



Charles Bailey Judson

June 17, 1951 - July 24, 2017

Charles B. “Chuck” Judson died peacefully at home on July 24, 2017 in Traverse City, at the age of 66.

Chuck was born in Big Rapids on June 17, 1951 to the late Thomas and Marilyn (Reinig) Judson. He graduated from Albion College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973. He married Susan (Chapelle) Judson in 1977 and graduated cum laude from University of Detroit Law School in 1980 with a Juris Doctorate degree. Following law school, Chuck and Sue moved to Traverse City in 1980, where Chuck began his career as an attorney.

In Traverse City, Chuck dedicated himself to his family, friends, church and community. First and foremost, he was a loving loving husband and father, giving support, advice and counsel to his two girls and son-in-law. On weekends, he could be found with his family boating on Torch Lake, biking to downtown or volunteering with a local organization. Throughout his life he carried on his family’s legacy of loving golf as a member of his high school and college golf teams; and later spending countless summers golfing with friends, colleagues and his daughters.

Professionally, he worked over 35 years as an attorney in Traverse City, most recently as a shareholder with Smith Haughey Rice and Roegge. Chuck prided himself on helping his clients solve complex problems, readily supported the growing field of mediation and represented municipalities and nonprofits throughout the region including the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission and the Traverse City Area District Library. He received many local and national recognitions including being named the 1999 Lyle DeYoung Downtown Achievement Award winner, the recipient of the 2015 Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award and the 2016 Northwestern Michigan College Fellow. He was often listed in Best Lawyers for Government Relations and Leading Lawyers in multiple fields.

Chuck was passionate about the growth and development of a strong Traverse City region. Through his volunteer work he sought to bring people together to define a vibrant

vision for the area, and spent countless hours helping make that vision a reality. He helped lead numerous organizations including Northwestern Michigan College, The National Cherry Festival, Traverse Area Chamber of Commerce, The Traverse City Downtown Development Authority, Habitat for Humanity Grand Traverse Region and Central United Methodist Church. Beyond board service and leadership, Chuck spent time supporting and mentoring community members, where he shared institutional knowledge of the community to ensure the preservation of a strong Northern Michigan for generations to come.

Chuck is survived by his beloved wife of nearly forty years, Sue; daughters Allie (David) Walker of Grand Rapids and Bailey Judson of East Lansing. granddaughter Reiley; sister Polly (Joe Powers) Judson of New York, NY; and nephews Mark (Courtney) Powers and Patrick Powers of New York, NY.

A visitation with the family will take place on Saturday, July 29, 2017 from 12pm - 2pm at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home. (305 Sixth St., Traverse City) A celebration of Chuck's life will be held at Central United Methodist Church (222 Cass St., Traverse City) on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Central United Methodist Church, 222 Cass St., Traverse City, MI 49684 or online at <http://www.tccentralumc.org> and Northwestern Michigan College Foundation, 1701 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686 or online at <http://www.nmc.edu/foundation>.

Events

JUL Visitation 12:00PM - 02:00PM

29

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUL Celebration of Life 02:00PM

30

Central United Methodist
222 Cass Street, Traverse City, MI, US

Comments



“ Chuck and I were law school classmates many years ago. He always had a smile and something good to say. He was a first class lawyer and ably served his clients and community. So sorry to hear of his untimely passing. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Frank A. Scerbo

Frank Scerbo - August 03, 2017 at 11:58 AM



“ Chuck had a great sense of humor with an impish grin. I first met Chuck our first year of law school and then discovered that he and Sue were living in an apartment right behind my neighborhood, so Chuck willingly picked me up in his white camaro every morning for our ride downtown. Seems like only yesterday..... I enjoyed working with Chuck on several referrals over the years, and always found him to be a great resource, honest and forthright, and a "lawyers lawyer". I will miss his friendship but will always have great memories. David L. Steinberg

David L. Steinberg - August 02, 2017 at 12:10 PM



“ Chuck was wonderful to work with on the NMC Foundation Board. He was always so thoughtful and respected everyone's opinions. His common sense approach as well as his vast legal knowledge helped elevate the Foundation to where it is today. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Jean Howard

Jean Howard - August 02, 2017 at 10:11 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Judson family. The Albion College family was blessed to include Chuck. His memory will live on. ~Tim Newsted

Tim Newsted - August 02, 2017 at 08:55 AM



“ Chuck was a law school classmate of mine. Hard to believe that was almost forty years ago. Chuck was a bright, soft-spoken and easy going guy. I had the chance to reconnect with him over the years during cases I had in Traverse City. I am saddened to hear this news. He left us too soon and will be missed.

John Peters

John Peters - August 02, 2017 at 08:51 AM



“ Polly,

I was saddened to read of Chuck's death. I remember him as bit of a scamp as a teenager. Always smiling, always curious, always fun to be around.

Please accept my sincere condolences to you and the many people that loved him.

Nancy Baldwin

Nancy Baldwin - July 30, 2017 at 02:16 PM



“ i am shocked and saddened for learn of Chuck's untimely death! Traverse City and the Grand Traverse community has lost a significant 'voice'. Thanks Sue, Allie and Bailey for sharing him with so many groups and organizations. I am sooo sorry for your loss.

Sending prayers. Kay Jerome

Kay Jerome - July 28, 2017 at 11:00 AM



“ Chuck was a senior my first year at BRHS. He was an outstanding young man in high school and continued to be so as a member of the Traverse City community. I extend to Chuck's family my deepest sympathies at your loss of a truly great human being.

Bob Williams
BRHS 1967-1987

Bob Williams - July 28, 2017 at 10:38 AM



“ Chuck was a giant. His leadership has been realized through so many things that changed this region for the better. Leadership is a word that fits Chuck so well because he was always selfless, tireless, and compassionate. Chuck was a consummate strategic thinker. He always strove for the true win-win. He was a good friend, confidant, and mentor. He lived a life that was so important to others and what others thought mattered to him. He will continue to be a role model for me. Thank you Sue, Allie, and Bailey for sharing him with us.
Mark Eckhoff

Mark Eckhoff - July 27, 2017 at 07:53 AM



“ My deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to Sue, Allie, and Bailey. May God give you his strength and his peace during this very difficult time. Whenever I saw Chuck in church he always had a smile on his face and would have such a kind hello to say to me. He was such a sweet man. I know God has lifted him up on eagle's wings, made his face to shine like the sun and is holding him in the palms of his hands.

Nancy, Natalie, and Ashley Wright

Nancy E Wright - July 26, 2017 at 07:02 AM



“ Chuck and I graduated from High School together. He was a good man. I was in Job's Daughters and he was in DeMolay. When I was a candidate for DeMolay Sweetheart he was so supportive and when I actually won he was beyond happy for me. It was such a special time for me and he made it more so with his support. Prayers to his family, friends and community. It is a great loss for the class of 1969 (Helen Wilson Allison)

Helen Allison - July 25, 2017 at 10:28 PM



“ Chuck was a hero to me at a time when I needed a hero. He was a compassionate careful lawyer. I am forever grateful to have known him. This community has lost a great voice, a true believer and a shining soul.

Sandy Van Dyke - July 25, 2017 at 06:19 PM



“ As a journalist I met Chuck through his representation of several government agencies and through school events where we both had a child in the same class. I have always had the greatest respect for his integrity and honesty. If Chuck couldn't tell me something, he let me know the reason up front. Sometimes if I disagreed with his reason, as reasonable people might, I would attempt what might best be described as word play to see if he might slip up. I was good at this game but Chuck never lost, He would chuckle, I would laugh, and then we would ask about our respective kids and families. When my father passed, Chuck sent me a note that touched my entire family. My wife, who never knew Chuck, still remembers that message years later.

Chuck was a great person and I was honored to know him. I am really going to miss him. He was taken from this community and his family way to early. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and I am so sorry for your loss.

Brian McGillivray - July 25, 2017 at 04:59 PM



“ I graduated high school with Chuck. We played golf together, were in plays together and were in DeMolay together. He was a great man and friend. Many blessing to his family, friends and the Traverse City community.

Jim Bradley - July 25, 2017 at 03:03 PM



“ Chuck was truly one of the best people I have met in my life - a true gentleman, He loved his family and he cared deeply for the people around him. The legal profession lost one of its best. All of us who got the pleasure of knowing Chuck are better for it!

Robb Wardrop - July 25, 2017 at 08:56 AM



“ Chuck was one the kind people that blessed our world, He will be missed.

Luana Dueweke - July 25, 2017 at 06:21 AM