



Charles Erickson

March 18, 2009

NORWAY - Charles "Chuck" David Erickson, 66, of W5716 Warner Lane in Norway, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at his home.

He was born on Nov. 30, 1942, in Iron Mountain, son of the late E.O. "Buck" and Muriel (Johnson) Erickson. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1960, and then pursued his childhood dream of maintaining the heavy equipment machinery used to build roads. After attending an intensive diesel mechanics program in Illinois, Chuck was employed by Bacco Construction Co. in late 1960 starting as a field mechanic. In 1970, he became the shop superintendent, a position he held until his retirement in 1995.

From 1984-2002, Chuck also served on Bacco's Board of Directors as a stockholder. After his retirement, Chuck became a certified heavy equipment appraiser, operating this business often with the assistance of his son, Chuck.

He served in the Michigan Army National Guard beginning in September of 1964 and was honorably discharged as a sergeant in September 1970.

He married the former Karen Moe on Aug. 6, 1966, in Minneapolis, Minn. She preceded him in death on Aug. 18, 2007.

On Nov. 29, 2008, Chuck married Peggy Schram at St. Mary Queen of Peace Church in Kingsford. Together they fulfilled his dream of building a home at "the camp" complete with a beautiful den where he meticulously catalogued his extensive library of World War II books and movies.

The citizens of Dickinson County, as well as communities statewide, also benefited from Chuck's knowledge and expertise in road maintenance and building. In 1977, he began his tenure on the Dickinson County Road Commission and, since then, served as chairman various times and was currently chairman at the time of his death.

Chuck was also appointed to the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) Board in September 1994. There he held the offices of vice-president and president as well as serving on the following committees: General Policy Committee, Executive Committee, Commissioners' Committee, Legislative Review Committee, and the Township Relations Committee.

As a member of the U.P. Road Builders' Association, he also served as president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer.

Chuck was one of the longest seated commissioners in the state of Michigan serving the citizens of Dickinson County and Road Commissions across the state for more than 32 years.

Chuck was truly a remarkable individual, a wonderful husband, father, brother, uncle, friend and dedicated public servant. Stories of his wit, intelligence, work ethic, compassion, generosity and love are legend. His presence will be forever felt in the hearts of those who loved him. His chair at Saturday lunch and Sunday coffee may be empty, but his friends will certainly celebrate his life there and elsewhere.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife, Peggy; his son, Chuck (E-Ben) Erickson of Appleton, Wis.; his sister and brother-in-law, Kristine and Stephen Leonard of Iron Mountain; his niece, Erika (Jim) Harbridge and their children, Ava and Max of Thornton, Colo., Gabe (Jeannie) Leonard and their son, Jackson of Chicago, Zachary (Jill) Leonard and their sons, Zachary and Winston Charles of Auburn Hills, Mich.; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Jim and Barb Schram of Iron River; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Debbie and Bob Han of Iron River, Kathy and Dave Ridolphi of Iron River, Jim and Ginny Schram of Green Bay, Wis., Richard and Jessica Schram and their families, Ann and Tilman O. Moe II of Neenah, Wis. and Gail and Leroy Neal of LaMirada, Calif. and their families.

Visitation will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Central time) at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain.

Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. at the church. Rev. Lori Liverance will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Pallbearers will be Henry Wender, Marty Allstrom, Ron Hoskins, Allan Bilski, Tim Hammill, and George Gendron. Honorary pallbearers are Bob Forgette Sr. and Bob Forgette Jr.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dickinson County Road Commission/Humane Society Project in memory of Chuck.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Charles "Chuck" Erickson online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

NE

“ Erickson family: I am very sorry to hear about Chuck. We were classmates @ IMHS. He was a fun guy to be with and have fond memories of our time together. I must report one hesterical incident:

In High School, Chuck owned a 1949 green Chevy convertible with an in-line six and split manifold (4/2), dual exhaust, standard transmission. When Chuck would rev the engine to a certain rpm range in 2nd gear, the sound resonated perfectly through his dual exhaust system and the noise coming out was absolutely deafining. Now Chuck was in a muffler ticket contest (for noise) with another classmate (not sure but of his name but I think his initials were Mike B.). MB had just gotten a muffler ticket and was now one ahead of Chuck (the number 16 seems to stand out). Chuck had a competitive streak in him and invited me to take a ride with him. With the top down on his Chevy, we headed North out of town towards the Michigan State Police Post to make some noise and get a muffler ticket. As we approacked the Mich Stae Police Post, Chuck proceded to place his '49 Chevy into second gear and I could literally hear the deafining noise bounce off the State Police Post building. Chuck proceeded past the State Police Post and then did a U-turn (legal-I'm sure) and now was heading Southbound again towards the Michigan State Police Post. Being in the Southbound lane he was even closer this time to the Post building. He again proceeded to place the Chevy into that resonant 2nd gear and again the noise was overwhelming. Chuck continued driving a little further South then performed another U-turn and headed back North again to repeat the whole process. The Troppers inside the Post got the message for as we passed by, there was a shiny blue Plymouth Mich State Police car and driver with yellow emblem on door, parked in driveway waiting and starring at Chuck. Chuck saw him and immediately pulled over (not even waiting to be pulled over) to the side of the road and the Mich State Police car pulled in behind him. The Tropper got out of his car and approached Chuck with a Gustapo type walk and confused look. Chuck was smiling all the while the Tropper wrote him the muffler ticket and Chuck threw it in the glove box with all the other tickets. Mission accomplished, he

was now tied with MB! I don't recall ever seeing anyone so determined and happy to receive a ticket!

Nick Eutizzi - March 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Chris and family. I am so sorry to hear about your brother. Hang onto the wonderful memories. It will help you get through this difficult time.*

Sally Jo (Wheeler) Bailey - March 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ *Peg
I have just found out about your loss of Chuck, I am so very sorry and wish I could be there with you now. I have tried calling you at home and will continue until I can reach you. You were such a great source of comfort for me during my loss of Jerry, that I will never forget. Please accept my sincere condolences to you and Chuck's family. I will be keeping you in my prayers and thoughts, and will try to get in touch with you. Sincerely, Mary DeMarse,
Marquette.*

Peg - March 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Dear Peg,
I know your journey, and I am sending you all the strength and care and support possible. May Chuck always be just beside you, barely out of sight, but always present as you keep him with you in your heart and memories.
Much love,
Bets*

Betsy Mitchell - March 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

IN

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to you all. I worked with Chuck for many years. He was a great person to work with. I am so sorry for your loss. Ivan Nedeau, Escanaba*

Ivan Nedeau - March 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Peg, May the comfort of God help you and your family during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Jan Myer - March 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Peg,
My sincere sympathy goes out to you during these difficult times.
I am praying that you will find comfort in all of your wonderful memories with Chuck.
I wish you the best!*

Dolly Willems - March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ *Peggy,
I am so sorry for your loss. I know that Chuck meant the world to you and you to him. When you spoke of Chuck your face lit up and you smiled from ear to ear. Please know that I am here for you anytime day or night. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Draw upon all the prayers being offered for you.
You are a special person and very much loved by many as Chuck was.
May The Spirit of God provide you with the strength to get through each moment during the hectic days to follow and may Christ's unending love comfort you as you grieve both openly and privately.
I Love you*

Aunt Norma - March 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Peggy sending our deepest and most sincere sympathy for your loss. I will talk to you soon. I will keep you in my prays, God Bless You. Rose

Ron & Rose Pittsley - March 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dear Peg,

I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this trying and difficult time. May you find peace and comfort in family and friends and the fond memories the two of you shared together. Sincerely, Lisa

Lisa Sharapata - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Peg, know that though we are out of town and unable to attend the funeral that you and Chuck's family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Mike and Chris Kusz - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WL

“ Chuck, Kris, Peggy, and families,
Our deepest sympathy goes out to you all in the loss of your Dad, Chuck; brother, Kris; and husband, Peggy.
We pray the good memories you all shared with him will keep him forever close to you all in your minds and hearts.
Nancy and Walter Lakari

Walt and Nancy Lakari - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Peg,

We are so sorry to hear of your loss, we did not really know Chuck, but I know that he made you very very happy. We send you our deepest sympathy, and prayers.

Joan and Don

Joan and Don Arms - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Dear Peg and famiy, What a shock for you! Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. Stories you've told about Chuck have told all of us what a great guy he was and how much he was adored by you. Keep his memories close! My thoughts and prayers are with you...Lori*

Lori Moreau - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *Peggy, Chuck and everyone. I have very fond memories of Chuck. He deer hunted with us up Ralph often. There was more than one event, but the one that is with me most is driving up there at night, the two of us in his Model T truck. There was one section of road between hills that never saw daylight and was always icy. We came around the corner and there were 10 deer in the middle of the road. They were sliding, we were sliding and I still to this day do not remember how we snuck between them all. It must have been all that yelling we were doing. Chuck was a good friend. Dennis Rahoi*

Dennis Rahoi - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Dear Peggy,
May the beautiful memories of your husband's love and all the caring hearts that surround you comfort you now and always. To you, your family and Chuck's family, we send our love and deepest sympathy. We shall keep all of you in our thoughts & prayers.
"Love Lives On"....Lyn,Kent & Family

Lyn & Kent Reidinger - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Peg,

I am so sorry for your loss, may God be with you during this difficult time in your life.

Dean Cravillion - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ My dearest Peg,

You are in my thoughts and prayers at this time of your sorrow. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Carolyn Hietamaki - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Paul and I would like to send our condolences to you and the rest of the family. Paul worked with Chuck at Bacco's and had great respect for him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Paul and Renee Cram - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Dear Peg and Families,
My deepest sympathy to you all. Chuck was a wonderful person and an incredibly kind man....I will always remember his many times at our house with my brother, Jim....and when he spent time, as a boy, with my dad at the County garage.....he will be deeply missed. I am sorry I will be unable to attend the funeral as I am out of town....but my thoughts and prayers are with you all. What a loss.....

Cynthia Corsi Gordon - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GN

“ I was so shocked to hear that Chuck is gone. Dear "Chuckles" was a brother to me and I loved the fun we had especially when we had family gatherings when our kids were little. I wish I could be there to see young Chuck and meet Peg. Blessings to you both. I am praying for you.

Gail Neal - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Peg, I was so sorry to hear this news. You have my deepest sympathy and I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. May you find comfort in your memories and time with your loved ones. Mary

Mary Wetherbee - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Dear Peggy and family,

I am so sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. My heart and prayers go out to you and your family. You could tell he brought so much happiness into your life. You just shined when ever you talked about him.

Tracie, DPFP

Tracie Frappier - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Dear Peg,

We were all so so very sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. Please know that you and Chuck's family are in the thoughts and prayers of all the housekeeping staff at Drs. Park.

Sue Bushey - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Peg,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of sorrow. May the comfort of God help you during this difficult time. Brian

Brian Charlier - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Peg - sorry to hear this news - you are in my thoughts.

Bobbi Francis - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LQ

“ Peg,
My deepest sympathies to you and your family. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Lisa Querio - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ My dear Peg,
Please know that you are loved by many. Mortal words alone could not possibly comfort you in all that you are experiencing. Many are praying for you and for Chuck's loved ones as you struggle to come to grips with his unpredictable passing. May The Spirit of God provide you with the strength to get through each moment during the hectic days to follow and may Christ's unending love comfort you as you grieve both openly and privately. My deepest sympathy, love and support go out to you. ----Tange

Tangerine - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Dearest Peg,

Please accept my deepest sympathy as I know Chuck meant the world to you. May your wonderful memories always keep Chuck close to your heart. God Bless

Kathy

Kathy Fett - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Our community has lost a great leader! I'll miss Chuck's wit and mostly his harassing ways! Our Lord now holds him in his warm embrace and I am sure Chuck will have for those to greet him comments and recommendations (maybe even a proposal) on the "conditions" of the road to heaven... :)

Chuck will be missed. You have my sincerest sympathies...Mary @ Bacco

Mary - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Peg, I am sincerely sorry to hear of your loss. Although I never met Chuck, I know he must have been a special man because he always made your eyes light up when you spoke of him. He will forever be in your heart. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

carol anderkay - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Dear Peg, Kris & Dr. Leonard and Families,
When I think of Chuck I remember how his mischievous smile lit up the room. I also remember what a wonderful warm heart he had. He always had a funny story to tell. He'll be missed greatly. God bless you and help you through this time. Judy, Bob & Alexa

Judy Trethewey - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Hi Peg,

I am truly saddened to learn of your loss. Chuck meant the world to you and because of that to me. Please accept my deepest sympathies and know that you are always in my thoughts and prayers. Peace be with you always.

Brian Koller

Brian Koller - March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM