

Charles Roger Khoury



Many of us probably knew Charlie Khoury, at least by sight, as he jogged along the streets of Del Mar and the beach with his distinctive shock of curly white hair, his lean frame, his red suspenders. Unexpectedly, Charlie died on November 15, 2022, at the age of 83, leaving many heartbroken friends, law colleagues, neighbors, and family members.

A fixture in Del Mar, he arrived here some 50 years ago and fell in love with the town and its natural beauty. Never one to waste resources, Charlie was a passionate environmental warrior who was an early adopter of solar energy, concocted homemade devices to capture rainwater, and faithfully composted garbage. At

the family home on 15th Street, he nurtured trees, plants, and wild animals, including owls in the owl houses he built for them. He was also an enthusiastic and knowledgeable beekeeper, often bestowing gifts of honey upon lucky friends, and an inveterate storyteller who could weave tales drawn from his interesting life and tirelessly tell enchanting stories to children of all ages – here’s an example, filmed and animated by one of his grandsons, Secoya.

Charles Roger Khoury, Jr., was born on June 26, 1939, in Charleston, South Carolina. He was the namesake son of an Admiral with a legendary WWII reputation; and Charlie followed him into the military, graduating in 1960 from the U.S. Naval Academy and serving on a submarine during the Vietnam War.

When he returned, he decided to pursue a law career and graduated from the University of San Diego with his J.D. in 1968. For nearly 54 years, Charlie was a Criminal Defense and Appellate Law attorney who, especially in his later years, would become a fierce advocate for the rights of men and women who were wrongfully imprisoned or who desperately needed a representative in court. He was a fearless activist for social justice.

After 43 years of marriage, his beloved wife Carolyn died in 2019, cared for through her illness by Charlie’s great devotion.

In 2021, he found new happiness in his life, and in April 2022 married Eberly Barnes of Del Mar. She survives him, along with his seven children (Ben, Caitlin, Sarah, Jenny, David Joaquin, Miguel, and Megan) and eleven grandchildren (Frida Khoury, Noah Khoury, Soleya Khoury, Chloe Platenius, Reed Platenius, Mason Stewart, Indigo Khoury, Sage Khoury, Draven Hawk, Missa Hawk, and Secoya Khoury).

One of Charlie’s many friends, Pat Ford, described him this way online: Charlie Khoury—old but young, fierce but kind (always kind), relentless in his attack against the abuse of power but always humble, champion of the powerless, welcoming, and always looking to collect beautiful souls in his quest to protect the earth and argue for fairness. Equal parts Don Quixote, Atticus

Finch, and Billy Jack. A warrior poet. Charlie was all those things; but especially to his beloved family, he was “Papa,” and always will be.

Sorrento Valley Chapel