



Charles Gene Hutchinson

July 7, 1925 - February 24, 2021

Charles G. (Chuck) Hutchinson, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, husband, son, uncle, brother, and friend, passed away on February 24, 2021 at the age of 95. He was born on July 7, 1925 near Brookings, South Dakota. He and his twin brother John were the sons of John Howard and Pearl Hutchinson. He grew up on the family farm and as a young man spent time working in the family newspaper business.

He graduated from South Dakota State College with a major in Geography and a minor in Mathematics. During the Korean War he served as a Corporal in the Army from 1951 to 1953, stationed in Seattle, Washington. Making his way back to the Midwest, he settled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he earned a Master's degree in Education from the U of M. He embarked on a career in teaching, settling into a position at Robbinsdale Senior High School where he taught math for nearly thirty years.

During the early years of his teaching career, he began attending Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. It was there he met Pauline Swetland, whom he married on June 14th, 1964. Chuck and Pauli's marriage lasted over 50 years. Together they raised four children, including adopting daughters Beth and Sarah into the family from El Salvador in 1976. They built enduring friendships, and served the church in numerous ways throughout their 50 plus years of membership.

Also during his early years in Minnesota, Chuck acquired land on the shore of Leech Lake and began building a summer cabin that was to become a significant part of his family's life and legacy. With close friends and extended family, he helped develop a community at Leech Lake that has strongly influenced three generations and continues to flourish, thanks in large part to Chuck's long-standing commitment to cabin life.

As a father, grandfather, and even great-grandfather, Chuck deeply loved and cared for his children. He regularly carved out time for each one of his children and had special relationships that transcended his outwardly simple message of life.

In his later years Chuck resided at The Waters of Plymouth, along with Pauli until her death in 2016. Chuck continued to build friendships at The Waters with the caring staff and residents up until his death. Until very recently he enjoyed playing the piano for residents, one of his many interests and talents. He will be greatly missed.

Preceded in death by wife Pauline Hutchinson, daughter Sarah Kelly, brother, John Hutchinson and nephew Larry Hutchinson.

Survived by daughter Elizabeth Asch; sons David and Kenneth Hutchinson; niece Michele Shaw; granddaughters Genevieve Hutchinson, Jasmine Kelly, Alexis Palmquist, Casey Asch and Tamara Benedict; grandsons Brady Hutchinson, Cody Palmquist, and Blake Knuth; great-granddaughter Vera Hutchinson; great-grandsons Theo and Oliver Palmquist, and Zander Hutchinson.

A limited memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 4th at 11AM at Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel. Interment at Lakewood Cemetery

following the service.

Memorials can be made out to Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, or to Old School by Steeple People, where he volunteered for many years.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429
(763) 533-8643
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Funeral Service of Charles G. Hutchinson in memory of Charles Gene Hutchinson



Washburn-McReavy - March 03, 2021 at 11:05 AM

SK

Thanks for all the perfect words and memories of Uncle Chuck! Wonderful tribute in song Jasmine; your grandfather would be very proud! Wish I could have been there in person with you all. -Steve K

Steve Keighton - March 04, 2021 at 12:32 PM

MS

Home on the Range was a perfect ending as my dad, your Uncle John, would sing it often. I have many great memories of Uncle Charles and Pauli. Thanks for sharing yours. I am glad I could be with you virtually.

Michele (Shelley) Shaw

Michele A Shaw - March 04, 2021 at 12:59 PM

SK

“ At *The Lake*, Uncle Chuck taught me about the wisdom that comes from quiet and observation. Listening to children laughing, mosquitos humming, the Twins game on the radio, or the ticking clock on the wall in no hurry at all to mark the passage of a summer evening of reading, writing, drawing, or games. Or sitting on the screen porch simply watching a late night storm steadily drift across the water, maybe too distant to even hear. Or, patiently fashioning and painting wooden toys as gifts for family and friends, or for sale, which would become gifts for someone else's family or friends. Uncle Chuck did not spend most of his time in idle or selfish conversation, but was usually observing, thinking, and often faintly smiling as he contemplated the blessings, curiosities, or even challenges, of the world around him. Then in his own time when he was ready, would offer clever and wise words that he had been fashioning in his head to put perspective on what he had been observing. I always listened when Uncle Chuck spoke, and often laughed, because those carefully chosen offerings were perhaps the best gifts he created and shared with us at *The Lake* (and elsewhere), and I am forever grateful to have been there as part of the family to benefit from his quiet wisdom and humor (and a few wooden toys). Many thanks and much love Uncle Chuck!

Steve Keighton, Virginia

Steve Keighton - March 04, 2021 at 09:13 AM

AL

“ Sending love to all of you! I'm surprised that Hennepin Church is still standing - I thought Chuck was literally built into the structural supports of the building. Stalwart, steady, tall, even-keeled are the words that come immediately to mind when I think of Chuck. I remember him working FOREVER (like decades...) at Steeple People Thrift Store when we were on Lyndale Avenue. He was a perfect cashier. Totally calm. Totally cool. Thanks so much to the family for including Old School by Steeple People in your memorial suggestions! With love, Anne Lippin (Secretary of the Board, Old School by Steeple People)

Anne Lippin - March 03, 2021 at 07:04 PM

KH

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Ken Hutchinson - March 02, 2021 at 06:29 PM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Gene Hutchinson.



March 02, 2021 at 02:57 PM

HF

“ Hugs to all, Jim and Alice and K-ton families purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Charles Gene Hutchinson.



Hugs to all, Jim and Alice and K-ton families - March 02, 2021
at 02:11 PM

CP

“ When I joined the Math Staff at Cooper Sr. High in 1969, Chuck was the Dept. Head. One day, while walking together, he asked me: *What's your Teaching Philosophy?* As a young teacher, responding to the person who could fire me, and not wanting to upset him, I mumbled something. Chuck said: *"Some teachers think that they should teach their classes and it's the student's job to learn the stuff; others think they should pace their teaching, making sure that students learn the topic before they go on."* I said that we had to teach the topics, making sure that students understood and help them if needed. Chuck then told me: *"That's what I think also. I find out where the kids are and then work like hell so that they don't go backwards."* Then he walked off.

Chuck didn't often smile. You knew that he meant business. But the kids figured him out. They called him "The one with the dancing eyes." He took care of business, and was serious about it, but one learned to look at his eyes--they often had a twinkle in them, and you knew he was up to something. He was an accomplished, professional educator whose humanness and dedication to others became the more apparent the more one knew him. He was a private man who showed us all how to be a great teacher.

Claude Paradis, Cooper Math Teacher

Claude Paradis - February 28, 2021 at 04:44 PM



Hello Claude. This is a great memory. Thanks for sharing! -- Dave Hutchinson

Dave Hutchinson - March 02, 2021 at 03:52 PM

SK

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Steve Keighton, Virginia

Steve Keighton - March 02, 2021 at 09:05 PM