



Charles Allan Emerson

May 24, 1945 - May 25, 2015

Charles Allan Emerson (Chuck) died on Monday, May 25th, 2015 at his home in St. George, Utah. He was surrounded by his loving family. Chuck died due to complications of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Chuck was born May 24th, 1945 in Virginia, MN to Charles Ralph Emerson and Mary Ellen (McKenzie) Emerson.

Chuck grew up in Schofield, WI with his sisters Jeanne and Cathy. As a young child he learned to ski at Rib Mountain. He attended D.C. Everest high school where he was a member of the high school ski team and played French horn in the band, which was directed by his father.

As an accomplished French horn player, it was only natural for Chuck to pursue a career in music education. He was selected to play with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra in the summer of 1966. He earned his Bachelor's of Music in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1967. He later earned his Master's Degree from UWSP and continued on to earn his administrator licensure.

He met Anita R. Jackson while attending college at UWSP. The two were married on July 13th, 1968. They remained happily married for 46 years until Chuck's passing.

Chuck spent his entire career as an educator in the Stevens Point Public Schools from 1967-2003. He taught band at the Elementary, Junior High and High School levels and also served as the District Music Coordinator. Under Chuck's leadership, the music program in Stevens Point developed into one of the best in the state. In fact, in 2002 Chuck was recognized as Administrator of The Year from the Wisconsin School Music Association.

In 2003, Chuck retired from his career in education and thoroughly enjoyed his retirement. Chuck loved spending summers at his lake home in Lac Du Flambeau, WI where he enjoyed one of his favorite family pastimes...being the ski boat driver. He even got the chance to water ski on occasion. Winters were spent in St. George, Utah where he learned to golf and play pickleball. He also enjoyed hiking and tennis and loved getting together with friends. He continued to travel often as well, visiting many national parks and skiing with friends and family in Colorado and Utah. He also continued to pursue his love of music by playing his horn in the Dixie State University Symphony Orchestra.

He was always active and particularly enjoyed skiing with his family and friends including high school ski coach and life-long friend Bryce Gribble. It could be said that Chuck was "addicted" to skiing. He planned many ski trips with family and friends to resorts in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Oregon, Wyoming, Montana, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. It was always a treat to ski at his favorite ski resorts, Snowbird and Alta in Utah.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Anita Emerson in Lac Du Flambeau, WI/St. George, UT, and his sons, Andy Emerson (wife Amy) in Las Vegas, NV, and Dan Emerson (wife Katrina and son Tyler) in Janesville, WI. He is also survived by his two sisters, Jeanne Emerson in Weston, WI, and Cathy Cheng-Foust in Wausau, WI.

He was predeceased by his infant son and his parents, Charles Ralph Emerson and Mary Ellen Emerson (McKenzie).

Friends and family enjoyed Chuck's sense of humor. He loved to make people laugh. He always had a joke ready to tell and was particularly fond of Ole and Lena jokes. In honor of Chuck's passing, please learn a new joke and share it with someone.

As a result of ALS, Chuck experienced what it was like to have a disability, and he would like to help those with disabilities experience water skiing and other water activities.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation in Chuck's memory to:

Northwoods Adaptive Skiing, Inc.

PO Box 259

Woodruff, WI 54568

Cremation will take place at the Cremation Center of Southern Utah in St. George, UT.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date during the summer at the family lake home in Lac Du Flambeau, WI.

Condolences and memories can be shared at www.serenitystg.com.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Dear Anita, Andy and Amy, Dan and Katrina and grandchild, I was so sorry to read about the loss of dear Chuck. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. When I saw you at the fast food restaurant somewhere between Stevens Point and Madison (was that last summer?) I never imagined that I would be reading of his passing away so soon. I know ALS is a devastating illness and this last year must have been hard on all of you. He was a wonderful man and so talented, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. When I saw you he still had his delightful sense of humor even though he was struggling a bit. You have wonderful memories to hold in your heart. Now he is in Heaven free from illness. He is reunited with the little boy you lost so many years ago. I still remember being in the hospital having my Andy when you came to see me when you were suffering in grief with that loss. So glad you have your Andy and Dan, two lovely daughter-in-laws and a wonderful grandchild to comfort each other. May God's love and the love of family and friends give you comfort and peace. You have my deepest sympathy.

Sincerely,

Joan Belmas

Joan Belmas - June 12, 2015 at 09:37 AM

TB

“ Anita and Family -

*We are so sorry to hear of your loss. We are saddened by Chuck's passing,
also.*

Hope all is going well as you do what needs to be done.

*Thinking of you -
Take Care,
Emery and Lois Babcock and Family*

The Babcock's - June 05, 2015 at 02:47 PM

DG

“ *My most memorable moment of meeting Chuck was when my Dad (George) and Patti Took me to visit them. It happened to be right around my birthday. I think I was about 12. After we had dinner, Anita brought out A birthday cake complete with candles and everything. After I had blowing out the candles, Chuck handed me a knife and said "in our family, it's tradition for the birthday boy to cut the first piece". So I took the knife and proceeded to try to cut the cake. I soon realized that there was something wrong with the cake. I wiped off some of the frosting to reveal that they had taken a large sponge and covered it in frosting. Chuck started laughing and said "welcome to the family!" He had such a big smile and a great laugh.*

Damon Greven - June 03, 2015 at 06:39 PM

TG

“ *Bill and I were saddened to hear about Chuck. Please accept our deepest condolences. He will be greatly missed.*

Bill & Terri Gallatin

Terri Gallatin - June 03, 2015 at 05:50 PM

ME

“ *To Anita and family*

Please accept our deepest sympathy at Chuck's death. I'm sure the last years have been a challenge for all of you.

I'll never forget when Chuck transferred mid year to UWSP from UW Madison. I was practicing Haydn Concerto and he peeked into my practice room (brass attracts brass). Had a few questions about UWSP. Then he met you, Anita, and the rest is history!!! Kudos on your 46 years together. (We're 1 year behind you!)

The Stevens Point School Music Program was exceptional because of Chuck's leadership. He truly deserved his award from WSMA.

Chuck & Mary Egle

Mary Egle - June 03, 2015 at 10:45 AM

WF

“*Mr. Emerson was my favorite Band Director. I moved to Stevens Point from Montana in October of my sophomore year. After playing only a chromatic scale, he said to me, "How would you like to play first chair in the Wind Ensemble?" It was the boost I needed to find a niche and not feel like "the new girl" anymore. He taught me and my stand friend to waterski and he taught us how to play our trumpets with control, yet abandon. I was so touched when he and Mrs. Emerson drove all the way to IA for my wedding. He had a great sense of humor and his zest for life and love of music and teaching will always inspire me. My heart and prayers are with dear Anita and his two sons and their families. Love, Wenda*

Wenda Stedtfeld Fry - June 03, 2015 at 09:38 AM

TK

“Under Chuck's leadership, the music program in Stevens Point developed into one of the best in the state.”

I had the honor of being part of that first senior class of musicians in Chuck's first year directing the high school band upon which he carved his lasting legacy as a music educator. It had been years since the last Stevens Point high school band got a "I" rating at the Class A level at contest. But Chuck knew he had stellar players in key spots, and he encouraged us to have the will to succeed, the freedom to flourish, and the motivation to lead the others by example to be the best musicians we could.

The musical highlights of my high school career were our senior class finally getting that elusive "I" in Class A - a tradition that would forever continue, standing in front of my fellow band members conducting the theme to "Exodus" at our high school graduation, and being the Arion Award winner for our year. Chuck Emerson was directly responsible for all of these highlights.

Anita: I've now been a professional musician and entertainment attorney in New York City for over 30 years, in no small part due to having Chuck as my teacher.

"Mr. Emerson:" Thank you for the influence you've had in my life.

Terrance L Kawles - June 02, 2015 at 08:31 PM

BK

“Please accept condolences from Lynn and Bill Kirby. We always found Chuck to be warm and good-humored. He created happiness wherever he was. Very sorry to hear about your loss.

Bill and Lynn Kirby - June 02, 2015 at 08:02 AM

EE

“ Sending hugs and our love and sympathy - Richard and Elaine Eckendorf

Elaine Eckendorf - June 02, 2015 at 06:20 AM

DA

“ I will always recall listening to him practice his horn at UW Madison...he played so beautifully... We'd catch a beer afterward. Chuck was a good friend.

Dick Abel - June 02, 2015 at 01:54 AM

MJ

“ Chuck's dad was my band instructor at DC Everest in Schofield. We shared a love of the French horn and Chuck would even come to my house and we would play our horns together. He was like a big brother to me. Jeanne like a younger sister. He was a beautiful person and the world is a sadder place without him.

Mary Abel Jozwiak

Mary Abel Jozwiak - June 01, 2015 at 10:27 PM

SG

“ We were saddened to read about Chuck's passing. He was a warm, caring, and talented man and we feel privileged to have known him. There were many times over the years, when we were all teaching, that we spent time together. We want to extend our sympathies to Anita and their sons Andy and Dan.

Sincerely, Sharon and Doug Gilberts

Sharon Gilberts - June 01, 2015 at 04:23 PM

SB

“ Please view comments!!!

Susan Barsness - May 30, 2015 at 01:29 PM

GG

“ Let me tell you what I know about Chuck Emerson

Family

The most important thing in Chuck's life was his family. He lived to share experiences with Anita and the boys.

How he lit up the room

Chuck has been my brother-in - law for 32 years. Every time I see him, we had an unspoken contest to see who can crack the other one more. He always won.

His courage was an inspiration

Many, faced with such a horrible disease, would just curl in a ball and give up. Chuck, knowing what he had, was always positive, making people laugh and brightening their day. Humor gave him strength, not mostly for him, but for the loved ones around him.

Happy trails

Pat and I called him on his birthday and sang happy birthday to him. According to Anita, he smiled. I'll take that.

Chuck, we'll all miss you dearly. But I'm glad you're free.

George Greven - May 29, 2015 at 09:36 PM

SB

I wrote a story to post to share. I think my story went to you. If it did could you please make sure it is shared on the serenity site.

Susan Barsness - May 30, 2015 at 01:54 PM

JH

Our heartfelt sympathy to Anita and the boys. It was an honor for me to work under Chuck in the Stevens Point School District. He was always wearing a smile and was very supportive in all aspects concerning the music program. We will miss you Chuck. Earl and Jan Higgins

Jan Higgins - June 02, 2015 at 01:59 PM

GJ

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Gary & Katz Jackson - May 29, 2015 at 09:29 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Allan Emerson.*



May 29, 2015 at 11:53 AM

CP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Claudia Pogreba - May 29, 2015 at 09:08 AM

CP

“ In the short 10 years that we were privileged to know Chuck, we can safely say NO ONE enjoyed life more; Skiing, music, movies (Three Amigos), 2 for 1 coupons, Polgymy Porter, and endless Ole and Lena jokes. We will cherish all of these memories. And in the end Chuck, you fought a horrible insidious disease with such courage.

Claudia Pogreba - May 29, 2015 at 08:53 AM

SB

Dear Emerson Family,

We forever Cherish our friendship with all of you. Such a nice good nature fun husband, father, & friend describes Chuck. We will miss him. As a great water ski instructor he enriched our lives. Our whole family learned to ski from Chuck pulling us around. It was not a easy feat getting me up on those skis, but with his patience I finally prevailed. Because of our relationship & experience being friends with the Emerson family we all to this day enjoy boating & skiing every summer since we now have a place on a lake as well. This would never have bee the case if we had not known the Emersons. You guys have forever enriched our lives. God Bless you all, Sue Barsness

Susan Barsness - May 30, 2015 at 01:21 PM

KG

“ I love you uncle chuck. You were the best hoot-a-nanny a niece could as for!

Kimberly G - May 28, 2015 at 08:48 PM

KJ

“ Life comes full circle from a growing infant to a person growing on in their journey. God bless Chuck as he continues his journey and bless his family who will so dearly miss him.

Ken & Lee Ann Jackson - May 28, 2015 at 03:22 PM



“ *Another tribute to Chuck was his ability to take on tasks that were challenging and outside of his normal activities. I was amazed at the deck he built on the Stevens Point house. He was a great planner.*

Gary

Gary Jackson - May 28, 2015 at 12:48 PM

PA

“ *A lesson for all of us from Chuck and Anita-
Live each day to the fullest-no matter what curve ball is thrown at
you.*

You are both an inspiration to all.

Pat

pat - May 28, 2015 at 11:10 AM

SF

“ *Anita and Family,
Know that we are thinking of you.
It sounds like you are really following Chuck' s wishes,
which must be some comfort.*

Love from mom too.

Will and Sandy

Sandy Ferris - May 28, 2015 at 07:34 AM



Anita and Family,

I will always remember Chuck's very positive attitude and his stories about the wonderful years of retirement he and you shared before he got ALS. And little Tyler is such a wonderful asset and it's so fine that Grandpa got to know and love him a bunch since he came into your lives. Katz Jackson

Gary Jackson - May 28, 2015 at 12:56 PM

PG

We visited Chuck and Anita at the cottage several times before Kimmie was working age 7th grade-10th grade. She would always bring a friend. Anita and Chuck would play games with all of us-like Mexican Train dominoes. We would laugh and have great fun. Suddenly, with a sly smile, Chuck would make a comment. The girls would quizzically look at him, then look at each other and crack up. He had such a dry, subtle humor-but the kids got it. It was so fun to see Chuck interacting with that age group. Such a gift. Kim will always remember those special visits and has always regarded Uncle Chuck as one special guy.

pat greven - May 28, 2015 at 06:01 PM

JH

Anita and Family

Please know that you have been in our thoughts and prayers, especially these last few weeks. So nice that you could be together with your kids to support Chuck. He was the essence of a brave man who dearly loved his family. Our deepest sympathy
Jean and Jim Hutchinson

Jean Hutchinson - May 28, 2015 at 06:05 PM