



Charles Edward Raska Sr.

July 7, 1934 - January 10, 2025

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Charles Edward Raska, a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, husband, brother, uncle, and friend. He left us peacefully while surrounded by loved ones at the age of 90 on January 10th, after a lifetime of hard work, love, fishing, and laughter.

Born on July 7, 1934, Charles was a man who lived life with unwavering dedication and boundless joy. A true testament to what it means to be self-sufficient, he ran his own business for many years, providing not only for his family but for a community that grew to admire and respect him. Raska Nursery was a staple on Main Street in Broken Arrow for 60+ successful years. Charles' work was his passion, and his work ethic was unmatched. He took great pride in everything he did, always giving more than he received. He had an uncanny ability to make every customer feel like the most important person in the world. Many of his customers quickly became lifelong friends who Charles would invite on fishing trips in Mexico and Arkansas. His love was unconditional, his kindness limitless, and his compassion evident in every interaction.

Charles took excellent care of his family, always providing more than necessary. His twin brothers will never forget Charles, their oldest sibling, running the chains at their Broken Arrow high school football games. Charles

couldn't be close enough to the action as he cheered and encouraged his younger siblings on to victory. Charles was an incredible wrestler in high school. You can imagine his pride when his grandson grew up to win a state wrestling championship. And when another grandson won a state football championship. These are points he shared with friends and customers every chance he received. Charles was always proud of his family's accomplishments. He never hesitated to put his hand on your shoulder and simply say, "I'm proud of you, babe".

Charles had an infectious sense of humor. His jokes, laughter, pranks, and mischievous smile could brighten even the darkest of days. His inner child never disappeared. He turned even the most mundane moments into sources of laughter and was the kind of person you couldn't help but be drawn to. His humor reminded us that life is too short to be taken too seriously.

Together with his wife, Shirley, Charles leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. He is survived by a magnitude of children, grand-children, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews. He will be missed by countless friends and loved ones.

A memorial service will be held at Hayhurst Funeral Home on Wednesday, January 15th at 1:00pm.

Rest in peace, Papa/Dad/Charlie. Your love and laughter will live on in the hearts of all who knew you. We know you're in Heaven dancing with Nana, wetting a line with Pop, leaving Nannie with the ticket, and telling Grandma Raska how much you've missed her raisin pie.

Cemetery Details

Floral Haven Memorial Gardens

6500 S. 129th E. Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74012
(918) 252-2518

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 14. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 1:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
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Tribute Wall



“ *Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Charles Edward Raska Sr.*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 16, 2025 at 10:23 AM

IN

“ *Happy Heavenly Birthday Daddy. I miss you so very much !!!!!!!*

Ina - July 07, 2025 at 01:53 PM

B(

“ *I met Charlie and Shirley both when I worked for their chiropractor, I loved them so much. When I moved on to a different job, my husband and I would often visit Charlie at the nursery. After Covid we didn't go out as often and I gave up on my dream of having a beautiful garden, but I still have the roses that we got at the recommendation of Charlie, they were both so special to me.*

Bekka Scott (Hunsperger) - March 04, 2025 at 12:47 PM

MP

“ *Debbie and family,*

I know that it is awfully tough to say goodbye to our parents. But to know that your Dad is with our Lord sure makes it a little less painful. Can you just imagine how elated he was to be back with your Mom, and other family and friends.

Several times we would run into your folks at Goldies. He did have such a big and friendly smile. He had to have had a lot of true JOY in heart.

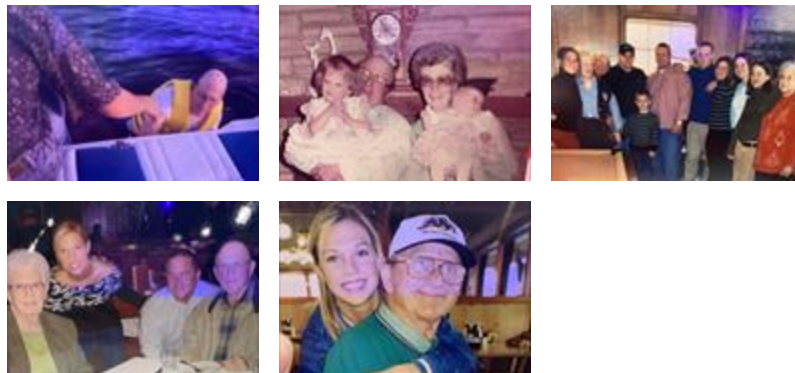
I'm sorry I didn't make it to his service, but you were in my thoughts and prayers, and will continue to be.

Marcella Pense

Marcella Pense - January 22, 2025 at 03:56 AM

AM

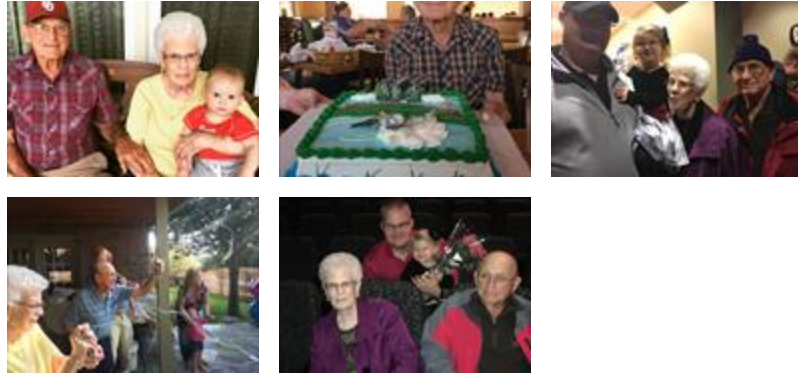
“ *18 files added to the tribute wall*



Amanda - January 15, 2025 at 08:58 PM

JB

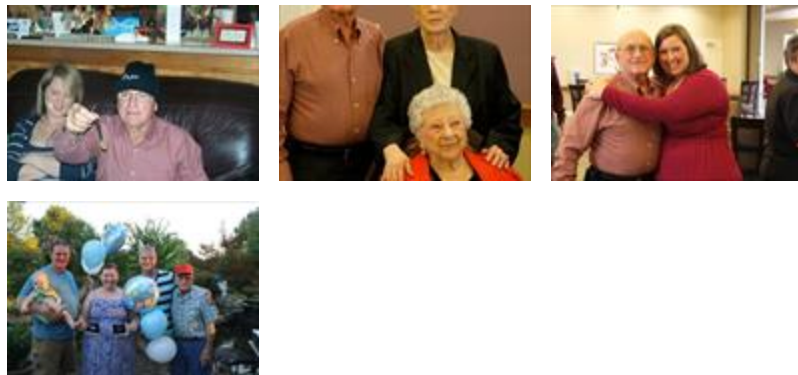
“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Jenny Buckner - January 15, 2025 at 04:45 PM

JB

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Jenny Buckner - January 15, 2025 at 04:43 PM

JB

“ Papa you looked good today in the beanie hat I bought you for Christmas the year I got engaged to be married. Papa you were one of a kind! I’m so thankful for all the memories made with you and nana! I’m so glad you and nana got to meet my babies and I know you are holding Maddox & Colton with her now! I know these years without nana were so hard and I’m glad your suffering is over! Teach my sweet boys how to fish and I’ll keep taking care of your princess Brooklyn and your big fella Noah!



Jenny Buckner - January 15, 2025 at 04:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 15, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Pictorial Video Tribute



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 15, 2025 at 12:19 PM

JA

“ I worked for Charlie and rode to worksites with David Cheatham in the mid 1970's. One thing I remember from those days is a sharp shovel. Before we started planting, Charlie would get out the file and start sharpening our shovels. I always thought of Charlie every time I sharpen my shovel.

Joey Austin

JOEY AUSTIN - January 15, 2025 at 09:45 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Raska Sr..



January 14, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles Edward Raska Sr..

January 14, 2025 at 04:34 PM

FC

“ *Franks Family Home Care purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Charles Edward Raska Sr..*



Franks Family Home Care - January 14, 2025 at 10:26 AM

RB

“ *So sad to read of Charlie's passing, although happy he's reunited with his sweet wife. Charlie completely landscaped our first house in Broken Arrow, and did so beautifully. Visiting his nursery every spring and fall was delightful for me and my husband, Charlie taught us so many lessons about the plants. What an impact he had on the community, he is missed.*

Rebecca and Pat Burke - January 14, 2025 at 09:05 AM

CO

“ *You were a great man! You always made are visits so enjoyable....always greeting me with that big smile. You always made me feel special.You will be missed.*

Chris Ohler - January 13, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Raska Sr..*



January 13, 2025 at 12:37 PM

HH

“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Raska family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Charles.



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 13, 2025 at 08:59 AM

WH

“ Charles will be missed greatly! We always enjoyed seeing him he always had a smile for us and shared many jokes and stories with us. We can't even describe how kind and generous he was thru the years not only to us but others. No matter how busy he was at the nursery he always found time to visit and explain about the plants, flowers and trees, no matter your questions he could answer them so you'd know how to care for them. The last tree we got from Charles was a Pecan Tree and this past year it had a few pecans on it, I'll always remember Charles when we're picking up Pecans. The Raska family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Wayne & Cheryl Hubbard - January 12, 2025 at 05:00 PM

MH

“ Charlie was was one of the kindest and most generous business men in Broken Arrow. But his strength and toughness always came through. He and my husband had bypass surgery one day apart. My husband was first. Shirley and I would visit and compare notes. The first day out of ICU Shirley told Hoyt Charlie was getting out and she said if Charlie asks you if you hurt tell him you do whether or not you do. Hoyt said, "it hurts and I won't have to lie." But it was not long until Charlie was back planting trees.

Mary Hyden - January 12, 2025 at 11:29 AM

CH

“ Charlie has been our next door neighbor for many years and a friend for many more than that. He was a generous and caring man who always had a smile and a good story to tell. We will miss him. Thankfully, we know he is with his Lord and his precious Shirley.

Carolyn and Allen Hodges - January 12, 2025 at 09:44 AM

SH

“ Shorty lit a candle in memory of Charles Edward Raska Sr.



shorty - January 12, 2025 at 05:06 AM

TH

“ My heart and prayers to the Raska family. Charles and Shirley are big part of my parents life. They adventure several trips in life for fishing. I'm sure my dad, David Cheatham and Charlie are already fishing and catching up. May God give you all peace and comfort. Terrie(Cheatham) Hood

Terrie Hood - January 11, 2025 at 07:52 AM