

Charles E. Gearing

Charles Edward Gearing, age 91, died on May 1, 2020 after a brief illness.

Born on December 29, 1928, “Charlie” grew up in the Salvation Army and graduated from high school in Dallas, TX. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering in 1952 from the Georgia Institute of Technology, he married the love of his life, Carol Dodd Gearing, and then served in the United States Army Signal Core in the Korean War. Upon his return from Korea, he and Carol were blessed with three daughters – Marla, Amanda and Melanie, and Charlie completed Master's and Ph.D degrees in Management Science at Purdue University. Charlie taught at Purdue, Auburn University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dartmouth College, the State University of New York in Binghamton, and the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. In 1978, he returned to Georgia Tech and was appointed Dean of the College of Industrial Management. “Charlie” retired from Georgia Tech in 1991 as Vice-President of Development. The Charles E. Gearing Program in Engineering Communication was established in 1998 with the goal to create a new model of engineering education, one that would teach Georgia Tech civil engineering students necessary communication skills within the context of the discipline.



Charlie never met a stranger. He was passionate about his church, and served in various positions at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Atlanta. He was instrumental in the establishment of several ongoing ministries that originated at St. Bartholomew’s, including the Nicholas House shelter for homeless families and the Toco Hills Community Alliance. He helped establish the partnership between St. Bartholomew’s and St. Marc’s parish in Bois Blanc, Haiti, traveling to Haiti several times himself. Charlie was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church in 1993, and also served as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Atlanta. Charlie played a key role in many other organizations as well, including the Alzheimer’s Association and Kids4Peace, an organization that strives for peace in the middle east by facilitating friendships among children of different faiths in Jerusalem and Palestine.

Though Charlie gave so much to others, he excelled best at being a husband, father and grandfather. Charlie and Carol were married for 67 wonderful years, and Charlie adored his wife. Charlie was an excellent father to three daughters, and a most involved and caring grandfather (“Papa”) to five grandchildren. His family knew him as a loving supporter with a witty sense of humor who attended every event possible for his children and grandchildren. Many summers were enjoyed together at the Isle of Palms where Papa would lead baseball games, sand castle building, kite flying and boogie boarding.

Charlie is survived by his wife Carol; three daughters: Marla Gearing, Amanda (Dan) Sanders, and Melanie (Ken) Struble, five grandchildren: Trent, Jenni, Allie (Brett Williams), Kara and Jacob; brother Ray Gearing of Livingston, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews. Two siblings, Fred and Wini, preceded him in death. A celebration of Charlie’s life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Kids4Peace International (<https://k4p.org/>) or to St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church.

Drawn from a published obituary by Wages and Son Funeral Home and from Institute records.