

Charles Manuel Johnson, age 67, passed away unexpectedly on March 7, 2024. He was beloved by his family and friends and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Chuck was born on March 18, 1956 in San Jose, Costa Rica to Maria Cecilia Quiros-Johnson and Charles Daniel Johnson. From the start, Chuck was absorbed into a multicultural world that would influence his world views for the rest of his life. At the age of five, his family moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan and five years later to Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia. Chuck went on to attend high school in Kodaikanal, India where he was strongly impacted by the cultures, religions, and socio-economic reality of the local people. It was at Kodaikanal that he made some of his best life-long friends. After graduation from Kodai, Chuck went on to acquire his commercial diving certification at the College of Oceaneering in Wilmington, California. He had always expected diving to be his life-long profession, but life had other plans for him. While applying for commercial diving positions, he took what he thought would be a short-term job for FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Administration, as a Spanish interpreter assigned to the US Catholic Conference (USCC), the voluntary resettlement agency charged with resettling over 25,000 Cuban "Mariel Boatlift" detainees at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. From there, Chuck was enlisted by the USCC to manage resettling of Cuban detainees at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. It was there that he met his future wife, Vanessa, who was also doing similar work. He remained in the Atlanta area to raise his beautiful family and to continue his work with non-profit organizations addressing the needs of immigrant, refugee, and minority populations. Throughout his career, he was known for his hard work, dedication, and passion for helping others.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Vanessa, his children, Schiara (Jeff), Joshua (Victoria), Jon Michael, Shawn, his grandchildren, Ansley (Matt), Abby, Ana and Haley, his great grandchildren Regan, Ridge, his siblings Jerry (Michele), Ana, Steve (Diana), and his numerous nieces and nephews including Joe, Sally, Nic and Ronan. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him. Condolences can be sent or emailed to the following, where they will be shared with the rest of the family: Joshua Johnson and Family 2469 Mohawk Trail Acworth, GA. 30102 or Ana Johnson at [Ana.Johnson@Colorado.edu](mailto:Ana.Johnson@Colorado.edu).

Chuck was deeply concerned about the decades-long Palestinian struggle. For anyone who wishes to donate in his memory, the family is asking for donations to be made to World Central Kitchen.