



Charles R. Hontz "Charley"

July 6, 1950 - January 4, 2020

Charles R. Hontz "Charley", 69, of Palmyra, went home to his Heavenly Father on Saturday, January 4, 2020. He was born July 6, 1950, in Oneonta, NY, to the late Russell H. and A. Elizabeth (Hubbard) Hontz. Charley grew up in Union Water Works and graduated in 1968 from Annville-Cleona High School, where he played on the baseball team and the high school's first varsity football team. Charley attended Messiah College, where he not only graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Behavioral Science but also met his beloved, Patricia (Slabaugh) "Pat". Charley and Pat were married on May 29, 1971 at Chapel of the Cross United Methodist Church in North Lawrence, OH. In 1976, Charley obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Kent State University. Charley obtained his Master of Education Degree in Training and Development from Penn State University. Charley dedicated his career to the Lord and working with children as a teacher, principal, and coach in Christian schools, and as a MHS houseparent. His life was a model of "He must increase, and I must decrease." Charley was a member of Hershey Church of the Nazarene. Charley treasured spending time with his family and friends. He loved watching his son's athletic events and his granddaughter's gymnastics and track meets. He enjoyed fishing, especially Canada, MN, and NY fishing trips, boating, going to the mountains, playing games, telling and playing jokes, picnics, family reunions, camping, golfing, woodworking, playing baseball, football, and basketball in his younger years, and watching the Steelers and

Nittany Lions. He will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered and celebrated by his devoted wife, Pat, of 48 years, his children, Charles, Jr. "CJ" (Anastasia) and Christa, and his granddaughter, Grace. He is also survived by siblings, A. Steven (Susan) Hontz, and Linda D. Hontz; four brothers-in-law (and their spouses); many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and cousins; dear aunts; special friends, Galen (Jill) Moore and family; lifelong friend, Charles (Esther) Greenawalt II; many wonderful relatives; and his faithful feline companion, Annie. A Celebration of Life will be held at Hershey Church of the Nazarene, 986 E. Governor Road, Hershey, PA on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., with visitation beginning at 1:30 p.m. The inurnment will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hershey Church of the Nazarene, PO Box 502, Hershey, PA 17033 or Teen Challenge, PO Box 98, Rehrersburg, PA 19550.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Hershey Church of the Nazarene
986 E. Governor Road
Hershey, PA 17033

Celebration of Life

JAN 19. 2:30 PM (ET)

Hershey Church of the Nazarene
986 E. Governor Road
Hershey, PA 17033

Tribute Wall

“ The world now has less happiness, fun, and love in it since the passing of Charley Hontz. Charley, along with his brother Steve, have been my oldest and best friends since 1958. No one could find better friends since he gave me unconditional love, and our families merged.

We grew up together in Union Water Works, a small canal village north of Annville along the Swatara Creek. Little did we know how lucky we were to be growing up in a village just like the ones that Norman Rockwell painted. Charley was a loyal Boy Scout. Charley and Jerry Boyer were the leaders of our group of youth--about 20 strong--who lived in the Water Works, roamed the surrounding woods, built wooden forts in the woods, swam in the creek, fished in the Canal dam, enjoyed the playground, and played endless hours of baseball and football.

In high school, Charley was one of the best athletes at our school. He was the third baseman on the Annville-Cleona team of 1968, as well as an invaluable lineman on our first varsity football team. Charley went on to Messiah College where he met the love of his life, Pat. They built a wonderful family around Christa, her brother CJ, and Christa's daughter, Gracie.

When Charley and Pat returned from Ohio and my family returned from Virginia, we had the best picnics that my family has ever had, especially at Memorial Lake. Charley and his family have been great game players, and I think I learned almost every game from him. He usually won.

Most importantly, Charley was a strong Christian. He not only built a Christian family, but he successfully shared his faith with many other people through his life. The Christian example that Charley set has been invaluable for many people across Dauphin and Lebanon Counties. Charley was a great servant of the Lord. My family and I will never forget him and will always remember him. He was always like a brother to me.

Charlie Greenawalt
Class of Annville-Cleona 1971

Charles E. Greenawalt - January 19, 2020 at 12:00 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Charles R. Hontz "Charley".*



January 16, 2020 at 10:02 AM



“ *I did not get to know Charley very well, but what I do know he was a fighter, fighting cancer for several years before the Lord called him to come Home. Charley not wanting to leave his beautiful family, new this is what & why he was living for the Lord, to return Home, to spend eternity with the ones gone before, and the ones soon to come. Charley will be missed.*

Harold Slabaugh - January 14, 2020 at 10:10 PM



“ *Rebecca Hoffman purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Charles R. Hontz "Charley".*



Rebecca Hoffman - January 13, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ *Footprints Tribute Blanket was purchased for the family of Charles R. Hontz "Charley".*



January 13, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about this loss. Mr. Hontz will forever be etched in my memory as one of the best HCS teachers and coaches I had the privilege of being instructed under. He had the ability to teach students while bringing out the joy of learning. He knew how to come off of the pages of the teacher's guide and relate to students, and that's what made him so impactful.*

Tammy (Boosz) Hogue - January 11, 2020 at 09:45 AM



“ *So sad to learn that Charlie past away. I had the privilege and honor to be a high school classmate of Charlie's! He also protected my back on that first A-C football team as left offensive tackle!! Looks like he nurtured and protected many backs during a wonderful life!!
George Ruth '68.*

George Ruth - January 10, 2020 at 07:58 AM



“ *Today we lost a great math teacher and the Pittsburgh Steelers greatest fan. Eating pizza in the boiler room with Mr. Mudge is something I will never forget. We will eventually catch up with you later. I'll buy the pizza. Mike Nicoletti*

Mike Nicoletti - January 09, 2020 at 10:22 PM

JT

“ On behalf of our parents, Lindsay and Debbie Stedman, Jeremy and I send our deepest condolences. Charlie was a great guy, one whom my dad thought so much of. What a beautiful tribute to his work and dedication, for our Lord.

Jessica Stedman Tkachuk - January 09, 2020 at 10:15 PM

NM

“ Hi Pat,
Linda and I are here recalling memories with some tears. What a joy to have been your friends, to be at your wedding, to laugh with Charlie and Roy Dixon, to have had him as a room mate, to have shared part of your journey of life. We send love, caring and prayers. Would love to recall more memories with you!
Norm and Linda Mowery

Norm Mowery - January 09, 2020 at 10:14 PM

MW

“ I'm grieving with you. Mr. Hontz was a selfless mentor and basketball coach. I remember how he competed against me in flashcards in front of the class and was so proud of me when I finally won once. He was one of the important men in my young life.
Mike Wittmer

Mike Wittmer - January 09, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles R. Hontz "Charley".



January 09, 2020 at 07:38 PM