



Charles A. Clemans

May 27, 1934 - December 22, 2011

Charles A. (“Chuck”) Clemans, educator, community activist, supporter of the arts, fisherman, ‘killer skier,” race car driver, and steadfast and loving husband, father and grandfather, died Dec. 22, 2011, at the age of 77. He was the eldest of the four children of Charles B. and Florence Clemans of Camas, Washington. His higher education began with Clark College, where he helped design the Chime Tower that stands on the campus today. He earned a Bachelor’s degree at PSU, where he was a member of the first graduating class, then a Master’s degree from Oregon State and a doctorate from Nova University. His career as an educator began in the elementary classrooms in Portland, interrupted by two years in the Army in the late 1950’s. He served the Portland School District in a variety of capacities during the 1960’s and 1970’s, ultimately as the District’s Director of Governmental Affairs and its lobbyist in Washington D.C. and Salem. From 1980-1990, he served as Superintendent of the Oregon City School District.

Despite the demands of his professional life, Chuck pursued a multitude of interests, including boating and fishing, dirt bike riding and skiing with his sons Glen and Dean. He traveled across the Northwest on long weekends to participate in auto racing, and in 1970 and 1971 served as President of the International Conference of Sports Car Clubs, which organizes amateur auto racing in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.

Chuck served as president of both the local Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce, and headed the Regional Arts & Culture Commission, as well as many Clackamas County arts organizations. He supported local artists directly, also, by featuring their works in an outdoor sculpture garden on the two acres of Oregon City property where he and his wife Nancy Hungerford spent all of their 24 years of marriage. They were married at Timberline Lodge and returned there every year for their anniversary. Chuck was a board member of the Friends of Timberline and was instrumental in the efforts to renovate the amphitheatre at Timberline. He was a self-taught gourmet cook who loved entertaining and cooking for others.

Chuck became even more active in the community after retirement. He was elected three

times to represent the Oregon City area on the Clackamas Community College Board of Directors, most recently last May, and served even longer on the College Foundation Board of Directors. He led fund-raising campaigns to equip and establish an endowment for a new performing arts center at CCC. Chuck served two terms as president of the Oregon Community College Association, and lobbied Oregon legislators for many years on behalf of community colleges.

Whether on a bicycle or on his beloved 30' powerboat, the "Pioneer Spirit," or on the ski slopes, Chuck enjoyed an active and joyous life, even though he lived with a long-standing heart condition. He made a miraculous recovery from cardiac arrest and brain surgery in early July, 2011, and after 10 weeks in the hospital returned home and resumed his community activities and his good times with his wife, children and grandchildren, and many friends. His death, on the curving roads south of Oregon City behind the wheel of his BMW, was a tragic end to everyone's hopes for his full recovery.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Nancy of Oregon City; his sister, Lois Buhman of Newton, Wash.; brothers, Bill of Lake Stevens, Wash. and Lloyd of Battle Ground, Wash.; sons Glen of Sherwood and Dean of Gresham; and three grandchildren, Brandon Clemans of Oregon City, Brittany Clemans of Portland, and Tabitha Lambert of Medford.

Chuck left a legacy of caring for the communities of Oregon City and Clackamas County, and for education at all levels in Oregon. He was a gifted mentor, mediator, organizer and leader, a gentle and good man who lived his 77 years to the fullest. Those of us who knew him and loved him are forever enriched by that experience, and are motivated to "Be More Like Chuck."

A celebration of Chuck's life will be held at the Oregon City campus of Clackamas Community College, in the Randall Hall gymnasium, on Saturday, Jan. 7 at 2 p.m., followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Chuck's memory to the Clackamas Community College Foundation

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ Charles A. Clemans

January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ Chuck,

I had no idea when we met that you were such a well known and well respected member of our community. I was grateful that you supported our fledgling welding program by buying some yard art from us. I was flattered to be asked to build custom trellises for your daughter and very surprised when my dean explained who you were. You were down to earth and a pleasure to work with. Thank you for being such a good supporter of the welding program and the arts. We will miss you.

Sue Caldera - January 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Clemans was my 7th grade teacher at Peninsula Grade School in north Portland. I have fond memories of his comical reading of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," ahead of the 1960's GM and Ford era as he proudly drove his Volvo, speaking with love and pride of his two sons, and the uplifting words he wrote in my 8th grade picture book. Mr. Clemans was a persistent and encouraging teacher to whom I owe many thanks.

Etta Schwab - January 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Nancy,

I was so sadden to hear of Chuck's death. He will be missed not only by you and his family, but by the entire community. I send you lots of love.

judy davis - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Chuck was an incredible gentleman. We worked together from 1991 to 1996 on the Hillsboro School Unification project. Chuck was the project consultant from OSBA. I chaired the Steering Committee. It was quite the five years! Without Chuck the project never would have succeeded. He was always there when needed, funny, and had the best ideas and plans.

Thank you Chuck! You will be greatly missed.

Penney Hoodenpyle - January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Charles A. Clemans c/o Hillside Chapel funeral home.

January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Nancy,

You continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. We'll miss seeing Chuck at Rotary and around town.

David and Marcia Wimmer - January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ As both a professional colleague in Oregon and a friend/host in Alaska when boating with Nancy and others, Chuck was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed. We were blessed to have him.

Elaine M. Hopson - January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Nancy (and family):

So sorry to hear about Chuck.

He will be missed.

You and you family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ron

Ron Stewart - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *Chuck was a unique and outstanding member of our community. He will be missed by so many.*

Terry Irish - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *A past racer from the 1970's*

Bob Hillison - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Nancy,*

You and your family are in our prayers.

May God Bless you today and every day.

mike swyter - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *I am so saddened to hear about Chuck. He was my superintendent and I admired and counted on him for so much. He was a true leader and a great friend personally and professionally. The world has lost a valuable advocate.*

Peggy Sellers - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM