

Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice Monument ^[1]

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Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

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Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice Monument
UNC (Chapel Hill)

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Description: A bronze statue standing 8 feet, 6 inches tall depicts Justice walking in his #22 Tar Heels uniform, carrying his helmet in his left hand. He has a peaceful, pleased expression on his face. Behind the statue is a wall with the text, "'22' Charlie 'Choo Choo' Justice" alongside four bronze plaques which list his accomplishments. Teammate Joe Neikirk, Charlie Loudermilk, and Hugh Morton are credited with proposing the monument.

Inscription:

Leftmost plaque: CHARLIE "CHOO CHOO" JUSTICE / WAS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING, / TALENTED AND BELOVED / PLAYERS IN THE HISTORY OF / CAROLINA ATHLETICS. HE WON / THE MAXWELL AWARD AS THE / NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR / IN 1948 AND WAS TWICE / RUNNER-UP FOR THE HEISMAN / TROPHY. HE WAS THE LEADER / OF TAR HEEL TEAMS THAT / ESTABLISHED THE MOST / DAZZLING ERA IN CAROLINA / FOOTBALL.

Next plaque from left: CHARLIE JUSTICE EARNED / RECOGNITION ON THE FIELD FOR / HIS EXICITING PLAY AND IN THE/ COMMUNITY FOR HIS PUBLIC / SERVICE. JUSTICE WAS NAMED / FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN IN / 1948 AND 1949, WAS TWO-TIME / SOUTHERN CONFERENCE PLAYER / OF THE YEAR AND WAS ELECTED/ TO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL AND / NORTH CAROLINA SPORTS / HALL OF FAME.

Third plaque from left: "CHOO CHOO" JUSTICE AND HIS / TEAMMMATES LED THE TAR HEELS / TO A 32-9-2- RECORD, THREE / BOWL GAMES AND TWO/ SOUTHERN CONFERENCE / CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM 1946-1949. / IN 1948, UNC WAS RANKED NO. 1 / IN THE NATION DURING THE / SEASON AND FINISHED THE YEAR / AT NO. 3, THE HIGHEST RANKING / IN SCHOOL HISTORY.

Rightmost plaque: "CHOO CHOO" WAS THE MOST / VALUABLE PLAYER IN 1950, / WHEN THE COLLEGE ALL-STARS / DEFEATED THE NFL CHAMPION / PHILADELPHIA EAGLES, 17-7. / PLAYING IN FRONT OF 88,885 / FANS, JUSTICE GAINED 133 / YARDS AND AVERAGED AN / ASTONISHING 14.8 YARDS PER / CARRY

Dedication date: 11/5/2004

Creator: Johnpaul Harris, Sculptor

Materials & Techniques: Bronze.

Sponsor: The costs of the monument were paid for by private donations.

Subject notes: Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice played football for the University of North Carolina Tar Heels from 1946 to 1949, after serving in the Navy during World War II. Justice was a star tailback and finished second for the Heisman Trophy in 1948 and 1949. In 1961, he was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. In 2001, UNC named a portion of the Kenan Football Center the Charlie Justice Hall of Honor.

Location: The sculpture is located by the west entrance of the Frank H. Kenan Football Center, near the Sonja Haynes Stone Center.

City: Chapel Hill

County: Orange

Subjects: Educational Institutions, Historic Sports Figures

Latitude: 35.90733

Longitude: -79.04938

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