



Charles Edward Orsak

July 25, 1937 - November 3, 2012

On November 3, 2012 Charles Edward "Chuck" Orsak passed away in Dallas, TX. Chuck is survived by his three children Leah Orsak Erard of Austin, Geoffrey Charles Orsak and his wife Catherine Bohnert Orsak of Dallas, Stephen Paul Orsak and his wife Katherine Cecil Orsak of Dallas, and his sister, Linda Orsak Fitch and her husband Randy Lynn Fitch of El Campo. Chuck is also survived by his beloved grandchildren, John David and William Edgar Erard of Austin, and Emily Ann Orsak, Sarah Grace Orsak, Mary Elizabeth Orsak, and Peter Geoffrey Orsak, all of Dallas, along with his wonderful nieces and nephews.

Chuck was born on July 25, 1937 in Blessing, TX to Charles Vince Orsak and Justine Zapalac Orsak. Shortly thereafter, they relocated to El Campo, TX where he attended school and graduated from El Campo High School. He had an active and successful sports and academic life while attending school in El Campo. He always thought it special that he was the only boy to graduate in the academic top ten in his senior class. He loved all sports, having been a four year letterman in football, baseball, basketball, and a three year letterman in track. When he was 14, his baseball team, the El Campo Sluggers captured the attention of the city during the summer of 1952. Competing in the national Little Bigger League (today known as the Babe Ruth League), they were Texas State Champions, National Region 6 Champions, and then as one of eight teams competed for the national title in Camden, NJ. The boys had a

successful run, eventually winning the Consolation Championship, and placing third in the nation. The city of El Campo hosted a victory parade for the team upon their return. All the Sluggers stayed connected with one another throughout their lives.

After high school, he attended Wharton County Junior College for two years where he was elected student body president both years. He then was awarded a scholarship by Central Power and Light Company to study Electrical Engineering at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, TX. There he met his wife Elizabeth Grace Cumberland, and upon graduation they moved to Schenectady, NY for his first job with General Electric. While in New York, they had their first two children, Leah Therese and Geoffrey Charles. After a few years, they returned to Texas where he began a long and successful career at CPL in Corpus Christi. Shortly after returning, they had their third child Stephen Paul. When Chuck retired as Executive Director of Electrical Design, he was working to help bring wind power to the Gulf Coast as a way of reducing energy costs in Texas. In recognition of his contributions to Texas electrical power, he was recognized with a Texas Senate Proclamation.

He later moved to Dallas to be closer to family. One of his great joys was to support his grandchildren in their school and athletic activities. As the first member of his own family to attend college, he was passionate about the importance of higher education. He started a scholarship fund at Wharton County Junior College in the names of his parents, and helped make it possible for his children and nieces and nephews to attend and graduate from college.

Chuck was a devout Catholic who was proud of his Czech heritage, and his hometown of El Campo. He loved to fish, play golf, sail, and eat great food. Most of all, he loved to be with his family.

Charles Edward Orsak was preceded into death by his mother and father,

Justine Zapalac Orsak and Charles Vince Orsak, his brother James Clifton Orsak, and his niece Sarah Lynn Fitch.

Throughout his adult life he was dedicated to helping the poor through his service to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. When the society's allotted money ran out, he would often quietly supplement these funds with his own, making it possible for families to continue living with dignity.

Visitation will begin at 11 am on Friday at Triska Funeral Home. A parish Rosary will be recited at 9:30 am on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church with funeral services to follow at 10 am. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park in El Campo, TX.

Pallbearers are Emily Orsak, Sarah Orsak, Mary Orsak, Peter Orsak, John Erard and William Erard.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, National Council of the United States, 58 Progress Parkway, Maryland Heights, MO 63043-3706.

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Geoffrey & Family,

I was saddened to hear of the loss of your dad. I subscribe to the philosophy that a person lives as long as the last person to remember them, so he is not gone. Your father will live in memory as long as his grandchildren. I trust this is some comfort. My thoughts are with you and yours.

Dick

Dick Reeder - Tulsa, OK - University of Tulsa Professor - November 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To the family of Charles Orsack

My deepest condolences to your family. I grew up in El Campo and lived about 3 blocks from Charles. I do not remember when we met but I always knew Charles. His parents and my parents were friends. Charles and I attended Catechism class on Saturday morning and often walked home together from St. Phillips. We went to roller skate at the traveling Skating Rink when it came to town along with other "southside" friends in the neighborhood; J. P., Bobby, Louie, Chris, LeRoy, Henry,.....

We had classes together through high school. Charles was a good friend and a great person. I feel privileged to have known him.

*Sincerely,
John Lukas*

johmail.comn lukas - Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653, AR - Childhood Friend - November 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Orsak family. I did not know Charles, but if his character and values are reflected in his son Paul then he was successful by any measure of a man. I offer up my prayers to Charles and his family.*

God Bless

Scot Powell - El Campo, TX - Friend of son Paul - November 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Always loved seeing Chuck at the grand kids sporting events! Soccer field, basketball court, volleyball court - he was always there cheering and supporting ALL of the athletes. Chuck's ready smile and loving heart made him a real gem - I truly enjoyed visiting with him.*

Beth Langs - Dallas, TX - Friend - November 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ *My sincere sympathy and prayers are offered to the Orsak family. May they cherish the memories and great times with Charles.*

Edwin Adolph Kocurek - Irving, TX - distant relative - November 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Chuck was our/Harris family neighbor and close friend for 30+ yrs. We have fond memories of his care and concern for everyone, especially Mr. Pete whom he looked in on everyday after Mr. Pete's wife passed away. They are both back together now and catching up on everything. We miss Chuck greatly, we are thankful for the time we had with him. The neighborhood is not the same without Chuck. Our thoughts go out to all the family. Chuck is at peace now and in a blink of an eye we will all see him again. It will be a glorious reunion. God Bless One and All. Jerry & Susan Richardson

Susan (Harris) and Jerry Richardson - Corpus Christi, TX - Long time neighbors - November 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ I was blessed to come to know Mr.Orsak over two years ago. His beautiful, kind, and loving spirit made it easy for us to become friends very quickly. He had a smile that could light up any room, and loved to go out to eat, as well as the outdoors. My fondest memories are the wonderful conversations we would have as we would sit in the garden and enjoy the sun. I also recall wonderful memories of listening to his cd collection. He loved great music...he turned me on to the music artist Andrea Bocelli, as he would always get emotional when he would listen to the beautiful song "Con te Partiro." I thank God to have had the opportunity to know you Chuck, and I will trully miss hanging out with you. I know you're at peace, and are lighting up heaven even more with that beautiful smile.

Your friend,
Phreddra

Phreddra Lewis and Family - Dallas, TX - Friend - November 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Our most heartfelt sympathy to the Orsak family.*

May you find much peace and comfort when you hear all the stories and memories that people share of your dad. We pray that these stories bring an even richer understanding of how much your dad meant to many.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during these difficult moments.

*Blessings,
Omar, Marta, Gaby & Diego Lopez*

Marta Lopez - Round Rock, TX - friend - November 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *I will forever remember Charles as the fair haired baseball player! our very smart cousin, leader of the pack, & most responsible of all the cousins.*

great childhood memories at our Grand parents farm where we enjoyed many "Sunday after church" enormous meals & had a great deal of fun just being outside without any technology!

Charles was a wonderful and dedicated Dad & I understand devoted to his grand children as well.

*our sympathy to the family,
Tracy & Nelson Wolff*

Tracy Wolff - San Antonio, TX - cousin - November 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“Orsak" and I grew up on the

Southside and were friends for all of our school years. we had many good times together during those years. He and I both lived in Corpus Chrisri for a number of years and would visit often. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Bryan Bergstrom - New Branufels, TX - Friend - November 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ I was sorry to read of Charlie's passing. My prayers go out to his dear family. He will be remembered in mine as well. We were friends in high school as well as later in life in Corpus Christi.

Blessings,

Donna Taylor Grahmann

Donna Taylor Grahmann - San Antonio, TX - Friend - November 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM