



Charles George Clark

November 13, 1927 - August 10, 2017

Charles George Clark, 89, of Kalkaska, passed away at Kalkaska Memorial Assisted Living on Thursday, August 10, 2017. Mr. Clark was born at home, during a snowstorm, in Gregory, Michigan to the late Charles and Margaret (Driver) Clark. He grew up in Pinckney, and at an early age started helping at his father's Gas Station and Garage where they also had the local AAA wrecker service. Chuck entered the U.S. Army during World War II, where he served in the 27th Reg., 25th Div., "Tropic Lightning" in Okinawa and Hokkaido, Japan. He returned and continued his education at Western Michigan University. While there he earned 3 varsity letters in baseball, football, and golf. Chuck went on to earn his Master's Degree from WMU. He married the love of his life Ruth Kennedy on September 9, 1950. Mr. Clark began teaching at Kalkaska High School in 1953, and continued his tenure until his retirement in 1992. During that time he was extremely active; from beginning the football and ski teams for the high school, to fighting for better conditions for Kalkaska teachers acting as chief negotiator, introduced UNIVAC II computer applications to his science class when only colleges had access in the 1960s, was a Finalist for Teacher's in Space and was invited to attend the 2nd to last Challenger launch, and received Northern Michigan Teacher of the Year award. During the Vietnam War, Chuck was a Ham Radio operator, he would relay messages from soldiers to their families. He was always trying to learn, going back and obtaining a second Master's Degree. Chuck had his pilot's license and was a member of the Civil Air Patrol; he was also a member of the National Ski Patrol. Chuck and Ruth were founding members at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, where they have attended, and Chuck was a member of the Knights of Columbus. In 2009, Chuck was inducted to the Kalkaska High School Alumni Hall of Fame. He was always honored to teach the students of Kalkaska. Chuck is survived by his wife, of nearly 67 years, Ruth; children: Charles L. (Marsha), Kevin J. (Karen), Timothy P. (Sharon), Gerald A. (Lori), and Joan Clark; Chuck was always particularly fond of all his daughter-in-law's cooking; grandchildren: Brendan, Shane (Marie), Angella (Jed), Michael, Erin, Laura (Jonathan), Michael, Melissa (Zack), Jeff, David, and Cameron; great grandchildren: Conner, Addison, Ella, Keegan, Max, Axel, Lydia, and Ben; and siblings: Tom, Dennis, Francis, Anita, and brother-in-law Ray. He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Mary and Elizabeth, and brother Jerry. A funeral

mass will be held on at 11:00am, Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church; friends may gather beginning at 10:00am. Memorial contributions may be made in Mr. Clark's honor to Kalkaska High School or Heartland Hospice. Arrangements entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

St. Mary of the Woods Cemetery

Barker Creek, MI,

Events

AUG Final Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

16

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church
438 CR 612 NE, Kalkaska, MI, US, 49646

AUG Funeral Mass 11:00AM

16

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church
438 CR 612 NE, Kalkaska, MI, US, 49646

Comments



“ Death is a difficult thing to deal with the Bible gives us a hope and comfort at Rev 21:3,4 I hope it's a comfort to you all as well

karensw - September 08, 2017 at 08:11 AM



“ I loved Mr Clark's classes and teaching style. I credit him with my love of chemistry and my career choice as an environmental chemist

Sandy Buchner - August 20, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ Amy LaForest Thomas lit a candle in memory of Charles George Clark



Amy LaForest Thomas - August 17, 2017 at 09:46 AM



“ I always enjoyed our Birthday wishes we passed back and forth each year having birthdays in the same week. He never forgot mine it was first ! Going to miss his kind words and smile when he came into the Post office each day to check the mail.

patricia kauska - August 15, 2017 at 07:10 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles George Clark.



August 15, 2017 at 01:02 PM



“ My thoughts are with all of you. I enjoyed Chuck as a teacher, golfer, and when he came into McLean's Hardware. Always a wonderful person. You can tell the quality of a person by the family they leave behind. All of them are wonderful people to carry on his legacy.

A friend forever Al Dimon

Al Dimon - August 15, 2017 at 10:09 AM



“ Your Friends at the Frankfort Store #643 purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Charles George Clark.



Your Friends at the Frankfort Store #643 - August 15, 2017 at 08:29 AM



“ Charles was my counselor in high school... I was a kid from the country without any self esteem who was looking for the easy way out... I will never forget when he tore up my schedule for all of the easy courses and signed me up for all the right classes... I ended up graduating from college with a degree in engineering... he changed my life... thanks again Charlie...

Walt Lund - August 14, 2017 at 04:34 PM



“ I was honored to be a teaching colleague of Chuck's from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. He served as an exemplary role model for excellence, not only for students, but also for the entire teaching staff. As advisor to the National Honor Society for over 20 years, I was also honored to spearhead the drive to name our local chapter "The Charles G. Clark Chapter of the National Honor Society". Chuck epitomized the four high standards of N.H.S. membership: Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service. Chuck was the first teacher to be inducted as part of the inaugural class into the Kalkaska High School Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009. His tireless dedication to Kalkaska High School, his family, his church, the community, our nation, and the world speak volumes about the legacy he has left behind. Dave Stockford

David Stockford - August 14, 2017 at 12:37 PM



“ A true gentleman and gentle man, in every sense. Rest in Peace Mr. Clark.

Melanie Pauch, Kalkaska Veterans Affairs - August 14, 2017 at 11:52 AM



“ Melanie Pauch lit a candle in memory of Charles George Clark



Melanie Pauch - August 14, 2017 at 11:49 AM



“ Kevin, I think it is so good of God to have given your dad a long, blessed life with his family. You were all blessed by him, as well. I remember him as a really nice teacher. A good man. God bless, and I hope the service is filled with lots of good memories and sharing his love for all of you.

Fondly,
Debbie (Peck) Eckhout
Arcadia

Debbra (Peck) Eckhout - August 14, 2017 at 09:41 AM



“ Dan and Gianna Clark purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Charles George Clark.



Dan and Gianna Clark - August 13, 2017 at 12:17 PM