

HAPPY TALK

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GREATER ATLANTA

VOICE MASTERS

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Happy New Year To All From GAVM!

We hope that you all had a Merry Christmas and are ready for a great 2007!

GAVM November 9th, 2006 meeting

We had a wonderful turn out at our November meeting to honor longtime GAVM member, Charles Hubbard. There were over 27 people who attended, including many of Charles' family members and friends. Charles was presented with the Greater Atlanta Voice Masters Lifetime Achievement Award by our GAVM president, Janice Hayes. Charles was very gracious and humble upon receiving his award. He talked for awhile about his life experiences before and after his laryngectomy. Then his son, Charles P. Hubbard, Jr., talked about his father and what he meant to him growing up. Some friends of Charles's from his church also got up and spoke about "Brother Hubbard" It was a

great night to honor Charles. There was a small reception afterward and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.

The following is a biography about Charles Hubbard's life written by his son Charles P Hubbard, Jr.

Charles Hubbard

Charles Hubbard was born on a sugar cane plantation in Donsonville, Louisiana. on October 31st, 1910. Farm work dominated his youth, but he managed to graduate from high school in 1928. He is currently a retired construction superintendent.

He spent most of the 1930's crisscrossing the country doing seasonal labor from Maine, to Florida and from Virginia to California. Charles states, "When you come from a sugar cane farm, just about everything is fun."

During World War II he served as a Merchant Seaman. He acquired further education in Blueprint and Construction Engineering at Rutgers University and earned certification in 1953.

Charles is acutely aware of what denial can cost. In 1978 he was diagnosed with cancer of the larynx. At the time he was a business agent in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. This was a man who represented the Union before an association of general contractors. Charles made his living with his commanding voice, which he could bend to what ever shapes he wanted, including intimidation. He was also active in community activities. He waited two years to get four separate opinions on his cancer. All of the doctors said the same thing.

Finally on June 25, 1980, Charles underwent surgery for laryngectomy. His surgery was performed by Dr. Shaw at Sloan Kettering. Charles speaks with esophageal speech. He doesn't use any of the valuable aids to speak. There were not many types of voice instruments and aids available when Charles had his surgery. He speaks in short phrases with frequent pauses to take in air. Charles states, "I used to be long winded. Many times my wife had to pull my coat tail." After his surgery he was an active member of the Garden State Nu-Voice Club. Charles was a laryngectomee counselor and he served as a liaison between doctors and patients.

Charles lived in New Jersey for more than forty years before moving to College Park, GA. He was married to his first wife, Ernestine Kegler, who died in 1983. They raised four children, all of which are college graduates that reside in the Atlanta area. Charles has fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He married his second wife, Consuella Smith Hubbard, in 1987. When Charles moved to Georgia in 1987, he met Jane Del Vecchio and he became an active member of The Greater Atlanta Voice Masters. He is a familiar face in almost every Metro-Atlanta area hospital, where he has spent time talking, listening and counseling cancer patients including his fellow laryngectomees. Presently patients and families who are referred by their doctors come to his home and he talks to the whole family. Charles says, "I talk to the family because the whole family is involved in the recovery."

While in New Jersey Charles was active in policies, the Elks and the Masons just to name a few. He has always been an active church member. At 96 years old, he is still active in community activities, drives his car daily, wears glasses only for reading, and

splits his own firewood while working in the yard. Charles enjoys playing Texas Hold'em, Poker and surfing the web. He also has the latest cell phone so that his family can keep up with him!

Charles Hubbard has lived an extraordinary life. Recently, he took a flight back to New Jersey. While there he visited Dr. Shaw at Sloan Kettering. Dr. Shaw spent the whole day with Charles taking him on rounds to visit patients and talk to interns. Charles is Deep! He is almost a mystical source of experience. For cancer patients or anyone who is sick, his vitality is stirring. In 1997, a policeman pulled Charles over for doing 80 mph on I-75. The policeman looked at his license, shook his head, and said, "The only thing I can say pops, is god bless you." Charles is a truly remarkable person.

Written By: Charles P. Hubbard, Jr.

"Wise men speak because they have something to say, fools because they have to say something."

~Plato

GAVM Holiday Party, December 3rd, 2006

We all had a great time at the holiday party this year! There was great music and fellowship! It was great to see Jewell Fuller, Rita & Sunil Kapahi, Shirley Olson, Tina Long, Janice Hayes, Boris & Ljerka Jovanovic, Alma Owens and her adorable grand daughter Maddie, Charles Hubbard and his family. I know my daughter Jessie and I had a great time! There are many special thanks to send out to the following people who helped make this gathering possible: Janice Hayes; for coming up with wonderful food (Hawaiian BBQ) at the last minute, Lucy & Keith Cox; for keeping up with the RSVP's and bringing the extra drinks and food, Shirley Olson; for doing what she does best and making the

tables look beautiful, Tina Long; for bringing back the DJ who gets us all to dance! We all had a wonderful time and it sure got me into the holiday mood!

"Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience (dreams): this is the ideal life."

~Mark Twain

Loan Closet

Anyone interested in donating a new or used voice instrument may do so by contacting- Melissa Thompson at 770-788-3882. These donated instruments help give new laryngectomees a "new voice" after surgery.

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

~Mahatma Gandhi

Our People

We are so glad that Tina Long, our GAVM treasurer, is recovering nicely from the heart attack that she suffered the night of our November meeting. Also, Rita Brown is out of the hospital, but she is battling a bad cough this winter. Please keep Tina and Rita in your thoughts and prayers.

GAVM Meeting January 11, 2007

Our January GAVM meeting will be a Budd Terrace at Wesley Woods at 7:30 pm. We hope you all join us for some fellowship and refreshments.

Upcoming Events

February 8th, Heart to Heart meeting -7:30pm at Budd Terrace

March 8th meeting-7:30pm Budd Terrace

April- Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation Banquet

May 10th meeting - 7:30pm at Budd Terrace

May 18th Relay For Life at Adams Stadium, 6pm