



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON**  
*President*

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Ben Albritton  
**SUBJECT:** Senator Charlie Dean  
**DATE:** February 23, 2026

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I regret to inform you that former Senator Charles S. “Charlie” Dean, Sr. has passed away. He was 86.

A vibrant and captivating person, Senator Dean’s many stories and sayings honed over a career in law enforcement and as a cattleman are remembered fondly by those who knew him. A trusted friend of Senator Dean’s, who I spoke with this morning on the way to the office, described him as fiercely loyal. He said anyone who knew Senator Dean knew beyond the tough exterior was a tender heart that cared deeply for people.

Senator Dean was a dedicated family man and a strong advocate for Florida’s rural communities. Miss Judy’s famous chow-chow was a beloved session tradition during their time in service. I know the prayers of the entire Senate are with his family as they both grieve this profound loss and celebrate a long, full life.

Senator Dean served in the Senate from 2007-2016, representing Baker, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Suwannee, and Union Counties and part of Marion County. He previously served in the Florida House from 2002-2007. Senator Dean was also a proud veteran of the United State Marine Corps. He was known to most people around the Capitol as “Sheriff Dean,” reflecting his years of service as the Sheriff of Citrus County from 1980-1996. His father, also Charles S. Dean, served as Citrus County Sheriff from 1928-1945, and his mother, Rema Y. Dean, was the City Clerk for Inverness from 1956-1974.

We will share updates regarding funeral arrangements as soon as plans are finalized.