a great dancer and with his good looks he missed his calling, he should have been in Hollywood but the good Lord knew best and spared Diana Dors, Marilyn Monroe, Liz Taylor and others of heart ache. Christo has already said his dad packed more into his 81 years than most folks do several lifetimes. Absolutely true.

So many memories. I can still hear the laughter of the children frolicking around the swimming pool at your home 41 Spur Road, Freetown while we the parents held court at the bar, some epic drinking session followed. There was also the trips to Tokeh Beach, sometimes we went there by boat other times drove. Mike and Gordana joined us. Quality times. Alex’s Beach Bar I suspect was never the same after you left Freetown!

Life in Sierra Leone changed with the onset of the civil war. As the rebels invaded the capital Freetown in 1997 it was time to get out. Sian at that time was married to a former US marine and thanks to their connection and effort we were all airlifted via the USS Kersage carrier to safety in Conakry. Thank you Sian. Chick and Toni eventually made their way to the United States and joined their children.

Christo has been brave to say his dad was not perfect. But who is perfect? We all have our failings and imperfections but what is important is the soul and integrity of the person. What I most admired in my brother was honesty and standing for the truth - he was NOT a Hypocrite.

Going to miss you a lot and I’ve asked Dean and Jordan to meet you and steer you clear of temptations as you join up with traffic crossing to the other side and please behave yourself because Leila will keep an eye on you. I suspect there’s going to be some heavy drinking session with Alex and Oleg welcoming you before meeting with the rest of the family. Toni take courage at this difficult time.

Those smiling blue eyes that captured your heart decades ago will always be with you, the signs will be there. Thank you for the times you spent with Chick, for your love, devotion and most importantly patience and understanding.

Rest in perfect peace and God Bless.

Sam Courban - June 14, 2020 at 09:43 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Choukri J. Courban.*



June 14, 2020 at 08:30 AM



“ *My father Choukri was not a perfect man, in fact he would be the first to espouse that fact. He was however a gentle and kind person with a generous soul. He was a good father and he lived more in his 81 years than many live in several lifetimes. In his later years his source of joy was his grandchildren who all adored him. He will be deeply missed.*

CHRISTO COURBAN - June 14, 2020 at 01:42 AM



Your father will leave an impact on all of us. He was an honest and kind hearted man who loved life. I will miss him a lot. May God help you, your mother, and all your family to get through this difficult period. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Assaad Wadi Isaac - June 14, 2020 at 05:14 AM

FL

Toni I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers at this time.

Fionnuala Lordan - June 14, 2020 at 05:54 AM

SD

*Aunty Toni, Christo, and Sian,
Please accept our sympathies in such sad times. I hold such fond memories of Uncle Chic at Alexs' with laughter and jokes along with some epic drinking games.
I hope the laughter continues wherever he is and may you all stay safe in these troubled times.
Soraya Duncan Narfeldt*

soraya Duncan - June 14, 2020 at 07:55 AM

SL

Honored to have known this gentle man. Honored to have Antoinette call me, friend. May his memory be eternal.

Sandra Lambros - June 14, 2020 at 09:03 AM

AD

Sending you, Sian and your Mum all our love. My Uncle Chick, so many beautiful memories growing up, our families so close. Parties with his wonderful food we couldn't eat enough of. Fun times at Alexs and at his pool house. I will always remember his kindness, warmth and his joie de vivre. Always in our hearts and in our memories. Rest in perfect peace now Uncle.

Angie Dawes - June 14, 2020 at 12:42 PM

BC

So sorry to hear of your loss. Please accept my condolence. I will pray for the family. Brother in Christ will be missed here at St. Nicholas, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Beatrice Catalano - June 14, 2020 at 12:44 PM

PS

So very sorry for your loss Christo. Thinking of you during this difficult time. May your Mother find peace and love in her bountiful memories. May you find comfort in knowing that his suffering has ended and gratitude for the opportunity to spend with him all the days of his life. Hugs to you and yours. Pam & Mike

Pamela Di Cintio & Mike Smith - June 14, 2020 at 10:31 PM

RS

Dear Tony & family, accept our sympathy for your loss of Mr.Choukri. May his soul rest in peace. Roy &Rosa

rosaline sesay - June 15, 2020 at 07:30 PM

DA

A caring and dedicated wife during the prolonged illness of her husband, and finding time to care for her wonderful children and grandchildren. This in itself is a blessing. Heartfelt condolences to Toni, Christo and Sian and to all the extended families.

DR Michel Aboud - June 17, 2020 at 10:21 AM