



Charles Cromar

August 18, 1928 - July 5, 2017

Charles L. Cromar of Sterling Heights passed away peacefully in his home on July 5, 2017 at age 88. To all those who had the pleasure of knowing Chuck, he was known as a kind, generous, positive and adventurous man, always ready with a humorous comment to put a smile on your face. Chuck was born in Detroit on August 18, 1928 and attended Denby High School and Wayne State University. He married Glenys Hoffmeyer on January 6, 1951 and left with the US Army to serve in the Korean War three days later. Upon returning from Korea, he finished his education and started a lifelong career as a teacher and elementary school principal in Royal Oak and Berkley School Districts, retiring from Burton Elementary School in Huntington Woods in 1983. Chuck loved to travel, visiting all 50 states in the US, most of our National Parks, as well as many adventures in Europe, Africa, South America, Asia, the Soviet Union and Australia. He was an avid reader, enjoyed theater and the symphony, as well as a lifelong fan of the Detroit Tigers. Chuck was the loving father of Kathy (Doug) Ming, Washington; Barbara McGaughey, Seaside, CA; and Dian (Burt Bjorling) Cromar Torphy, Cedaredge, CO as well as grandfather of Amanda (Tobias) Boshertz, Rochester; Krysta (Tom) Silveri, Macomb; Shannon (Michael Phillips) Torphy, Denver and Maureen (Mark Twigg) Torphy, Aberdeen, Scotland; and five great grandchildren. He was brother to Mary Aro, Grosse Pointe and Sally McComb, Flint. He was preceded in death by wife, Glenys and brother, Don. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, July 29 at 11:00 am at Cross Lutheran Church, 35851

Utica Rd, Clinton Twp, with a luncheon at the church immediately following the service from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00p.m. In lieu of flowers, we welcome memorial gifts to one of Chuck's favorite charities: Focus Hope, 1200 Oakman Blvd, Detroit, MI 48238, <http://www.focushope.edu/>, ELCA World Hunger, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116, <http://www.elca.org/give> or the National Parks Foundation, 1110 Vermont Ave. NW Suite 200, Washington DC 20005, www.donate.nationalparks.org. Share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **29**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Cross Lutheran Church
35851 Utica Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Tribute Wall

SA

“ I knew Charles as "Chuck" and was lucky enough to meet him while doing summer stock theatre in Flagstaff AZ at NAU. We had a mutual friend who at the time lived in Flagstaff and if memory serves me, he was there to visit her. The following year I moved (back) to Michigan to attend Wayne State University. We reconnected. He was the kindest man I think I ever met. He was an advocate of theatre and a great supporter of my work. We would sometimes enjoy theatre performances together, traveling once to Stratford. I stayed at his home for a time while he traveled. He allowed me to bring my cat and she subsequently destroyed a patio sofa with her nail sharpening. I was so upset and offered to replace it, but he would have nothing to do with that. I have thought about him over the years and have searched to find him without success. I have since moved back to AZ and only today discovered he had passed. He was bright and funny, with a ton of heart. I am sad that I did not get to see him again before he left, but will always remember him fondly.



Susan Arnold - February 24, 2025 at 06:17 PM

WA

“ Just saw this notice, three years late. I was a student at Emerson Elementary in Royal Oak in the late '60s, when Charles was the Principal. I have very fond and appreciative memories of him. I'm a Presbyterian pastor in Scottsdale, Arizona, now. I actually spoke of him in a sermon in September of 2017, having no idea that he had died just 2 months prior. For his family, I want to give the excerpt below: from Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, September 17, 2017, Wes Avram preaching. A tribute.

"When I was in 6th grade, I got to be the chairman of a little committee that the Principal of my elementary school asked to plan a schoolwide celebration of the very first Earth Day. We had an assembly. We put on a play, borrowed gas masks from the local armory, cleaned the courtyard, had a bake sale to buy a statue of a turtle, and felt an enormous sense of accomplishment for a group of 11 and 12 year olds. For years, I actually thought that I did all of that —until I did the math and realized that behind everything we did for that day was the hidden work of Charles Cromar, our Principal. We gained a sense that we could accomplish anything, while he was doing everything necessary for us to have that experience."

Wesley Avram - May 07, 2020 at 01:29 PM

JW

“ My name is Jennifer Wyatt. My maiden name was Sharpe. If memory serves me correctly, Mr. Cromar was my principal at Emerson Elementary School in Royal Oak. I remember him as being very kind and understanding. May he rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Jennifer L. Wyatt - December 22, 2019 at 12:32 AM

JG

“ I am so sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. He was a wonderful principal and friend at Burton School. My children loved him and he was great to work with as a parent volunteer. He would be happy to know that our daughter has become a kindergarten teacher.

JOANNE Galvin - September 29, 2017 at 05:17 PM

JA

“ Barb and Family: We grieve with you for the loss of your father and grandfather. God bless as you celebrate his life and influence on many others.

John & Margie Alexander - July 09, 2017 at 03:38 PM

MT

“ My condolences to the family. When death strikes the pain and grief can seem unbearable. May you find comfort in Jesus words, "I am the resurrection and the life.-John 11:25

M. Tuffy - July 09, 2017 at 06:27 AM

WA

“ My memories of my Uncle Chuck mostly involve Tiger baseball. When I was young my Uncle would invite me to baseball games at Tiger Stadium. This was a great delight for me. He taught me to enjoy the game win or lose. His happiness and laughter will always be with me.

William Aro - July 07, 2017 at 07:18 PM