



Charles Rusk

October 27, 1932 - April 3, 2017

Charles “Chuck” Rusk, 84 years old, of Manteno, Illinois, passed away April 3, 2017, at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, IL. He formerly lived in Bradley and Chebanse, IL.

Chuck was born on October 25, 1932, to Willard Madison and Jessie (Hess) Rusk in Beverly, IL, and lived on the family farm with his six older siblings. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Willard Rusk and George Rusk; and sisters, Nettie Samborski, Jean Lewis and Alice Bradley.

He is survived by the love of his life and wife for 63 years, Patricia “Pat” Rusk and two daughters, Kathy (Tony) McGann of Wilmington, IL and Suzie (Steve) Bradley of Excelsior, MN. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Sean McGann and Maya, Claire and Sam Bradley and his sister, Eula Chiodini of St. Louis, MO.

Chuck graduated from Hannibal High School in 1950 and was a notable pitcher of fast pitch softball. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1952 and proudly served until 1956 as an Airman 1st Class (mechanic). While serving, he met and married Patricia Tousignant on June 19, 1954, in LaGrange, IL. His love for flying began in the Air Force and, after obtaining his initial license, he continued to fly for over 50 years. Chuck logged over 20,000 hours as a flight instructor, charter pilot, and FAA flight examiner. He achieved many ratings including the Rotorcraft-Helicopter and DC-3 type rating. He enjoyed working with his brother, Willard Rusk, owner of Rusk Aviation, at the Greater Kankakee airport and served as Chief Flight Instructor and Flight Department

Manager.

Chuck's other passions in life were golf and tennis. His "home away from home" was the Manteno Golf Club. He was proud of his hole-in-one at Manteno Golf Club and the seventy-nine he shot in Door County, WI, during the weekend of his 50th wedding anniversary.

His Memorial Visitation will be on Saturday, April 8th, from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at The Schreffler Funeral Home, Bourbonnais Chapel. Burial will be held at a later date at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. Memorials may be made to the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno, IL.

Please sign his online guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421
(815) 423-9958
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Bourbonnais Chapel
1100 N. Convent St.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-2421

Tribute Wall



“ Charles Rusk

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ I got my multi-engine rating from Charles when I was living out of my car. I was so broke I showed up to train in dirty clothes, and I smelled awful. I never told Chuck that I had only saved enough money to pay for exactly ten hours of training. Loans and credit weren't an option for me at the time, so any hiccups would have had me working up money for another several months. Chuck must have known, though. Training someone who's tired, dirty and can't get a loan comes with a lot of risks. Chuck took a chance on me, that I only appreciated fully years later. He got me done, and got me on my way.

Years later I have a career as an international airline captain, a marriage, acreage and two healthy daughters. Without him it wouldn't have happened. I could go into all the ways he went a little out of his way to help me out, but I'd run out of room. He saw potential in me when few others did.

I'm grateful to have known a great man who spent time flying with me years ago in a Twin Comanche over Kankakee.

Jonathan Zarinnia - June 20, 2022 at 10:51 PM

CB

“ Hi, I remember Chuck so well from tennis. What a great guy! Always had a smile on his face. Such a good player and a warm person. Now he's up in heaven confounding people with the "helicopter serve" like he did to all of us down here. My condolences. Craig Berry

Craig Berry - April 17, 2017 at 04:10 PM

LB

“ We have many good memories from Urschel Field and Kankakee with Chuck and Willard. Our condolences to Pat and family.
Lois & Larry Bub
Mercer, PA

Larry Bub - April 10, 2017 at 09:29 PM

TL

“ Pat,

Our deepest sympathy. Tom will miss his golf buddy. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Tom & Kay Lahners

Tom & Kay Lahners - April 09, 2017 at 10:41 AM

DS

“ Diana S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Charles Rusk.



Diana S. - April 08, 2017 at 03:39 PM

DM

“ *Deb McGann sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Rusk*



Deb McGann - April 08, 2017 at 10:16 AM

H(

“ *Thank you for these photos of the family! It brings back so many fond memories of Chuck. He was always a warm, sweet man, who would made you feel good just being near him. His calm demeanor and ever present smile was what I remember as a child. Sitting around the ping pong table at Thanksgiving and watching football were the best! Everyone in the family adored Uncle Chuck.*

Kathy, Sue and Pat, my dad now has his favorite golf partner in heaven. I'm sure they're all telling jokes and having a great time. I love you all from afar and wish we could be there for you.

*Love to all,
Hillary*

Hillary Stewart (Tousignant) - April 07, 2017 at 11:46 AM

PC

“ *Chuck was absolutely one of my favorite residents at heritage woods i just cant believe he is gone i looked forward to seeing him and his wife pat everyday it was nothing but laughter and pure enjoyment when they came into the dining room and i loved every minute of it my heart is heavy and I will forever miss chuck its hard for me to wrap my mind around the fact that he is gone i just cant believe this is real my condolences go out the family and his wonderful wife pat !!!*

Paulette croom - April 06, 2017 at 02:37 PM



“ 43 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Schreffler Funeral Home - April 06, 2017 at 01:31 PM

KM

“ *Chuck was truly a great man, pilot. We enjoyed every moment in the air with him. We send our deepest sympathy in this difficult time. We will sorely miss him. Kim & Ronnie Miller.*



Kim Miller - April 06, 2017 at 05:31 AM

CM

“ *Pat,*

I was so sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. I know you have many wonderful memories!

Cheryl Metzka - April 05, 2017 at 04:54 PM

PZ

“ *Pat and Family...*

So sorry to learn of Chuck's passing. I remember Chuck and Pat, Betty and Glen, Don and Darlene, Verna and Willard, along with so many others who were all such good friends back in the day.

*My sincere condolences to all of you.
Paul Ziemer*

Paul Ziemer - April 05, 2017 at 03:50 PM

RS

“ *I played many holes of golf with Chuck and enjoyed them all. Sorry I cannot be there to express myself but I have been a Florida resident 16 months.*

Robert A. Smith

Robert A Smith - April 05, 2017 at 02:15 PM

MB

“ *Sue, Steve and family,
We only wish we could have known your father better, Sue, but to have such a wonderful daughter, speaks loudly for him. May your wonderful memories of precious times together sustain you during this difficult time.*

Love and prayers, Pete and Mary Ann "Bradley" Burk

Mary Ann Burk - April 05, 2017 at 08:29 AM

TN

*Sue, Steve and family,
I would like to repeat what Mary Ann said. Sue you are amazing and the time you shared with your father is precious. Love and prayers surround all of you during this difficult time.*

*Love,
Mark and Therese "Bradley" Nelson*

Therese Nelson - April 05, 2017 at 06:14 PM

TS

*Chuck & Pat were neighbors of mine for many years in Chebanse, IL. Then when we our family moved to Bradley, IL they also decided to move to the same subdivision that we relocated to. Can't say enough about them. They truly were very special neighbors for many years. I also had the privilege to grow up with their two wonderful daughters. My deepest sympathy to all of them during this very difficult time. Love,
Teresa (Green) Stell*

Teresa Stell - April 06, 2017 at 11:06 AM