



## Charles Robert Hutchinson Jr.

February 6, 1940 - October 21, 2024

Charles "Chuck" Robert Hutchinson Jr., age 84, of Bloomington, Minn. passed away peacefully on Oct. 21, 2024, at Founder's Ridge in Bloomington, Minn., following a three-year battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was born in Rochester, Minn. on February 6, 1940, to Charles Robert and Elsa Bach Hutchinson, the oldest of three children. He is survived by his brother John (Sharon), sister Sally, five children: Charles (Chuck) Hutchinson III (Julie), Cynthia (Cindy) Dowson (Scott), Carrie Young (Joe), Craig Hutchinson, Carla Veum (Cory); and nine grandchildren: Charles (Charlie) Hutchinson IV, Laurel Hutchinson, Madeline Dowson, Anna Dowson, Michael Dowson, Emma Young, Elizabeth Young, Noah Veum, and Nicole Veum.

Chuck grew up in Rochester, Minn., and graduated from Rochester High School in 1958. He went on to earn his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Mankato State University. He spent his career working for the State of Minnesota in various roles consistently serving those with disabilities, and specifically supporting programs for the blind. Chuck was active in local politics and was a firm believer that "we all do better when we all do better" to quote the late Senator Paul Wellstone.

Chuck was an avid sailor and longtime member of Wayzata Yacht Club, where he spent many weekends racing the Banshee on Lake Minnetonka. During the month of January, he'd escape the cold Minnesota winters by trailering the

Banshee down south to race in Key West, Fla. While his first love was sailing, Chuck also obtained his private pilot's license later in life and was fascinated by aviation. He was a lifelong learner, always up for a new hobby to study and enjoy. In his 70s he continued his education by auditing history classes at the University of Minnesota.

But more than anything else in the world, Chuck treasured time with his kids and grandkids. He was a regular spectator at the baseball field, the football field, the hockey rink, the soccer pitch, the volleyball court, and the dance studio. He always said that he wanted to stay on this earth as long as he could enjoy quality time with his kids, and when the effects of Parkinson's Disease took that from him, he knew it was his time to pass peacefully.

A private family burial will be held on Oct. 30 at Oakwood Cemetery in Rochester, Minn. The family is planning a Celebration of Life where all are welcome and will update the memorial website with that information when it's scheduled.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a memorial donation be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ To Chuck's family- I was a friend of your dad for over 50 years...since he worked at Mankato Rehab Center. He never sought or expected to be recognized for the impact he had on making the lives of people with disabilities better. But he was at the center of most of the political senanigans at DVR which resulted in rights for people with disabilities.. Those times are my best memories. I last saw Chuck in August of 2023. I was so happy to see the arrangements you made so that he could stay in his own home and be as independent as possible. That day he was looking forward to going to a baseball game to see his grandson play. He was proud of that his grandson was a good baseball player. He was proud of all of you...sailing with you was his happy place. I am so grateful for the attention and commitment you had to making your dad's last years happy for him.

*Peace be with you as you remember him.*

*Marijo Olson Hoffmann*

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**Marijo Olson Hoffmann** - December 25, 2024 at 02:42 AM

TE

“ Chuck was the guy you always wanted on your race course - because he made YOU better. Calm, genial, impeccably fair on the water. Gracious, fun and always helpful after the contest. Seemingly without effort he set the standard for how things should be.

*Flew in to MSP today, with the approach path over Minnetonka. Somehow the lake didn't look the same knowing that he's sailing elsewhere now.*

*Fair winds, Chuck.*

*Tom E*

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**Tom E** - November 06, 2024 at 11:58 PM

PC

“ Worked closely with Chuck for many years when I worked for Bowers Sails and when Bino and I started Sequel. Chuck managed the Banshee program as well as any local program I’ve seen , and plugged me into the crew often. He was a good dude, will never forget the uniform.. cutoff jeans and a white T-shirt.  
Rest Peacefully sir.

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**Petey Crawford** - November 06, 2024 at 01:29 PM

DA

“ Chuck was a 100% class act.

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**Dallas** - November 06, 2024 at 10:04 AM

RG

“ I had the honor of working, sailing and politicking with Chuck. His professionalism and advocacy for individuals with disabilities made a difference in the lives of those who needed a champion. That advocacy extended to his significant political work as well. I benefited from his love of sailing and his enthusiasm in teaching a novice the intricacies of the sport. Some of my best times were on the Banshee. While I’ve lost contact over the years I will remember him as a kind, funny and strong advocate who made a difference.  
Condolences to the entire family.

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**Richard Ginsberg** - October 26, 2024 at 12:48 PM