



Charles "Chuck" Venzke

June 13, 1946 - March 7, 2018

The funeral service for Charles "Chuck" Venzke of Wadena will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 19, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastors Nate Loer and Megan Clapp presiding. Visitation will be held on Sunday from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena and will resume at the church on Monday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Charles "Chuck" Keith Venzke was born June 13, 1946, to Kermit and Clara (Gesell) Venzke in Wadena, MN. He was baptized in July of that year at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, MN. Chuck spent his early years in Parkers Prairie and Miliona until the family moved to Golden Valley, MN, where he attended school in the Robbinsdale School District. He was confirmed on April 10, 1960, at Golden Valley Lutheran Church. Chuck spent 2 years working at Don Carlson turkey farms until graduating from Parkers Prairie High School in 1964. Chuck said the most important thing he learned during that time was "How much I hated turkeys".

After graduation, Chuck joined the United States Navy and served for 27 years as a nuclear engineer, traveling all over the world aboard nuclear submarines. Chuck married Barbara Kaye Rampling July 22, 1967 and they were married for 25 years. They had 2 children, Michael Charles and Kristel Gloria.

Chuck retired from the Navy as a W4 Warrant Officer in 1991 and moved to Wadena, MN. In 2000 Chuck married Janice Meyer. Chuck had various jobs while back in Wadena. He enjoyed the friends he made while driving WDC school bus, working at Stern Rubber and other places.

Chuck was not only a life member of the VFW, American Legion and the "Cooties", but also served as VFW Post 3922 Post Commander and as VFW District 6th Commander. Chuck was very passionate about The VFW and all it stood for.

In 2003, Chuck was diagnosed with multiple myeloma which he courageously fought for fifteen years, over a decade longer than doctors predicted. Chuck received excellent care from local health providers and the VA Hospital in the Twin Cities during that time, and those providers often marveled at Chuck's great outlook and resilience despite a tough disease and aggressive treatments. Chuck passed peacefully March 7, 2018, at the VA Hospital with his family and loved ones at his side. During his long battle with cancer, when someone asked, "How long have you had this cancer?" Chuck would answer, "I was diagnosed 5 new trucks ago." He loved his trucks.

Chuck enjoyed hunting, snowmobiling, traveling but most of all fishing and playing games. His favorite was playing Acey Deucey with his dad Kermit.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents, Clara and Kermit Venzke, and his brother, Dennis Venzke, step granddaughter Sara Ludovissie all of Wadena, MN.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Janice Venzke; son, Michael Venzke of Fargo, ND; daughter, Kristel (Steven) Wittstruck of Eagan, MN; step-daughter Kim (Dan) Ditsworth of Wadena, MN; step-son Loren (Kathy) Meyer of Wadena, MN; five grandchildren, Cheramie, Gabriel, Shane, Blake, and

Riley; five step-grandchildren Joshua, Robbie, Kelsey, Logan and Kaitlin; and four step-great grandchildren; brother Kenneth (Sandy) Venzke of White Bear Lake, MN; sister, Renee Vossen of Cape Coral, FL; and sister-in-law Lorriane Venzke of Wadena, MN.

Chuck will be dearly missed, but all rejoice knowing he's home in Heaven, cancer-free, likely shopping for a new truck, and catching up on Acey Deucey with his dad.

Honorary pallbearers will be Roland Larson, Ted Fischer, Henry Mack, David Anderson, George Kramer and Harley Umland. Active pallbearers will be Logan Meyer, Josh Ditsworth, Robbie Ludovissie, Kaitlin Ditsworth, Kelsey Ditsworth and John Chouinard.

Burial will be in the Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN .

Military honors will be provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Visitation

MAR 19. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Service

MAR 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 14, 2018 at 03:14 PM

MV

“ Two years today. Man it seems like yesterday. For me it comes more infrequently as time passes on but when it does come back it cuts deeper than it did the last. I miss you so much Dad. So many good memories come back from my past that makes things a little bit better help out. I love you and I know I'll see you soon!

Michael Venzke - March 07, 2020 at 08:00 PM

MV

“ I miss fishing with you Dad. I hope you are catching the big ones up there. I'll be seeing you.

Michael Venzke - August 12, 2019 at 05:00 PM

CB

I'm sorry you lost your Father it's never easy, I lost both of my parents 9 years ago

Christine Bickford - February 19, 2023 at 03:27 AM

MV

“ This song says it all. A little heavy for some but the words weigh a lot more.

https://play.google.com/music/m/Tcwehbw7sewhpbajh4jx4vdey4a?t=Gone_Away_-_Five_Finger_Death_Punch

Michael Venzke - July 18, 2018 at 08:51 PM

OH

“ He was a great Division officer. I would have liked to thank him for everything he did for me.

O Hoffman - July 07, 2018 at 10:46 AM

KR

“ Chuck will always be remembered by me, so sorry for your loss.




Karen Reger - March 21, 2018 at 05:03 PM

PB

“ Uncle Chuck you will be missed. I was so proud of your service to our country and so proud to call you my uncle. You will be missed but it brings comfort to know that I will see you again in heaven. Please give my Dad a hug and watch over us all with all the loved ones with you. I love you Uncle Chuck.....Pam

Pam Burt - March 19, 2018 at 03:19 PM


Michael
Venzke

“ *Dad you will be missed so much and never forgotten. Thank you for everything you did for me.* ”



Michael Venzke - March 18, 2018 at 04:46 PM

Jl

“ *Chuck was a great man! He was my supervisor at Stern Rubber. Sending prayers to his family. Jill Carpenter* ”



Jill - March 17, 2018 at 05:25 PM

DS

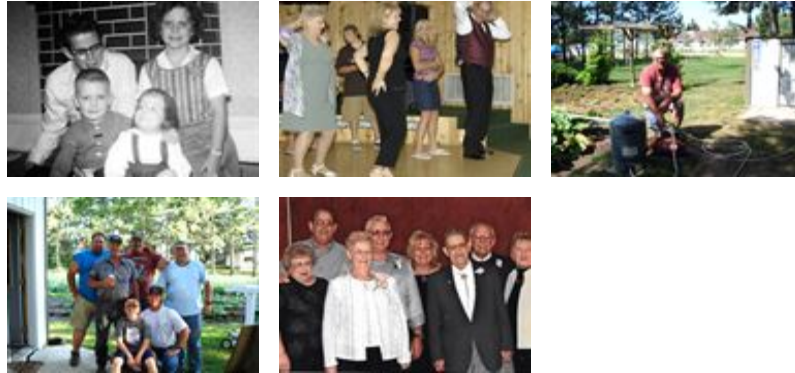
“ *Drywall Supply purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Charles "Chuck" Venzke.* ”



Drywall Supply - March 15, 2018 at 09:49 AM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 14, 2018 at 02:09 PM

LU

“ My deepest sympathies. As I got to know Chuck I considered him not only a comrade but a true friend. Chuck was a leader and knew how to command. He and I went through a lot of testing as commanders but he always came through. I will definitely miss him and the 6th District is poorer for his passing.

Lee Ulferts - March 13, 2018 at 10:06 PM

MW

“ Myron And Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke



Myron and Karen Winkelman - March 12, 2018 at 10:12 PM



“ *Chuck was my next door neighbor for 20 years. If you could pick your next-door-neighbor, it would be Chuck. I will miss seeing you in your yard working on your garden this spring. If there's anything Sue and I can do to help out when things get busy Jan, let us know.*

Mike Danvers

Mike Danvers - March 12, 2018 at 09:51 PM

SL

“ *So sorry for your loss, Chuck always had a smile to share. He will be dearly missed, God bless and prayers.*

Sher and Lance Linnes



Sher Linnes - March 11, 2018 at 11:49 AM

KL

“ *Kelly Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke*



Kelly Lorentz - March 11, 2018 at 09:48 AM

JB

“ *Jack & Lucille Belch lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke*



Jack & Lucille Belch - March 10, 2018 at 11:50 PM

RV

“ A letter to my brother –
You have left this world, this fact weighs so heavy in my heart. My prayers were answered; I had asked God to take you quickly if it was not His plan to have you regain your strength and carry on. The night that you called me from the hospital and we talked for almost two and ½ hours was truly a gift from God. I will never forget how we laughed, reminisced, and cried. At that time I really did think that you might win this last fight and be given those extra months here on earth. But again, I prayed that if this was not God’s plan to please take you quickly and avoid as much pain and suffering as possible. That is exactly what God did. I heard your voice over the phone, just a short time before you passed. I once again got to tell you that I loved you and to say good-bye. We were so close as kids. That changed a bit after we grew up and the miles between us limited the time together. But whenever we did get together, I always felt the same – comfortable, happy and loving you my big brother. Now you have left us, but I know where you are. Your faith was strong and I know that you are now reunited with mom and dad, Dennis, grandma and all of the other loved ones that departed before you. It is comforting to know that I will see you again. Through Jesus we will be reunited in life-everlasting. Watch over us dear brother. Enjoy your heavenly peace. You left a very positive and loving footprint in this earthly life. I will never forget you nor will the pride for my brother wane. I love you and once again I say good-bye until we meet again. Your sister, Renee and husband, Paul.



Renee Vossen - March 10, 2018 at 09:50 PM

CD

“ So sorry for your loss Jan
Dick & Carol Dertinger



Carol Dertinger - March 10, 2018 at 06:18 PM

IB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family
at this time.
Jerry and Irene Baron



Irene Baron - March 10, 2018 at 04:39 PM

EF

“ Esther And Alan Freitag lit a candle in
memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke



Esther and Alan Freitag - March 10, 2018 at 04:17 PM

MF

“ Marie Fraune lit a candle in memory of
Charles "Chuck" Venzke



Marie Fraune - March 10, 2018 at 10:17 AM

LM

“ *Linda McIntire lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke*



Linda McIntire - March 09, 2018 at 09:42 PM

RL

“ *Ruby Lynk lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke*



Ruby Lynk - March 09, 2018 at 06:10 PM

BH

“ *Jan, I was so sorry to hear about Chuck. Brenda H*

Brenda Heltemes - March 09, 2018 at 02:54 PM

MV

“ *Myrtle Vierkant lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke*



Myrtle Vierkant - March 09, 2018 at 02:47 PM

MS

“ Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke



mike and lea snyder - March 09, 2018 at 11:27 AM

KD

“ To the Family of Chuck,
Wishing you comfort and peace during this difficult time. Someone so special will not be forgotten.
Katie

Katie Dykhoff - March 09, 2018 at 10:40 AM

JD

“ Jan.
Jerry and I are so sorry for your loss. Keeping you all in our prayers. Jerry/Janice Denny



Janice Denny - March 09, 2018 at 09:20 AM

SH

“ Sandy Hess lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke



Sandy Hess - March 08, 2018 at 08:03 PM

BB

“ *Bruce And Barb Brown lit a candle in memory of Charles "Chuck" Venzke*



Bruce and Barb Brown - March 08, 2018 at 05:46 PM

CU

“ *Jan... my deepest condolences to you and your family for the passing of Chuck... I have many fond memories of Friday night Meat Raffles and cards.*



Cindy Umland - March 08, 2018 at 12:56 PM