



Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr.

March 21, 1957 - August 17, 2025

Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr., age 68, of Nowthen, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on August 17, 2025, surrounded by family after an eight-year battle with prostate cancer and melanoma. The melanoma ultimately won, but Chuck's strength and spirit never wavered.

He is survived by the love of his life, his wife Jaci; sons, Chase (Whitney) and Alex; cherished grandchildren, Isaac, Joshua, Connor, and Frederick; former daughter-in-law, Rochelle Bosquez; his mother, LaVaun Mergenthal; and sisters, Cheryl (Dick) Cochran and Dawn (Dan) Sanders. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Mergenthal Sr.

Chuck will be remembered for his love of woodworking, fishing, and playing cribbage. In his younger years, he played drums in several different bands, and in later years he continued sharing his gift of music by playing drums in various churches. His craftsmanship, rhythm, humor, and warmth touched the lives of all who knew him, and his greatest joy was time spent with his family.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 30, 2025 at 2 PM with visitation starting at 1 PM at Washburn-McReavy Coon Rapids Chapel, 1827 Coon Rapids Blvd. A luncheon will follow at the Coon Rapids VFW, 1919 Coon Rapids Blvd.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to all who supported Chuck and his family throughout his illness with food, prayers and kindness.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **30**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Coon Rapids Chapel
1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Memorial Service

AUG **30**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Coon Rapids Chapel
1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Our sympathy to Chucks family and friends. Chuck was a good man and will be missed.*

Starting in 1974, We were in a band together. Chuck was an excellent drummer with clockwork timing. With Chucks family helping, we played high school dances, town halls and outdoor parties.

I remember Chucks rhythm steady keeping us in time playing The Doobie Bros, Bad Company, FogHat.

His drum solos were epic covers of Grand Funk Railroad. Chuck was part of the best time of our lives. We played our last event together Graduation weekend 1976. We rented generators and set up outside on “The Hill” on Pelican Lake Mn. Fond memories.

Chuck worked with booking agents and managed our trips hauling equipment.

That’s quite an accomplishment for teenagers.

We lost touch over the years but we all have fond memories of Chuck.

Rest in Peace.

John Shaw

john shaw - March 02 at 06:58 PM

GC

“ As one of Chuck's cousins. what I appreciated most about him was his love of family. I remember wedding dances when he would help me practice my two step. I remember the joy i saw when he was dancing with Brad, and the scary story he shared with us when i had a sleep over with Shelly. I remember Chuck hosting a family reunion at his house, being present at funerals and telling us stories that made us all feel connected. For example, bringing a Pepsi to Grandpa Herman's funeral. I wasn't there when he shared his room temperature Pepsi with Chuck, but it was a moment that we as cousins all experienced individually at one time or another.

Gretchen (formerly Ruther) Charlton

Gretchen Charlton - August 28, 2025 at 10:06 PM

DS

“ To Jaci and family,
Our heartfelt condolences for you all!
I remember Chuck teaching me how to waltz and do the 2 step in the kitchen. Going to hear him play in the rock bands! Helping him by holding his base drum in place when it started sliding away during his "Wipe Out" solo. The drum happened to was directly under a cymbal. Now you know why my hearing isn't the best lol. Chuck took me to my 1st rock concert! When he got his first apartment, he let me come over to help him set up his kitchen. I thought that was so cool!
He always took me under his wing.
Chuck will be deeply missed and my heart goes out for you. His light will always be in my heart!
Prayers for comfort and peace! I love you all so very much! Dawn

Dawn Sanders - August 28, 2025 at 01:21 AM

LF

“ Love, Aunt Diane and The Weber Family purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



Love, Aunt Diane and The Weber Family - August 27, 2025 at 09:05 PM

SL

“ I've known Chuck for over 40 yrs and I have lots of great memories. I think what I'll remember the most is his infectious smile & laugh. And the way he loved Jaci. Also his love for Chase & Alex and then their grandsons. He was a hands on family man who will be so missed by everyone.



I can picture him in the kitchen, talking, laughing and baking up a storm. Showing me how to make lefse, which was wonderful. His garage that never had a car in it due to his love of wood working. I'll cherish the items I have that he made.

My deepest sympathies to Jaci, Chase, Alex & families. May we all be better for having known & loved him.

Shelley Lindquist - August 27, 2025 at 08:36 PM

FF

“ From the Sanders and Samuelson family's purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



From the Sanders and Samuelson family's - August 27, 2025 at 12:57 PM

FF

“ From the Sanders and Samuelson family's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..

From the Sanders and Samuelson family's - August 27, 2025 at 12:57 PM

AK

“ Aunt Darlene, Yvonne & Jared. Kevin purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



Aunt Darlene, Yvonne & Jared. Kevin - August 26, 2025 at 11:29 PM

CC

“ Cheryl C. purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



Cheryl C. - August 26, 2025 at 08:43 PM

CC

“ Cheryl C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..

Cheryl C. - August 26, 2025 at 08:43 PM

CC

“ Jaci and Family-I couldn't have asked for a better brother! I had a ruff start to 2025 being in the hospital, but Chuck would faithfully call me every day! If I didn't answer he would call Dick or one of our kids! He kept me going! I Love Him With All My Heart and he will always be close to my Heart! Please know Jaci that you and your family are held in my thoughts and prayers! I Love You All So Much!
Cheryl

Cheryl Cochran - August 26, 2025 at 08:25 PM

YD

“ Your Sister's Cheryl and Dawn purchased the Yo ur Light Shines for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



Your Sister's Cheryl and Dawn - August 26, 2025 at 01:58 PM

YD

“ Your Sister's Cheryl and Dawn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..

Your Sister's Cheryl and Dawn - August 26, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



August 26, 2025 at 01:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..

August 26, 2025 at 01:47 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



August 26, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..

August 26, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ Karen M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..

Karen M. - August 24, 2025 at 12:36 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



August 22, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..

August 22, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ Alan Johnson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



Alan Johnson - August 20, 2025 at 06:47 PM



“ Wendy and Fred McCullough purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles "Chuck" Mergenthal Jr..



Wendy and Fred McCullough - August 19, 2025 at 09:37 PM



“ I remember many summers on the farm. Cousins getting together. Chuck taking my birthday pixie stix. Pointing out toads to catch and take to Star Lake. Family concerts uncle charles on the accordion, chuck playing the drums. I remember Chuck offering comfort after my grandpa died. I remember his sense of humor. A long drive at night. Chucks stories of Ole and Lena. Laughing so hard we were crying. Chuck was a light in many peoples lifes. I was blessed to be his cousin. Thanks for the fond memories Chucky. We loved you.

Yvonne Mergenthal- Bingham - August 19, 2025 at 09:05 PM

DS

Yes! Remember the smell coming from the trunk. Some of the toad didn't make the trip to the lake. Some did and we had fun giving (the toads) a new place to live with lots of water!

Dawn Sanders - August 21, 2025 at 12:02 AM

PG

“ I am so grateful for the many years of memories going back to when Chase was a baby and Chuck and his band were playing at weddings. Jaci and I having beverages and dancing the night away and my favorite part... Chuck playing Wipeout! Then he would pour us into his car and take us home. :). All of the weekend visits and new craft projects. Our kids growing up together. Little Falls Craft Fair. Lefse! The world will not be the same without you in it Chuck. I will forever miss you. Thank you for being my friend and my family. ❤️



Peggy Godbout - August 19, 2025 at 03:32 PM



Matthew
Lusian

“ I've known Chuck nearly 40 years... there are so many things I could share. I fondly remember playing video games in the living room with his speakers the size of refrigerators rumbling the entire house and threatening its structural integrity... I remember having sleepovers with Chase and somehow being able to eat like 12 of his delicious pancakes in a sitting...

Most of the time I spent with Chuck was spent in the garage. Starting at around 10 or 11 years old sanding boards for \$2 an hour and promising to work til 430 so we could get one of his famous 330 break time Schwans ice cream treats and a shasta. Writing down our hours on a piece of scratch paper on the wall, waiting all summer for that first craft show so we could get that massive paycheck! 🙏 Praying every day to be the chosen one of the neighborhood kids who got to run the drill press or stain or anything other than sanding, and if you weren't chosen you hated the kid that was that day! Listening to his tapes in the garage from when he was drumming with Cheap Trick was really cool! Chuck screaming and bailing out of the garage after one of my many famous farts... The thing I remember the most, and I would give anything to see him this way again, was his 1973 dominoes pizza baseball cap, a swiss cheese t shirt, and cutoff shorts that had frayed so much and got so short that there basically weren't any legs left to them and the pockets hung down out the bottom. His daily work uniform! There were 3 to 5 of us kids that would try to go there every day during summer break and work. It was half Chucks daycare and half teaching us boys work ethic, pride in craftsman and attention to detail. I credit a lot of who I became as an adult to those long days sitting on an old warn out carpet pad and breathing sawdust. At the time we loved to hate it but now they are some of my cherished memories of a carefree time long gone.

Chuck, you are going to be greatly missed and I thank you for all of the memories and lessons you gave me!

Matthew Lusian - August 19, 2025 at 01:42 PM

RL

“ Nearly 4 decades of being friends have given me so many memories.

All the new years celebrations, fishing in Ely, going on a cruise together, and this past winter an awesome visit at our place in Fort Myers. We hit 3 beaches in 5 days! I will never forget you, you are a brother to me.

Rest in peace my good friend!

Love you.

Roger Lusian - August 19, 2025 at 12:24 PM