



## Charles E. Trainer

June 25, 1931 - July 21, 2017

Charles “Chuck” Edward Trainer, age 86, peacefully passed away on Friday, July 21, 2017 in Corvallis, Oregon following a lengthy illness. Chuck was surrounded by the love of his family and friends. He was a humble man of deep faith, courage, devotion, and a true gentleman and giver of his many talents to those who were fortunate to have known him or crossed paths with him.

Chuck was born in Seattle to Charles Ernest and Dorothy Ella (Braun) Trainer. He was an only child and raised on a farm in Kent, Washington. His love of animals began early in life while on the farm, and continued throughout his life. Outdoor skills of hunting, trapping, fishing, and target practicing were important to him and helped to cultivate a close bond with his father. After graduating from Kent-Meridian High School in 1950, Chuck pursued his dream of working with animals in their natural habitat. He graduated in 1954 from Washington State University with a major in Wildlife Biology and a minor in Botany. He spent many summers in Cordova, Alaska banding Canadian Geese, followed by a 2 year commitment as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army Signal Corp at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

He met and married his beloved wife, Clara H.E. Slyt, after initially meeting her at a dinner party at Oregon State University, where Clara was an undergraduate student in Dietetics, and Chuck was taking some additional botany courses as a graduate student. Following their July 1960 wedding, they moved to nearby Sauvie Island, where Chuck worked as a biologist for

the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). They endured 3 major Willamette River Floods, and welcomed the arrival of two daughters, Kimberly in 1961 and Audrey in 1963. A brood of accompanying free-loading cats also came as a package deal with the Sauvie Island rental farm house, and a black Labrador named "Mitch" was acquired to make the home complete!

Returning to Corvallis in 1966 allowed Chuck the opportunity to complete his Master's degree in Fisheries & Wildlife Management and engage his talents as a new research wildlife biologist. The Sagebrush country of Burns and Hines in southeast Oregon brought forth a new phase of projects from the ODFW investigating mule deer and antelope mortality on the Steens Mountain using radio telemetry. He would occasionally bring home injured fawns to care for in the family basement in Hines before releasing them to safety. The sunset years of his career led him to Adair Village near Corvallis to help establish a new Wildlife Investigations Laboratory in 1984. He retired from the ODFW in 1993 with a ceremony paying honor to his 32 years of service.

Chuck had a deep love for the Lord, and had a real heart for serving others. He regularly delivered firewood to needy families for Love, Inc. (wood that he collected via permit, chopped himself, & hauled). Many trips were made to the Young Life Christian Camp in Malibu, Canada as part of the Tool & Tackle Team to prepare the camp for its thousands of high school students ready to embark on the area. He faithfully participated in Bible studies and served in various capacities of ministry at the Faith Baptist Church of Burns, NW Hills Baptist Church of Corvallis, and Suburban Christian Church of Corvallis.

Performing trail restoration work and volunteer work for the US Forest Service in Oakridge kept him busy, along with hikes with the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and giving informative talks to 4-H youth clubs, as well as presenting to the national conferences of the Rocky Mountain Elk Federation. Chuck greatly enjoyed hiking, including summiting Mt. St. Helens, as well as fishing, camping, snow-shoeing, skiing, and hunting trips. In later years he added wildlife photography to his list of hobbies. Always an avid traveler, he and Clara enjoyed exploring the National Parks and took several trips to Europe.

Charles is survived by his loving wife Clara of 57 years, his daughter & son-in-law (Audrey & Mark Puscas) of Salem, Oregon, son-in-law (John Roadifer) of Concord, California, two grandchildren (Juan & Jessica Roadifer), a cousin (Donna Pelkey) of Tacoma, Washington, and several sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces & nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, as well as his loyal feline, Gigi, frequently by his side. He was preceded in death by his daughter Kim Roadifer of Concord in March of 2016.

A viewing will be held on August 2nd from 1-7 pm at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW 5th Street, Corvallis. A Celebration of Life will be held on August 12th at 11 AM at Suburban Christian Church on 2760 SW 53rd Street in Corvallis. All are welcome to come to celebrate and honor Chuck's remarkable life of humility and service, and love of the Lord. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in memory of Chuck to the Benton Hospice Service of Corvallis ([bentonhospice.org](http://bentonhospice.org)) or to Love , Inc ([yourloveinc.org](http://yourloveinc.org)) of Benton County.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Lawn Cemetery

2245 SW Whiteside Drive  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
(541) 753-4532

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 2.** 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home  
206 NW 5th St.  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
(541) 757-8141  
[info@mchenryfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@mchenryfuneralhome.com)

## Celebration of Life

**AUG 12.** 11:00 AM (PT)

Suburban Christian Church  
2760 SW 53rd St.  
Corvallis, OR 97333

# Tribute Wall



“ McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles E. Trainer



McHenry Funeral Home - August 01, 2017 at 10:54 AM



*A lovely tribute. Deepest sympathy to the family.*

Kim Geelan - August 08, 2017 at 08:23 PM



*What a wonderful tribute of a beautiful life.*

Roberta Ramirez - August 10, 2017 at 01:31 AM



*Thank you so much for your sympathies and care; it is such a loss for us on earth, but will rejoice in the reunion in Heaven one day!*

Audrey Puscas - August 10, 2017 at 06:41 PM



*A most beautiful tribute. "What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." Love and heartfelt prayers to the family.*

Beth Luttmann Davis - August 11, 2017 at 10:44 PM



*Beautiful tribute to your father. Deepest sympathy to you and your family Audrey.*

Veronica Armbruster - August 13, 2017 at 09:51 AM

AP

*Wow! Your special words and tributes are so well spoken, and mean so much!! Thank you so much, Beth, and thank you, Veronica!*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 15, 2017 at 02:09 AM

MH

*Such a beautiful tribute to a wonderful father who was clearly very proud of his daughter. Very sorry to hear of about your loss Audrey and family, but also knowing that it is only temporary. May the Lord bless and comfort you at this time, and until you are reunited with your dad in eternity.*

**Margo Hughes** - August 18, 2017 at 09:24 AM

CB

*You have created an honorable tribute to your Dad, Audrey. Your love for him through his good times and rough years speaks highly of you and the wonderful person that your Dad was. My prayers and sympathies to you and your family at this tender time. God bless.*

**Challie Brooks** - August 24, 2017 at 01:41 PM

FN

*Your Dad would love this. It is so special. We are sending our deepest sympathy to your family. Fred, Candy and Tere know you have lost a lot.*

**Fred, Candy and Tere Negus** - October 05, 2017 at 03:07 PM



*“We are deeply saddened by the loss that your family has encountered. Our hearts go out to you during this trying time and may our prayers and wonderful memories of Chuck serve as comfort to your family. It was truly an honor to serve such a loveable and kind man.” The Grace Center Team*

**Rene Knight** - August 08, 2017 at 06:32 PM

AP

*How Kind!! We were so grateful for all you did to enrich dad's life by your wonderful care! We hope to see you at the Celebration of Life Service!*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 11, 2017 at 12:48 PM

KG

*Thank you Mark and Audrey for the cherished walk through the camera lens. The two of you are wonderful children to Charles. He was no doubt a lucky man. May God Bless you each day forward.*

*Karen and Gregg Gerety*

**Karen Gerety** - August 18, 2017 at 02:56 PM

AP

*Many thanks for your BEAUTIFUL comments, Karen! Dad is so missed!!*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 25, 2017 at 04:11 PM

CG

*“ Our hearts reach out to the Trainer family during this difficult time. May your father Rest In Peace. Please accept our condolences. The Gilday Family (Carla, Grace, and Sean )*

**Carla Gilday** - August 07, 2017 at 09:49 PM

AP

*Thank you so much; very touched by your thoughtful words during this difficult time for us all... Bless you!*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 12, 2017 at 12:45 AM

CN

*“ The Negus family of Fred, Candy and Tere wish to express their deepest sympathy to the Trainer family. He was such a blessing to those who knew him.*

**Carolyn Negus** - August 06, 2017 at 10:21 AM

AP

*Thank you so much!! Our hearts are touched and richly blessed from those special people & memory of our Eastern Oregon friends that we grew up with!*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 12, 2017 at 12:44 AM

MT

“*Audrey and Mark, thank you for sharing your memories. Chuck was a special man. He had such a warm smile and he wore it most of the time! He and your mom were so close and had an enviable zest for life. He is safe in the arms of Jesus! Thoughts and prayers to each of you. Give Clara a hug for us.*”

**Mary Thomas** - August 06, 2017 at 10:03 AM

AP

*Ahh...so sweet! It means so much to hear from you and receive these dear remembrances of dad!*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 12, 2017 at 12:43 AM

DA

“*Dear Audrey, Many thanks for sharing the Tribute Video with me. It was lovely to see the photographs of you growing up with your parents. Of course I never met your father in person but I am pleased to know a bit more about his life now. Wishing you all the best from London, UK, David*”



**David** - August 06, 2017 at 09:51 AM

AP

*Thank you so much for your lovely tribute, David! It is always so hard to lose a family member, but all the thoughts and prayers of friends is a real help and blessing to us:)*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 12, 2017 at 12:43 AM

MP

“ *Dear Chuck,*

*In 2003, I married your incredible daughter, Audrey, and you welcomed me into the family. I came to know you as a man of a peaceful, gentle disposition, a scholar for the natural world, a teacher, a man who very much believed in God and Christ our Saviour, and a man who loved nature. We shared a common interest in photography, and I enjoyed watching your skills as a bird and wildlife photographer rapidly take off when you developed this interest.*

*When your health started failing, it was a hard thing to see, and I know the last months especially were incredibly hard ones for you, I can't even imagine the suffering you had, despite all the best medical care and a daughter who supervised it and made sure you had the best care available, and your wife Clara who also provided you with countless visits and emotional support as well.*

*Now, that long hard road has ended, and as we like to say, "you're in a better place". And it's more than a saying to comfort those left behind, it's a truth of our faith, the faith you held for many years, the faith of Clara, Audrey, of me, who believes in the Promise Jesus gave us, and that there is more to life than meets the eyes of scientific inquiry.*

*We celebrate you in that better place, then, even as we miss your companionship here, yet still feel the love that will always be with us, and ours with you. ~Mark*

**Mark S. Puscas** - August 06, 2017 at 01:43 AM

AP

*So, so beautiful and touching!!! Thank you, my sweet Mark!!*

**Audrey Puscas** - August 11, 2017 at 12:40 PM

JS

“ Chuck, my Brother in Law, was a most caring and genuine person. He shared his experiences in nature with us, including his 15 years assignment in Hines, Oregon and the Steens Mountains for Fish and Wildlife. With just a mention of our pending trip to Utah, Chuck brought out maps and literature of the National Parks and explained them in detail with enthusiasm. We feel grateful for the long term friendship we have enjoyed with Chuck. We will miss him greatly. Love, John and Katy

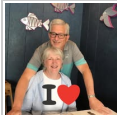


John C. Slyt - August 02, 2017 at 01:21 PM

AP

Beautifully done!! Thank you so very much, Uncle John!

Audrey Puscas - August 04, 2017 at 12:19 AM



The Asmussen family enjoyed going to church with Chuck and his family while they lived in Hines. We have memories of attending Bible studies and times in his home. Chuck was a quiet man, but always had a smile and such a giving spirit. Bethel remembers that Chuck would have given to anyone in need. We look forward to seeing him in heaven!

Jennie Asmussen - August 06, 2017 at 11:56 AM

AP

Beautiful! Yes, Dad would give to any one in genuine need; that is for sure:)

Audrey Puscas - August 10, 2017 at 06:44 PM

 Conrad  
Dante

“ *Uncle Chuck - my earliest and favorite memories of him are on nature walks with the camera. We both shot Kodachrome with a Nikon, and he inspired me to get a macro lens to get up close to flowers and butterflies. It was amazing to go for walks outside with Charles as he could tell you all about the trees and animals along the way, and reveal so much about what goes on in our natural world. Much of our family lives far away, but I know that he was the best friend to my Mom and Dad, who lived two doors down the road for the past 20 years. We will miss him so much. The memories help, and my wish is that we all make more together. With love,  
Conrad*

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**Conrad Dante** - August 02, 2017 at 09:17 AM

AP

*Very nice, Conrad! Thanks so much for sharing...*

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**Audrey Puscas** - August 05, 2017 at 02:30 AM

RC

*Chuck, my dear brother in law, was the kindest, most generous, and loving person we have known. He truly lived the commands of Jesus, always putting God and others before himself. Twenty years ago, we retired and moved to Corvallis. Chuck appeared, and helped carry packages into the house. Only later did we learn that it was his birthday! Many other examples of his selfless work on behalf of others come to mind, too numerous to mention. Nature was his passion, but Christian love was his life.*

*Much love,  
Ron*

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**Ronald G Coffey** - August 07, 2017 at 06:04 PM

CC

*Chuck, my brother in law  
So many memories of Charles come to mind. On a strenuous hike with Chuck, Clara, my husband Ron and myself, we ventured out to view Mt. Jefferson at its best. It was a strenuous, several mile hike. Suddenly, Suddenly, practically on the path, Chuck noticed a bird's nest - we did not! On our favorite hike above timberline in Colorado, the Silver Dollar Trail, Chuck, flower book in hand, identified each flower, making this outing such a pleasure. The hikes we enjoyed in Yellowstone Park were also a delight with Chuck, who turned hikes into adventures.  
Now we need your strength, Lord, to bear the loss of a kind, loving man. Rest in Peace, dear Chuck, in the loving arms of Jesus.  
With love,  
Christina Slijt Coffey*

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**Christina Slijt Coffey** - August 07, 2017 at 06:22 PM

AP

*Many thanks for the sweet condolences and wishes!*

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**Audrey Puscas** - August 10, 2017 at 06:42 PM

AP

“*Dear Family & Friends,  
Enjoy the beautiful, captioned photos of dad, at various stages of his life..Miss you so very much dear dad, and know that I am not alone in saying that!*

*<https://www.flickr.com/gp/99838731@N03/c4gi59>*

*Love, Audrey & Mark*

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**Audrey Puscas** - August 01, 2017 at 01:51 AM

AP

*Addendum: For some reason, you have to copy & paste the above link on to a browser for the link (of the captioned slide show) to work.*

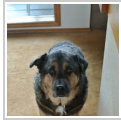
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**Audrey Puscas** - August 02, 2017 at 02:03 AM

TW

*Audrey, thank you for sharing this beautiful tribute of your father. Looks like you were blessed with a wonderful life. I couldn't help but notice how much your father loved life itself and everyone in his world. His smile was contagious. Sending you and your family my deepest sympathy. You are in my thought.*

**Tonia Williams-Wood** - August 08, 2017 at 05:49 PM



*Clara so sorry for your loss. wishing you and your family the best at this difficult time*

**Kate Rowney** - August 09, 2017 at 04:56 PM

AP

*Many thanks for all the beautiful thoughts and remembrances! It so touches my heart & soul!*

**Audrey Pucas** - August 10, 2017 at 06:43 PM

LZ

*Audrey, thank you so much for sharing this moving tribute of your dad. He had a gentle soul and a life well-lived; he brought joys to those surrounding him. I hope you find comfort in the memory of your dad. With deepest sympathy to you and your family. Please take good care.*

**Lei Zhu** - August 25, 2017 at 07:48 PM