

Charles R. Burkhard

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Charles R. Burkhard died of a heart attack in his home on March 15, 2016. He was 77.

He leaves behind his wife of 48 years, Carol (Broding) Burkhard; his son, Brian Burkhard; his daughter, Carrie (Burkhard) Dunn; his two sisters, Carlene (Burkhard) Webber and Carol (Burkhard) Isaacs; nieces, nephews; and of course many friends.

Charles was born January 24, 1939 in Charleston, AR to Carl and Pauline (Gramlich) Burkhard. He grew up in Claremore, OK. He graduated with the Class of 1956 from Claremore High School and continued his education at the University of Oklahoma where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration. After leaving college, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army where he served 8 years in the Army Reserve and attained the rank of Captain.

Charles began his 50 year career with Tandy Industries as a junior accountant. Through multiple employers and hard work, he was promoted to Assistant Controller, and later the Controller until he retired as a Senior Accountant in 2001. Of course, Charles did not do well sitting idly, so he came out of retirement in 2003 and worked for another 10 years. In addition, he passionately served as the Treasurer of the BPOE #1230 (Elks) for 40 years and was an active member for 50 years. He was also a long standing member of his accounting association through which he was awarded Member of the Year in 2004. He often joked that his community service jobs were the only ones he could keep for long periods of time.

While working at Tandy Industries, Charles met his wife Carol Broding, who was giving flu shots to the employees. They married in 1968 and raised two children. They were both active members of St. Pius X Catholic Church and both volunteered at "Neighbor for Neighbor". They shared time together as dance partners of the Memorial Squares dance club.

Charles, known as Charlie to many friends, enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. He looked forward to OU football season and displayed his supporting flag in the front yard. In his retirement, he enjoyed tinkering on his toys in the garage, doing yardwork, and especially looked forward to "beer time" with the neighbor.

Charles had a zest for staying active and helping others. He was involved with his high school class reunion committee, acted as Groundskeeper for the Sungate HOA, and was an irreplaceable servant of St Pius church for 46 years.

Rather than traveling the globe, Charles found his happiness lending a helping hand to all his neighbors and friends. He often took the opportunity to help without asking and without asking for anything in return. Since his passing, his family has heard these words and many similar to describe Charles: good, honest, giving, gentle, faithful, always smiling, on-the go. We all have seen little pieces of Charles Burkhard, but no one will ever know how much he actually gave of himself. He was a devoted husband and father and loyal friend. Perhaps all his traits combine define the word "Love". He will be missed.

A service to celebrate Charles's life will be held at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at St Pius X Catholic Church located at 1727 S. 75th E Ave., Tulsa, OK. There will also be a Rosary held Monday evening, March 21, at 7 P.M. at the same location. Donations can be made in honor of Charles Burkhard to the American Cancer Assoc. or towards the Blue Ribbon School Campaign at St. Pius Church. www.floralhaven.com

