

Charles Frank Brown (August 21, 1935 – May 12, 2026), of Pelham, Alabama, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

Charles, commonly known as Frank, and lovingly known as Dad and Grandpapa, was born in Troy, Alabama, to Aubyn Augustus Brown and Myrtle Ree Stewart Brown. He served in the United States Marine Corps just after the Korean War. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama, and, after marrying Mary Ann Hudson, the two ventured West to California.

There, he served with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for several years, with assignments in Patrol, Information / Public Affairs, and its Intelligence Bureau. He later served with the Montgomery Police Department after returning to Alabama and embarking on fatherhood. Eventually, he owned a small business for a time, and also worked in sales and branch management roles for private security companies.

Always an avid reader and unpublished writer, he may have fit the mold of the classic "warrior-poet" caste, even though some know he might have bristled at that distinction.

During the last few years of his life, he regularly defied doctors' expectations, living longer than human calculation. Some might attribute his longevity to his Marine spirit. Others might say that he held on just long enough until all earthly matters of his late first wife and mother of his child, Mary Ann, had concluded, as an act of loving devotion. Perhaps it was a mix of both. His life tells a story of servitude to his country and community, resilience, redemption, tenacity, parenthood, grandparenthood, and the quiet strength of everyday love: that which remains one of the most extraordinary beauties in life.

Charles Frank Brown is survived by his son, Aubyn Martens Brown, and daughter-in-law, Cynthia Ruth Brown; his grandchildren, Ashley Brown Williams and her husband, Joshua Ryan Williams, Savannah Leigh Brown, and Mason Aubyn Brown; and his great-grandchildren, Isabella Grace Williams, Emma Danielle Williams, and Franklin Delano Williams III. He was preceded in death by his parents, Aubyn Augustus Brown and Myrtle Ree Stewart Brown; the mother of his child, Mary Ann Moriarity; and his siblings, Joan Brown, Jean McGraw; his brother-in-law Bill McGraw; and niece Beth McGraw and nephew Larry McGraw.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 31, 2026, at Parkwood Church of God, located at 1975 AL-150, Bessemer, AL 35022 at 3 PM CST.

He will be interred at Alabama National Cemetery at a future date. Please contact his son Aubyn Brown to inquire about details.

Frank will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.