



## Charles R. "Charlie" Aumell

June 25, 1941 - May 30, 2020

Oil Can Charlie "pinched off" (in his words) at home in Wenatchee, Washington on May 30, 2020 due to complications of multiple myeloma. Affectionately known as Chas, Chuck or Charlie, Charles R. Aumell was born June 25, 1941 to Stanley and Angela Aumell, the 3rd of eleven children. He attended Whitman Elementary, HD Ellison Junior High and graduated from Wenatchee High School, class of 1959.

He then earned an associate degree from Wenatchee Valley College and shortly thereafter entered the US Navy serving this county aboard the destroyer USS Goodrich (DD 831) as a Torpedo Mate Petty Officer 2nd Class, deploying on cruises to the Caribbean and to the Mediterranean Seas. Mustering out in 1968, Charlie went back to work at the Wenatchee Daily World in the pressroom and circulation (he had also been a paperboy for the Daily World in the 1950's). He then graduated from Renton Vocational Technical Institute where he calibrated his mechanical skills.

In pursuit of wild game hunts and choice fishing, in 1974 Charlie moved to Helena, Montana where he found his outdoor heaven. He secured work for several area automotive companies as a "wrench" in their maintenance department, then ventured to open his own, ultimately successful repair shop, Charlie's Auto Repair (motto: "We repair everything from bugs to bunnies"). Friday night therapy sessions at his shop were well attended by customers, friends and family. Cold beer, laughter and storytelling were featured, and Charlie developed a strong social network of lifelong friends.

His shop was warmed by a wood fired stove and Charlie was continually making forays to the mountains, selecting and chain sawing trees to size, loading rounds into his pickup and axing them into appropriate sizes to feed the heating demands. Because of his generous spirit he warmed the hearth of many friends with his cut wood.

A quiet but strongly philanthropic man, Charlie financially supported a multitude of charities, among them the Yellowstone Boy's and Girl's Ranch, the Farm in the Dell, St. Andrews Catholic School, Boy's Town, St. Joseph's Catholic School, veteran's organizations as well as cemeteries and memorials.

Charlie was also faithfully religious, attending weekly mass at St. Cyril Methodious in East Helena, Montana and at St. Joseph's Church in Wenatchee, Washington where he returned to live with his sister Kas and brother-in-law Bruce in September of 2018.

He is survived by his aunt Thelma Wolfe, and by siblings James, Gloria Pashinski, Fred (Camille), Kas (Bruce) Law, Mary (Mike) Mukai, John (Susie), Tom (Karen), and sister-in-law Mary (Aumell) Felice, and a multitude of nieces and nephews, and classmate and lifelong friend (#8 brother) Fr. Bob Erickson. Also survived by former wife Bunny Aumell, stepchildren Ellen, Karlene, and Steve, as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Our family would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Lexie Graham and her staff at Confluence Health for their aid in helping to keep Charlie at home and comfortable during his final days.

The Holy Rosary will be recited on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wenatchee.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, August 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Wenatchee. With a reception to follow in Kuykendall Hall.

In Lieu of flowers, you may make donations to The Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation P.O. Box 80807, Billings, MT 59108-0807; St Andrew Catholic School, 1900 Flowerre, Helena, MT, 59601; Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, 120 W. Riggs E. Helena, MT 59635; St Joseph Catholic

School, 600 St. Joseph Pl., Wenatchee, WA 98801.

# Tribute Wall

RC

“Charlie gave me a lifetime of memories and joyful experiences. Starting in high school, to be a friend of Charlie was to be a friend of the family. From sledding on the Heights, fishing, watching TV with Mike, doing road trips, to visiting one another in La Grande, Camp Robinson Ontario, Helena Montana, Walla Walla (outside the prison), the list is long over sixty years.

Mike and Charlie were the ushers at Carrie's and my wedding and kept Carrie's former various suitors out.

Charlie and I were driving back from Jamison when we heard about the Kent State shooting. As veterans we couldn't understand what was happening to our country.

Charlie was a very generous, friendly guy. When my family visited him when he lived in the Caboose in Helena he treated my kids to a bucket of gravel so they could prospect for garnets. On an expedition to Mann Gulch, the site of a 1949 fire that killed 13 people in less than two hours after they had arrived to fight the fire, we met a couple from California doing the same as we were. When we were at the boat landing ready to depart for Helena, they returned. Charlie promptly offered them a ride saving them the cost of the tour boat they were going to hail.

Visiting on the phone with Charlie throughout the years, good times and bad, always left me feeling better than before. He truly was a gift from God to all of us. I love you Charlie and sorely miss you.

Bob Chicken

P.S. I always heard your Mom refer to you as Charles. Figured she was in the habit of calling you "Charles!" because you were always in mischief or worse.

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robert chicken - June 10, 2020 at 01:54 PM

MA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Mary** - June 07, 2020 at 04:22 PM

HM

“ No one like him:

*Can't tell you:*

*--how many times I saw him help people in need without charge*

*--how financially generous this man was, never seeking recognition*

*--what a wonderful sense of humor he possessed. We jointly owned some apartments and whether it was offering to install a seat belt for a lady who was of the opinion that her commode was crooked or when receiving a complaint about an ant invasion Charlie advised the complainant she was not supposed to invite relatives or inquiring whether a tenant had been drinking when they tripped on their steps--Charlie could always defuse a tense situation with his humor. A gift.*

*--in fact he was a gift to anyone who would take the time to listen. He loved his white 1983 pickup truck (Whitey), his work gloves with the duct taped fingers and my special daughter Caroline. When asked by Caroline whether he would sponsor her to join the church he was unhesitant in his response "of course I will". Only time I ever saw this man in a suit*

*--it was so Charlie when we gave him a standing ovation at his party and he would not give a speech. "This is a bunch of horse pucky." The book we presented him with letters from those he had touched in his life all had one common theme. Everyone loved Charlie.*

*a truly humble man who was more than willing to share his treasures and seek nothing in return.*

*his friends, myself included, thought of Charlie as a father figure. Always rendered caring, insightful comments on others situations.*

*For years, most Friday nights we would gather around his shop*

*stove and solve the world's problems. One of the most entertaining nights was when he said he had a tragedy to announce to the "therapy group". Concerned that he may have lost a family member or close relative we were all ears. "They have stopped making Bergie beer"*

*When our son was raising money to attend college it was necessary for him to sell his Volkswagen Rabbit. Charlie and Joe worked out a price and the deal was complete. Well, sort of. When realizing what the proceeds of sale were to accomplish Charlie contacted Joe and told him the car was in much better shape than he thought it was. He sent Joe more money. To which I can only offer the comment "that's Charlie".*

*I could keep going and fill up all allotted space but that's not fair (a concept I learned from Charlie) to others that want to post.*

*Miss ya and love ya partner. Thanks for being part of my life.*

*Hugh*

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**Hugh McWhorter** - June 04, 2020 at 09:52 PM

JU

*Charlie was an Aumell and like all the Aumells, is there anyone that doesn't love this family? I'm glad he's back home where we'll all meet again cracking family and friends up like he did here on earth. Love you cousin!*

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**Julie** - June 07, 2020 at 04:37 PM

SC

*My heart goes out to Charlie and his family. Sending love to all, and thankful Charlie was a part of my life and very much a part of my parents life.*

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**Susan Cammon** - June 28, 2020 at 02:01 AM