



Dr. Charles F James MD

July 19, 1938 - September 20, 2019

Charles Franklin James, age 81, passed away on September 20, 2019, in Wenatchee. He was born on July 19, 1938 in Seattle, Washington to Burr and Marie James. Known as Chuck to friends and family, he graduated from Monterey High School in Lubbock Texas in 1956. It was in Lubbock where he met the love of his life, Marsha Ann Davis. After she graduated from high school, the couple married in 1958 and moved to Seattle, Washington, where Chuck attended the University of Washington, graduating from the School of Medicine in 1963.

While in college, Chuck joined the ROTC. After graduation, he served in the US Army, moving with his growing family to several bases, including Fort Sam Houston in Texas, Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah. Completing his military service in 1970, Chuck and Marsha and their five children (Debbie, Laura, Susan, Mike, and Linda), settled in Chelan, Washington, where Chuck joined a local practice at the Lake Chelan Clinic, with Dr. Beall and Dr. Fisher. Over the years, he was part of the foundation of family medicine in the Chelan Valley, including helping to open the current Lake Chelan Community Hospital, initial work on the bond for the new hospital, and helping to guide a major remodel of the Lake Chelan Clinic. His continuing service to the health of the people in the valley included working as a hospice volunteer and serving on the hospital board for several year after his retirement. Whether it was a patient or colleague, Chuck always had time to listen, to care, and to help in whatever way he could.

Family was central to Chuck and Marsha. As busy as his work life was, he always found time to play in the snow or scoop out a Halloween pumpkin with his kids. Many evenings wound down with dad pulling out his guitar to play a few classic favorites. He shared his love of the outdoors with the family, teaching his kids to snow and water ski, and taking the family on camping trips uplake. There were also many family visits with extended family, both in Chelan and around the country. The James Gang became adept at road trips, including picking up their father's ability to read in the car. Until the end of his life, Chuck was an avid reader, sharing books and authors with his kids. Chuck and Marsha also carved out time to be with each other, including local surprise trips to celebrate their anniversary and extended vacations to Maui and Palm Springs. The couple celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2008, although they counted their time together as beginning in 1956, when they first met.

Chuck was a devoted member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church for almost 50 years. Not long after joining the parish, he began a guitar choir to bring joyful music to the liturgy with fellow church members who became lifelong friends. Chuck and Marsha also taught catechism classes for many years. His church community remained a key part of his life over the years. His was inspired by the love and service of those around him, and his beautiful and loving spirit will remain as part of St. Francis, and the community of Lake Chelan always.

Charles is survived by his children Debbie Allen of Spokane, Laura Davis (Jeff) of Mt. Vernon, Susan James of Mercer Island, Mike James of Chelan, Linda Nelson (Kevin) of Woodinville, brother Bill James (Joyce) of Lincoln, California; brother Bob James (Carol) of Tulsa, Oklahoma; sister Kathy Canclini (Mitch) of Aurora, Colorado; sister-in-law Rosemary James of Seattle and sister-in-law Nancy Flower of Powhatan, Virginia, and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Marsha, brother Richard James, Seattle, and daughter-in-law Marci James.

A funeral mass will be conducted at St. Francis de Sales in Chelan at 1pm on

Friday, October 11, followed by a reception in the church hall. Chuck's favorite color was yellow; we invite everyone to wear a bit of yellow to his service to celebrate his sunny, joyful spirit. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Parkinson's Foundation, or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 11. 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
210 W. Allen Avenue
Chelan, WA 98816
(509) 682-2433
stfrancischurch@nwi.net
<http://www.saintfrancischelan.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Charles F James MD*

January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *Not only was Dr. James my personal physician, I also worked at the hospital for many years while he was still practicing. He was the most compassionate physician I have encountered. I witnessed several acts of kindness by this wonderful man that brought tears to my eyes. Even after he retired he always would stop and visit with me even in the grocery store. Please feel some peace in knowing he will be a wonderful servant for the Lord. Truly was a blessing for me to know this man. Elona Teague*

Elona Teague - October 11, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ *I really didn't get to spend a lot of time with my Uncle Chuck but, I remember my Uncle's smile most of all. He was always such a happy person and a ray of positivity. I have fond memories of going out on his boat with my mom Kathy and enjoying beautiful Lake Chelan. The things I remember most of my Uncle are of him as family man. That's something which really resonates with me as I have two young children of my own now. He always talked so fondly of his children and his grandchildren. I especially remember seeing the love in the simple things he did for my Aunt Marsha, smiling at her, or holding her hand. That devotion to family was and still is very impactful to me. I hope you're at peace Uncle Chuck sitting with Aunt Marsha holding her hand.*

Love you,

Sara, Alex, Bria and Maxwell Hannum

Sara Hannum - October 10, 2019 at 11:45 PM

JK

“ When we first came to Chelan in 1971 we needed to find a doctor for our family. How lucky we were to find Dr. James. He took care of our son, who was 4 months at the time and delivered our daughter Laura. He also took care of my husband Frank and I. We feel he was a friend as well as our doctor. When we needed to visit him, he was always so caring and kind. I always enjoyed visiting with him when I would see him around town. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Sincerely, Jean and Frank Kulakowski

Jean & Frank Kulakowski - October 08, 2019 at 01:07 PM

BJ

My brother Chuck and I were 10 months 10 days apart he was always smart idol well I would goof around he would be the studying hand also occasionally as kids he did lead the charge for us to get in trouble I miss him so much we talked once a month for many years loved all of his family

Bill James - January 22, 2022 at 02:02 PM

MH

“ I was invited to sing with the guitar choir and did so for 2 years. It was a joy to be welcomed by Chuck (it only took me a year to not call him Dr. James) and the other choir members. When I moved, I was given a treasure of their music to take with me which I have shared many times. I was tickled to reconnect with Chuck while in PT this June. I let Chuck know that every other Sunday, we at St Andrews sing the Lord's Prayer I learned at St Francis so many years ago. My heart goes out to the family. Much love. Marci Hale

Marci Hale - October 06, 2019 at 10:14 PM

CB

“ *“As difficult as condolences are to write, this one is different --- my heartfelt caring for your family's loss is deep and I know the love shared by all of you for each other will guide you on this journey --- but my happiness for Chuck to have finally achieved this journey, is immense! After losing Marsha, his only wish was to join her and hopefully this wish has come true!*



As I was cleaning out a box of old medication advertising pens this morning, that didn't write, I found a message at the very bottom. It was in regard to a patient wanting medication. It was possibly the ONLY time Dr. had said "NO" in the 17 years I had been his "Office Wife", as he called me! He wrote "No" 44 times plus "A THOUSAND TIMES NO" in capitals!!! That was clear back in 1987!

*Having gone to the same grade school was a surprising connection that cemented a feeling of friendship that made our working adventure run so smoothly. My admiration for Chuck's compassion, caring and knowledge was boundless and because God and Family came first, he ranked number one on my "respectable man" list! My only regret is that I was not able to tell him *vio con dias*.....*

Chrystal Bertram - October 06, 2019 at 01:08 PM

CW

“ *Cheryl A. Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles F James MD*



Cheryl A. Williams - October 03, 2019 at 10:32 PM

GJ

“ So many great memories of Uncle Chuck and Aunt Marsha of the years of my life. Uncle Chuck, as others have mentioned, was a world class listener. Always willing to hear and share his thoughts no matter what he had going on. Many fantastic summers spent with the CF James family either here in CA or in Chelan. My first time up on water ski's was while he was behind the wheel. Will always love and cherish the time we had together.

Greg James

Greg James - September 29, 2019 at 06:15 PM

RP

“ I was greatly saddened to learn of Chuck's passing. He was a colleague and friend for more than 25 years. We had many enjoyable chats, mostly about golf, mutual friends, and shared experiences. I, as many others, greatly enjoyed his company and share in the sense of loss that all his friends and family feel at present. May he Rest In Peace after a life well lived.

R. Kirby Primm

Wake Forest, NC

R Kirby Primm - September 28, 2019 at 04:34 PM

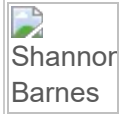


Shannon
Barnes

“ Shannon Barnes sent a virtual gift in memory of
Dr. Charles F James MD



Shannon Barnes - September 25, 2019 at 12:12 AM



Shannon Barnes

*From all of us Chelan Goats
We thank you
Rest in Paradise*

Shannon Barnes - September 25, 2019 at 12:14 AM



“ *Marie Palmer lit a candle in memory of Dr.
Charles F James MD*



Marie Palmer - September 24, 2019 at 12:32 PM



My condolences to the James family. Dr. James was one of my favorite people. He was so well respected and liked by his patients, the people he worked with, and the community. He had such a strong commitment to faith, family, and friends. He will be missed by so many. Rest in Peace my friend.

Marie Palmer - September 24, 2019 at 12:34 PM



We met Chuck when we moved to Manson in 1997. We have great memories of singing in his choir, golfing with Chuck and Marcia, followed by lunches at the golf course, dinners together, and driving Chuck to his medical appointments in Wenatchee when he became unable to drive himself. We had great conversations.

He was a really fine gentleman, and we will miss him.

Arny and Elmira Forner

Arny and Elmira forner - September 27, 2019 at 08:13 PM

BJ

Chuck was an incredible brother and role model for us and our wide-ranging family. He (and Marsha) were never over-invested in the seductions/celebrity of the material world. They always remembered who they were, what lie within them and why they were here. Their Life Curriculum was to extend the compassion of God and to heal in many/multiple ways the heart of humanity. With faith, love and conviction they nurtured their small corner of assigned life garden and raised an incredible loving family.

The realms in the Universe are many; what God creates never dies. Chuck and Marsha, together, you rocked the Universe, Thank you.

Much Love, Bob and Carol James

Bob and Carol James - October 07, 2019 at 02:53 PM

DC

Thank you Chuck for living. You were one of the most gentle, compassionate and intelligent human being I have ever met. I will miss planting your flowers in spring, and having good conversations. My condolences to the family, as I know you will miss him so much.

donna campbell - October 08, 2019 at 11:11 PM