



Charley Kunzman

March 23, 1929 - March 23, 2020

Charley B. Kunzman, 91, of Keosauqua, Iowa, passed away on March 23, 2020 at Van Buren County Hospital. He was born on March 23, 1929 to Samuel and Elva Kendrick Kunzman in rural Eldon, Iowa. Charley grew up near Selma and graduated from Selma High School and Parsons College. He married Shirley Owens on September 3, 1954 in Winfield, Iowa. Charley and Shirley raised three girls on the farm near Selma.

Charley served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. One of his responsibilities was to care for livestock that were used to test weapons used in biological warfare. After his honorable discharge, he became a school teacher and basketball coach. He taught science in Lowden, Selma, Batavia, Eldon, at Van Buren Community School for more than 15 years, and at Fox Valley before retiring. He influenced many students throughout his career. In addition to teaching, he also farmed, was involved in 4-H with his children, and served on the Cardinal School Board for several years. Charley was a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Douds and formerly Selma United Methodist Church. He was a member of Celestial Lodge No. 413 A.F & A.M in Douds. One project that he worked toward was advocating for the Lake Rathbun Rural Water Association. He strongly believed the provision of water would improve his rural community.

Charley and Shirley were well-traveled during their 65 years of marriage, touring through most of the 50 states and Canada. They spent many winters in Louisiana providing mission work through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and continued volunteering in that capacity for 15 years. Many times, they organized and carried donations that had been collected through Iowa Methodist in-gatherings. They were also active in the Mobile United Methodist Missionaries (MUMM) ministry. After retirement, they traveled to Australia, went to Nova Scotia and drove the Alaskan Pipeline. They enjoyed camping and belonged to a camping club for many years. In 2017, Charley was given the opportunity to go on an honor flight to Washington, D.C. That was a memorable experience that he was able to share with his daughter, Teri. Charley was a husband, father, grandfather, mentor and friend to many and he will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; three daughters, Teresa "Teri" (Ed) Dickinson of Douds, Iowa, Janis "Jani" (Scott) Mahle of Danbury, Wisconsin, Cynthia "Cindy" Kunzman of Rochester, Minnesota; five grandchildren, Dane Dickinson, Seth Dickinson, Alison Dickinson, Matthew Mahle, Nora (Michael) Mahle-Tully; a sister, Alice Pauline Parks; a brother-in-law, Ronald Owens; a nephew, Wallace Kunzman Jr.; and other cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Wallace Kunzman; and a great-grandson, Jaxon Tully.

A private family service and burial with military honors will be held at Mount Moriah Cemetery north of Douds, Iowa. Memorial contribution's in Charley's honor may be made to the Douds United Methodist Church or UMCOR.

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Pedrick Funeral Home - March 27 at 01:30 PM



“ Charley was a good friend, teacher, coach and client. My sincere sympathies to Shirley and the whole family. David P. Miller

David Miller - March 30 at 10:48 AM



“ Jani and Scott,
Please accept my condolences. It is a difficult time to lose a loved one. I hope you will feel the loving arms from friends who are not able to see you during this time of grief!
Gail Colby Granneman

Gail Colby Granneman - March 27 at 04:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charley Kunzman.



March 26 at 03:03 PM



“ To Shirley and girls, i am so sorry for your loss. It was an honor to know Charley. He was a wonderful guy and so interesting to talk with. I knew him as a friend and as a family member. He and my dad, Bill Streeby, were first cousins (their mothers were sisters). He will be missed

In love,

Sally Streeby Courtney

Sally Courtney - March 26 at 02:28 PM



“ To Shirley, Children and Grandchildren: We are so sorry for the loss of Charley and know he will be missed tremendously by all of you. He spent a lifetime of doing good for others and he will surely be blessed with a place with God in Heaven. And may God Bless all of you!

Sincerely,
Verl and Janet Bickford

Janet - March 26 at 02:03 PM



“ Shirley, thought about you and Charley so often. During this time we are having in the world brings us to really look at our life and see what are priorities are. I feel really guilty that I have not made it down to see you. That is on my to do list. I am so sorry to hear about Charley and know that his faith was strong. Always when we would go to our meetings Charley was there also. He helped me many times helping me to get out of a mess. Thank God for his kindness. I know God will receive him and take care of him. I ask that God will wrap his ever-loving arms around you and your family and hold you tight. God will be your comfort and bring you peace. Blessings Marsha

Marsha Gerot - March 26 at 01:56 PM



“ Douds Stone purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Charley Kunzman.



Douds Stone - March 26 at 01:07 PM



“ Dane, Ed, Teri and family: So sorry for your loss.

Dan Cass family - March 26 at 11:38 AM



“ Dan Cass family
Dan & Julia - March 26 at 11:43 AM



“ So sorry for ur Loss
Lisa - March 26 at 12:57 PM



“ Sheila Poolec lit a candle in memory of Charley Kunzman



Sheila Poolec - March 26 at 09:51 AM



“ Charley was my science teacher, mentor, patient, and friend. I always enjoyed our discussions when we would cross paths. A fond memory from HS was a statement attributed to Charley regarding his students from the South " it never snows in Mt Sterling because it is too close to Hell". He was an excellent teacher, and always cared about his students, trying to help them along their journey in life.

Tim Blair - March 26 at 09:38 AM



“ Charlie was always a joy to talk with. We did not see him often but his friendly smile and positive outlook on life will be truly missed.
Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wonderful Family.

Alan & Kathy Love - March 26 at 09:18 AM



“ Charlie had a way of teaching, even when dealing with other teachers, that was sometimes frustrating, until one suddenly had that "Aha" moment. When Charlie taught at Fox Valley, I had occasions when I needed to under some things in science better so that I could help my students understand. I would ask a question, and he would reply. "What do you think?". I would tell him, "Well. Charlie, I don't really know enough about this subject to have an opinion. What should I think?". Poor guy didn't know what to do with me. I enjoyed talking about environmental issues with him. Shirley is such a lovely lady. I liked visiting with her also. My thoughts and prayers

are with Shirley and their family.

Mary Ellen Small - March 26 at 02:21 AM



“ He was a teacher that cared about students and their learning. Remember his famous podium with the word that always struck in my mind, Think.
Good man

Margaret Cloke Nelson - March 25 at 08:14 PM



“ My sympathy to Shirley and family. Mr. Kunzman was one of my favorite teachers and coaches when he taught and coached at Cardinal. As a small world twist to my knowing him, my father-in-law, E.W. Breneman hired Charley for his first teaching job in Lowden, Iowa. I remember having a conversation with my mother-in-law about Charley and me coming from the "same neck of the woods." Sorry he passed at a time when family and loved ones can't get together to honor his memory. I appreciate having this means of communicating with you. God bless you at this difficult time. Carla Zuehlke Breneman

Carla M Breneman - March 25 at 07:27 PM



“ Patti Stegall Colby lit a candle in memory of Charley Kunzman



Patti Stegall Colby - March 25 at 06:48 PM



“ Mr. Kunzman was a terrific teacher. He inspired many students to achieve their goals, and his graceful way of handling some questions in class was extraordinary. To his family, I hope your fond memories bring you comfort in this difficult time.

Patti Stegall Colby - March 25 at 06:53 PM



“ Such a nice man and my science teacher at VBH. Had to open the outside door one time as our experiment got out of hand. He was a fun teacher. Mom and I ran into them one time out to eat. It was nice to visit with them.
Rest in peace. Susan (Gustafson) Fairman

susan Gustafon Fairman - March 25 at 05:19 PM



“ A great teacher and man! He was my English teacher and basketball coach in Batavia. Shirley was our chaperone. Great memories of school days with Mr. and Mrs. Kunzman. I always enjoyed our meeting and conversations. Deepest sympathy to Teri and all the family. He will be missed.
Marilyn Booth Allison-Nance.

Marilyn Allison Nance - March 25 at 09:17 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. Thoughts are with you all.

Polly Swaim - March 25 at 04:49 PM



“ Mr. Kunzman was my science teacher my junior year at Van Buren Community High School. There are many fond memories of his class and the lessons we learned. One particular incident came to mind when a student asked why male and female twins could not be identical. Mr. Kunzman never said a word he just paused, with that that look on his face, and waited. The student realized the answer to his question and class continued. He encouraged us to critical think. At the time I didn't know what that meant. He would be pleased to know that I have MSN in nursing and have taught over the years. My sister has been a high school science teacher for almost 30 years and my brother was in the computer sciences. We just never know what one persons influences will accomplish. Wanted to share this and thank you for sharing him with us. May God comfort you during this time of loss.

Jane Parish Duke - March 25 at 04:29 PM



“ Mr. Kunzman was my science teacher during my junior year at Van Buren Community High School. There are many fond memories of his class and the lessons he taught. Without naming anyone can recall a student asking why male and female twins can't be identical. Mr. Kunzman didn't say a word, he just paused and waited for the person to realize what had been said. He encouraged us to critical think. Imagine getting would like to know that I have my MSN in nursing and taught over the years. My sister has been a high school science teacher for almost 30 years. Hope these memories ease your loss.



“ MARY FAUGHT lit a candle in memory of Charley Kunzman



MARY FAUGHT - March 25 at 03:48 PM



“ One of my favorite teachers in high school. My condolences.

Travis Henderson - March 25 at 03:16 PM



“ Sheryl & Terry Kitzman lit a candle in memory of Charley Kunzman



Sheryl & Terry Kitzman - March 25 at 02:57 PM



“ Proud to have known Charley. He worked with my mother at Cardinal School many years ago.

Sheryl - March 25 at 02:59 PM



“ One time we were at their house, I was working on my walking and Charley loaned me his hat and tennis shoes!!!! I told them that I did not think ay of neibors sic saw me. Love you bro!!!

Genie - March 30 at 12:19 PM



“ Charley was a wonderful, honorable man. Everyone respected him. He will forever be in our heart

gloria carol vandegriff-honea - March 25 at 02:54 PM



“ Such nice neighbors. They always had such good stories to share. He will be missed. Sorry for your loss.

Karen Kisling - March 25 at 02:44 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I went to school with the girls. Helped Charlie move cows once! He was a good guy.

Jim Cope - March 25 at 02:42 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Kunzman's passing. He was one of my favorite teachers at VBHS. --Lori Harness Fowler

Lori Fowler - March 25 at 02:26 PM



“ So deeply sorry for your loss. He taught my mother in Eldon in the early 1960s. Thank you so much for your service and dedication to the community, kids, and the church.

Christy - March 25 at 02:15 PM

