



Charles "Chuck" VanDerKolk

December 20, 1953 - January 19, 2018

Charles (Chuck) VanDerKolk, age 64, passed away on January 19, 2018. Chuck prioritized his time around loving people. He was a true servant and this was exemplified in many ways. He cultivated the hearts of young people by sharing the love of Christ while serving as a volunteer youth leader for more than 30 years, leading countless mission trips to Mexico and Young Life's Lake Champion and Frontier Ranch camps. His servant leadership was portrayed in his professional life where he served as the Water Operations Manager in the Zeeland Board of Public Works for 44 years and on several water committees, including the director and VP of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the ABC board of directors. Chuck was recognized with several prestigious awards while serving the water industry. He was proud of the role he played in the development of Zeeland's splash pad. Chuck's greatest passion was his family. His favorite pastimes were hanging out at the family cottage, taking his grandchildren on Mule rides to get ice cream, hunting with "the boys," traveling with Kathy (the love of his life), and vacationing with his many siblings and in-laws. He is preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Ruth VanDerKolk. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; children, Michael and Carrie VanDerKolk (Hudsonville), Chad and Kate VanDerKolk (Hudsonville), Brandon and Kristen VanDerKolk (Traverse City); grandchildren, Silas, Abbie and Ayden. Siblings, Bette Jansen (Rodger), Ron (Jan) VanDerKolk, Diane Bloem (Jim), Tom VanDerKolk (Laura), Wayne VanDerKolk (Laura), Bruce VanDerKolk (Pam), Dave VanDerKolk (Terry), and

Jon VanDerKolk (Lisa). Visitation with the family will be 2:00-4:00 and 5:00-7:00 pm Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State St., Zeeland, MI 49464. A Celebration of Life service will be planned for this summer. To honor of Chuck, Memorial contributions may be given to Lake Champion Young Life Camp.

Tribute Wall



“ Charles "Chuck" VanDerKolk

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ I had the privilege of volunteering with Chuck at ABC. He was such a joyous and wise soul, and he will be sorely missed.”

Cheryl Capron - January 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayers to family and friends, I had the honor of working with Chuck through the MI-Section AWWA for many years. Chuck is and will always be well respected in the Section, he was a mentor to anyone that worked with him. I'll miss his humor and stories, but also his friendship.”

Joe VanderStel - January 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Sending my deepest sympathy and healing prayers to all...peace.”

Judy Dust - January 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Chuck was an amazing youth group leader. I have so many great memories of Lake Champion, Rosland, and going to Frontier Ranch. Thanks for being a open ear. Kathy you also are amazing, I remember doing makeovers at your house one night. He will be missed. Thanks for giving so much of your time to youth.”

Diane Koeman - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PC

“*Cheerful, caring, committed, reliable, always present, fun-loving, humorous, supportive, insightful, serving, leading, humble. These are just a few words that describe how Chuck impacted me and so many others in such positive and lasting ways. He has a wonderful legacy and I will miss him. Well done my friend. Now enjoy your heavenly reward with Jesus.*”

Patrick Connelly - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JS

“*I met Chuck through AWWA many years ago. He was an extraordinary volunteer who brought both fun and dedication to the drinking water industry. My mentor. My friend. He will be much missed and remembered.*”

Janice Skadsen - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AF

“*sending our love and prayers to your precious family. Chuck was the kind of man we would all want to be. He was full of joy and wonder. We love your family, The Randall Knoll Family*”

A friend - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BO

“*Our condolences to Kathy and family. We have many fond memories of Chuck. Our deepest sympathies.*”

Bob - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BF

“Chuck is a friend and mentor whose fellowship will be sorely missed. His quick wit and common-sense approach to life are an inspiration to all that were lucky enough to know him. May the Lord's comfort come to rest on Kathy and all of Chuck's family.”

Bill Fritz - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RM

“Our condolences to Kathy and the family. We hope you have much love and good memories to comfort you on your path to healing.
Rosemary and Blaine Prescott, Arizona”

Rosemary Murray - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AR

“Kathy and Family, my deepest sympathy and prayers are with you all. I have so many fond memories of the absolute wonderful times and joy we shared as part of serving AWWA and our Industry. In that regard Chuck was a giant and will surely be missed by all those he helped, I was one of them. His leadership example will long be remembered as how to give of ones self for someone else. God Bless”

Andy Richardson - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SY

“Love that the infamous bridge at Lake Champion gets a makeover in Chuck's honor. How perfect it represents his life helping bridge the gap and connecting kids to Christ! What a special place for his memory to live on!”

Sharon Young - January 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM