



## Charles Sheldon Hocking

May 5, 1933 - May 14, 2019

Charles passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 14 following a brief illness. He was 86 years old. His family emigrated from England to Republic, MI in the U.P., later moving to Detroit where Charles was born, and finally settling in Flint where he grew up and met his beloved wife of 61 years, Joanne. After their marriage they moved to Ann Arbor where Charles completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in Engineering at the University of Michigan, and helped develop the University's Michigan Instructional Computer, or MIC system. His love of engineering opened the door to careers with Bendix Corp., where he worked on the Apollo 11, 13 and 14 missions as well as the Viking mission to Mars, and later as an automotive engineering consultant with Ford, and as a software developer with Software Services.

A lifetime member of the Masons, he grew up with an appreciation of faith and the importance of giving and community. As a member of Dixboro United Methodist Church, Charles served in a variety of capacities from lay minister to computer networking consultant to Judas in the Living Last Supper. He also enjoyed a wide variety of activities and hobbies that he delighted in sharing with others (most of which also included some element of engineering), including stunt kite flying, building and racing remote-control cars, coin and stamp collecting, sailing Up North every summer at the place they honeymooned (often falling asleep and drifting peacefully along), space and astronomy, puzzles of all kinds, robotics in any form, and just plain tinkering around. He was fascinated with all aspects of technology, and marveled that the room-sized computer he designed as a grad student now fit in the palm of his hand.

The proud father of three daughters, Charles instilled in them the belief they could do anything they set their minds to and he expected nothing less. He taught them to solder circuit boards and program computers, hang drywall and build a bedroom, change the oil in a car and use every tool known to man (which he had in triplicate), a fine appreciation of power tools and working hard, using your mind and making it work.

His greatest life lesson was his unending generosity: to give of yourself to others, freely

and with joy, a value he lived fully every moment of his life. He would happily give you the short-sleeved dress shirt off his back (but not before first grabbing the pocket protector with countless index cards full of notes). His greatest joy was his family, particularly his grandchildren, and he delighted in simply being present during the chaos of family gatherings. His greatest gift was his love, which was fierce and protective and enduring.

Charles was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joanne; his parents Albert and Alice; and his siblings Jane, Paul, and Susan. He is survived by his daughters Nancy (Ken) Berger, Amy Hocking, and Mary Hocking; his grandchildren Michael (Tori) Jennings, Stephanie (Joshua) Morrell, Trey Bowen, Daniel Berger (Lindsay Laubenstein), Ruth (Sean) Sullivan, and Miriam (Aaron) Palmer; and great-grandchildren Nevaeh, Lucas, Miles, Henry, Timmy, Josephine and Rory. He is also survived by numerous friends that he truly considered his family.

At his request cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held later this summer, after which he and Joanne will embark on a tour with their daughters of their favorite Michigan destinations.

# Comments

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“ Uncle Charles, my godfather, my dad’s best friend. Everyone up North called him the Kite Man. He, Aunt Joanne and my mom and dad are all together again playing Yahtzee and Cards everyday! Nancy, Amy and Mary: my thoughts, prayers and memories are with you! -Fred

Fred Schaal - May 19 at 03:10 PM

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“ When I was a kid, Charlie was always interested in what you were interested in. Tropical fish (Charlie bought me my first deluxe filter for my first large tank), plane modeling (Charlie got the WWII P-38 model I made), Michigan (we talked technology, football, campus life and engineering), submarines and the Navy etc. He was always fun to visit and when you left you felt uplifted and glad you visited. He was a special "older" friend who consistently had very sound advice. John Lauder

John Lauder - May 18 at 04:56 PM

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“ Lola, John, Kathy, Joel and Jim Lauder purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles Sheldon Hocking.



Lola, John, Kathy, Joel and Jim Lauder - May 18 at 04:30 PM

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“ Love and comfort to you, Nancy, Ken, Mary, Amy, Michael, Tori, Stephanie, Josh, Danny, Lindsay, Ruth, Sean, Miriam, Aaron and your children grandchildren and entire family. Although we only met Charlie once, Nick and I enjoyed chatting with him and Joanne. You were all so blessed to have him in your lives, to be taught, nurtured and cared for by this wonderful man as your Dad and Granddad. May he have a happy afterlife with Joanne by his side.



