



Charles O. Gates Jr.

September 12, 1925 - November 27, 2014

Chuck was born September 12th, 1925 to Charles O. Gates, Sr. and Mary Gates (nee Beattie) in White Rocks, Utah. At an early age his parents relocated to Colorado, the place he always thought of as home. He truly did live a fortunate and blessed life. He commented recently that he had never applied for a job. His work and career opportunities always found him. December 6th, 1941 saw him wearing number 19 as starting fullback for the Fort Collins High School Lambkins football team in the State Championship game which they won. The next day was Pearl Harbor and his life, like that of many others, was transformed by that event. He graduated from high school a semester early to join the Marine Corps, leaving behind his lifelong sweetheart and love, Anna Nadine Hagins. They were married in 1946 while he was still in the service and enjoyed 68 years together as man and wife. After the war, Chuck attended Colorado A&M, now CSU. He played football there until he suffered a serious hamstring injury that ended his career. His love of the game, however, was not dampened. Upon graduation he and his bride moved to Hotchkiss, Colorado where he taught and coached. Hotchkiss was followed by a move to Laporte, Colorado where at a very young age he became Principal, Superintendent and Head Football coach for what was then Cache La Poudre High School. A few short years later opportunity again knocked on his door and he found himself moving his young family to Bakersfield, California. For many years he was employed by Kern Union High School District. First as a teacher,

counselor and coach at Bakersfield high School. He moved on to become Dean of Boys at the newly opened Foothill High School. From there he became Assistant principal at Shafter High School. Finally ending his career in education as Principal of McFarland High School.

Upon retirement, Chuck moved to Cayucos, California where he tried his hand as a commercial fisherman aboard his beloved boat the "Pan Mar" and as a general handy man. Always busy and needing to be doing something he was either working on his own projects or helping neighbors and friends improve their lives.

At long last, Chuck could not resist the draw of Colorado which had become his summer home; leasing and living in the remote county store in the Poudre Canyon at Kinikinik where he had spent his summers as a child while he and his sister Mary helped their mother operate the store and guest cabins, while his father worked for the county road crew. If you ever drive up the Poudre Canyon and pass through the tunnel, know that Chuck's Dad was responsible for blasting that hole open for you.

10 years ago Chuck relocated once more, this time to his life's last stop. Selling his beach house in California, he moved with his wife to Ft. Collins where he enjoyed tending to his property, gardening and being involved in endless projects and experiments that pretty much only made sense to him. Through the years the great joy of Chuck's life was vacationing in Colorado, teaching his children and grandchildren the proper way to camp, fish and make fires.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 68 years, Nadine, who was with him when he passed on Thanksgiving night. His daughter, Charla Whitman (David) of Los Osos, California and his son Michael of Ft. Collins. Also surviving him are grandsons Charles Anderson (Polly), Christopher Whitman and Matthew Whitman (Jaclyn) and his granddaughter Julie Madden (Jeff) He will also be missed by his nephews Danny, Ward, Lisle, John , Gary, Ron, Tim and Jedd as well as his beloved nieces Mary Ellen, Sue, Marty, Becky, Ruth and Cheryl. Four great grandchildren. Wallace Anderson, Quincy Anderson , Brody

Madden and Caraline Madden are also left behind. He will be missed as well by many great nieces and nephews.

The family wants to thank the staff at Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village for the extraordinary care and genuine love they gave to Chuck during the final two years of his life. We will be forever grateful to them and we know he is now missing his Good Samaritan Aides even though he is frolicking in heaven with his parents and brothers Dan and Walter and sister Mary who proceeded him in death.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, December 2nd, in the Chapel at the Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village. 508 W. Trilby Rd., Ft. Collins, Colorado.

If you wish, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village, 508 W. Trilby Rd., Fort Collins, CO, 80525.

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles O. Gates Jr.*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Charles O. Gates Jr.*



Chrissy - December 02, 2014 at 01:16 PM



“ *We have known Chuck for quite a while, since his grandson Chuck married our daughter.
A highly intelligent and cheerful man. He was very supportive to our newlywed daughter and I know is greatly loved by her.
We pray for God's blessings upon his family as they mourn his transition to a much better place.
Kay and Charley North*

Charles North - December 02, 2014 at 11:29 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles O. Gates Jr..*



December 01, 2014 at 09:17 AM

ME

“ *What a great man and mentor. He was my first and best principal. Thanks to him I taught for 36 years. Thanks Chuck.*



Mike Elliott - November 30, 2014 at 04:42 PM



“ *Holiday Homecoming Basket was purchased for the family of Charles O. Gates Jr..*



November 30, 2014 at 11:35 AM

BB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you Dean, and all the family. I will always live with the regret of not getting up to Fort Collins to visit Chuck during my trips to Lone Tree, Col . He meant the world to me, He was the greatest influence on my life, working as his secretary at McFarland High was the most enjoyable position , I had working for the Kwrn High Sxhool District, Chuck was a sincere, honest, and a true gentleman, I loved being around him and Nadine, I will treasure the times I had with him, Go rest high on the mountain Mr. Gates,*



Barbara McKenzie Bell - November 30, 2014 at 09:20 AM

BF

So sorry for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. I knew Chuck as a great young man. We graduated from 8th Grade at Cache La Poudre together before he went to Fort Collins High School. (I was in Rainbow Girls with Nadine.) Happy memories! From Barbara (Kern) Tuttle

Barbara Tuttle and family - December 01, 2014 at 07:07 PM

AS

I woke up this morning to find Chuck's obituary, and it has profoundly saddened me; Chuck was my first principal. I remember arriving in McFarland from the mighty Bay Area at 23 years old, armed with a fresh, new teaching credential, and wondering what the heck I was doing there. Chuck was the perfect leader for the start of my profession; his leadership in my regard shaped the next 37 years of my career. He made me feel important and gave me opportunities to grow and the confidence I needed to fuel my life's work as a teacher. I also have fond memories of spending some time with Chuck and Nadine at their Cayucos home. I have always had great memories with him at McFarland; it was one of those lucky breaks that I have always and will continue to treasure. Thanks for everything Chuck, ART Sherwyn

Art Sherwyn - December 03, 2014 at 11:33 AM