



Charles E. "Charlie" Friederich

July 13, 1934 - May 28, 2022

Charles Edward (Charlie) Friederich, 87, of Brodhead, WI, died May 28, 2022, at SSM Health Monroe Hospice Home. He composed his own obituary, which follows:

In more than 30 years as a journalist, I have written dozens of obituaries. This, I promise, will be my last.

My parents named me Charles Edward Friederich, but everybody calls me Charlie. I was born in the small town of Western, Nebraska, on Friday the 13th of July, 1934. My father, Fred Friederich, was a Methodist pastor and my mother, Lydia Roth Friederich, was a housewife and registered nurse. Her training came in handy when I was born, as the stork beat the local doctor to the house and Mom supervised the delivery.

I graduated from high school in Seward, NE, in 1952 and from Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln in 1956. I received a full-tuition scholarship to the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, where I received my master's degree in journalism in 1959.

Wanting to see another part of the country, I accepted a job as a reporter for the Binghamton Press in upstate New York. Two years later, in January, 1961, I moved to Wisconsin and was a member of the staff of The Milwaukee Journal for almost 30 years. My first seven years at The Journal were spent in

Milwaukee, where I did most everything from writing obituaries to composing editorials.

While in Milwaukee, in the young singles group at Kenwood United Methodist Church, I met the lady who became the love of my life, Mary Pearl Koertge. We taught Sunday School together, dated, and I proposed to Mary on my birthday in 1963. She accepted and we were married in Kenwood Church on Nov. 9, 1963.

In 1968, we moved to Madison, where I covered the State Capitol for The Journal.

The Journal allowed retirement at age 55, and so I did, in 1990. This fit well into Mary's career. As a student in high school, she felt a calling to become a minister. However, she received little support from her parents and pastor; so the idea was long postponed. My retirement freed Mary to pursue this dream, and in 1991 she was appointed pastor of three small United Methodist Churches in southwest Wisconsin: Argyle, Blanchardville and Lamont.

When Mary retired from the full-time ministry in 1997, we moved to Brodhead. There, I enjoyed church, daily walks or bike rides of a mile or two, visits to the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO; to Chautauqua and to Susanna Wesley House at Pine Lake United Methodist Camp near Westfield, WI.

Surviving me are Mary, my wife of more than 58 years; and our children: Matthew (spouse, Diana) of Berwyn, IL; Elizabeth (Rick) Connolly of Montfort, WI; and David (Christine) of Round Lake, IL. Also surviving are our 12 grandchildren: Rebecca, Charlie, Jacob, Ben, Emily, Paul, Nick, Hope, Bret, Josh, David William and Patrick; and one great-grandchild, Mateo. Three sisters preceded me in death: Rose Jenson of Sioux Falls, SD; Doris Klutts of Gering, NE, and Joann Lindberg of Peoria, IL.

A private service for the family was held on Friday, June 3, 2022. A service celebrating Charlie's life will be held on Saturday, August 6 at 5pm at Pine Lake United Methodist Church Camp in Westfield, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be given in Charlie's name to the Salvation Army in Madison, Wisconsin.

To leave an online condolence for the Friederich Family, please visit: www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery - Brodhead

1106 E. 9th Avenue
Brodhead, WI 53520

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 6. 5:00 PM (CT)

Pine Lake United Methodist Church Camp
W8301 Cty Rd M
Westfield, WI 53964

Tribute Wall

“*Mary and family -- I am Carole Tietjen Stephens from Omaha. Charlie and I have been friends since our Wesleyan days, and I was stunned yesterday when I received the Wesleyan quarterly magazine that showed that Charlie had passed away last May. He was a dear friend and co-worker on the Wesleyan student newspaper, and we have kept in touch all these years through Wesleyan reunions and Christmas letters and a few phone calls. I thought the world of Charlie and always will. The work and joy and laughs that we all shared in that student newspaper office are priceless memories. He was the Editor, and I was a reporter and then later an assistant editor.*

I first learned about Springerle cookies in my German class, and then I found out that Charlie liked them too, and his mother made them! He would often tell about helping his mother make them by stirring and stirring the dough for her. At one point he gave me a huge can of coffee and a Springerle rolling pin in tribute to all the coffee and cookies we had shared. I still have that rolling pin! Once Charlie had to go out to his home for something, and he asked me to ride along. (I think it was Seward.). I met his parents there -- wonderful people -- and several years later when George and I had our first baby, they called and came over to see her. I think they were living in Lincoln then, as were we. So thoughtful. Charlie and I also knew each other through our fraternity and sorority activities, and everyone loved Charlie because he was so smart and funny and kind -- except he MAY not have been kind IF he was among the group of Theta Chis who stole the Alpha Gam badge off the balcony of our sorority house. (ha ha). There were other antics that were popular at the time, but the two groups mainly just had such good fun.

Charlie wrote me a very funny poem once about the guys I had dated, and I kept that poem for a long time. It might still be downstairs -- I hope I find it.

Charlie was a dear friend of mine, and I extend my deepest sympathy to you, Mary, and all the family. You were very blessed to have him in your lives.

Carole Stephens - December 11, 2022 at 12:50 PM



“ *Mary and family,
We have been blessed to know Charlie for the last couple of decades and will miss him. May you continue to see God working through this and find comfort and peace in knowing where he is. You are in our thoughts and prayers always!*

Danielle Jorgensen - June 07, 2022 at 08:24 PM

JH

“ *I just read Charlie's farewell. Well-written and engaging, of course since he penned it. I remember Charlie walking into the Capitol Press Room with the greeting: "Happy New Day" or "Happy New Week". When he returned from a train trip with Mary, he said what a wonderful trip it was... even when the trip paused twice for the two unfortunate collisions with individuals on the tracks. Details were few... when he retired, a sign was posted atop the Capitol Press Room bulletin board: "Happy New Day" -- Charlie Friederich. I have used that greeting countless times. When I do, I smile and imagine him walking in the press room with that greeting, smiling to all with his arms loaded with papers, his computer and story files. He was a truly gracious and kind person, and I am a better person for having known him. Thanks, Charlie. Wish we could've cloned you -- the world could use more Charlie Friederichs.*

Respectfully submitted to all his treasured and loved family and friends at this time of your loss. May his memories wrap you all and carry you ahead to a "Happy New Day."

Joanne M Haas

Joanne M Haas - June 05, 2022 at 01:47 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Charlie. The Madison Bureau is reassembling in heaven. Rest In Peace guys, -30-
Anne Kienitz

Annie Kienitz - June 05, 2022 at 12:15 PM



“ Simply a fine man, excellent reporter--curious, creative, and fair always. My privilege to have known him. He was part of the Capitol press corps when I arrived as a green newly elected assembly person in 1974. Kindly showed me respect and some of the ins and outs.
Jonathan Barry

Jonathan Barry - June 05, 2022 at 11:43 AM



“ Dear Mary, we are so sorry to hear about Charlie's passing. We enjoyed getting to know him through church. He had a wonderful smile and laugh. Our prayers are with you and your family. I loved reading that newspaper article about his retirement. Such a great man. Karen and Marty Wright

Karen and Marty Wright - June 02, 2022 at 09:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Steve Schultze - June 01, 2022 at 06:41 PM

SS

“ *file:///Users/blast/Downloads/MJS%20Newsroom%20News%2012.15.:*

Steve Schultze - June 01, 2022 at 06:37 PM

PS

“ *My dear friend and co-worker for so many years. Charlie was such a great reporter in The Milwaukee Journal's Madison Bureau, always on top of the news, having great sources, getting scoops. And also a terrific writer. But more than being a tireless journalist, he was a kind and generous man and my wife and I loved him dearly. Paul Salsini*

Paul Salsini - June 01, 2022 at 02:12 PM

SP

“ *Sorry to hear about Charlie's passing. He will be missed by many. It was a pleasure to know him and Mary in which we met at Brodhead Methodist Church. Charlie helped me with running the sound system as well. God be with you, Mary and sending prayers for healing from your loss of Charlie.*

Sven Prestbroten - May 31, 2022 at 10:11 PM

VT

“ *My deepest sympathy to you, Mary and your family. My prayers are with you . Violet Truman*

Violet Truman - May 31, 2022 at 05:29 PM

CI

“ *Calvary Memorial Church in Oak Park, IL purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Charles E. "Charlie" Friederich.*



Calvary Memorial Church in Oak Park, IL - May 31, 2022 at 05:17 PM

MP

“ *Saddened to hear of Charlie's passing. He and Mary have always been such faithful servants of the Lord and His people. May he rest in peace.*

Marcia S Petersen - May 31, 2022 at 04:21 PM

CC

“ *To Mary and family,
Sorry to hear about Charlie's passing. He will be missed by many.
Our prayers and thoughts are with you now.
Chuck & Shirley Christman*

Chuck & Shirley Christman - May 31, 2022 at 04:04 PM

DN

“ *Mary, we are saddened to learn of Charlie's passing. Please accept our deepest sympathy. Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs to you and your family. We will miss seeing Charlie strolling down the street or flying past on his bike. Take good care... Fondly -
Dan and Kari*

Dan and Kari Newcomer - May 31, 2022 at 10:58 AM

RV

“ *Rita Vickers sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles E. "Charlie" Friederich*



Rita Vickers - May 30, 2022 at 07:14 PM

CS

“ *I am so sorry Mary to hear of your husband's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May the God of grace and mercy give you comfort, as we know he does. Blessings to you in the days to come that family time will be what you need to share memories to fill your heart.*

Cynthia Streuly - May 30, 2022 at 12:59 PM