



## Charles Oliver Chalker

April 12, 1930 - March 11, 2018

Charles Oliver Chalker

4-12-30 – 3-11-18

Charles Oliver Chalker, aka Chuck, Chuckers, Papa, and Santa, passed away at his west Racine home on March 11th surrounded by the loud, loving family that meant more to him than anything in the world. Born near Binghamton, NY, to Gladys (Palada) and Charles Chalker, he enlisted in the United States Army after high school and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant following several tours of duty that included Okinawa during the Korean War.

After his honorable discharge in 1953, he moved to Racine and took a job at Twin Disc in Shipping and Receiving, a career that lasted 30+ years and yielded numerous friendships. Chuck also took immense pride in a second career at Auto Werks in Racine, where co-workers lauded his abilities as the company's Professional Driver for over 15 years.

While every life has its defining moments, rarely are they directly attributable to a dirty load of laundry. However, in the early 1970s, Chuck met Elizabeth Prentice at a local laundromat and a romance bloomed; the couple was married at Grace Chapel Church on Oct. 14, 1972.

Chuck believed happiness in this life was proportional to one's compassion. He loved serving – his guests a delicious home cooked meal (typically Italian, always heavy on the garlic), and his community through a continuous variety of service. He spent 40+ years volunteering for the Girl Scouts of Racine County (he was honored with the Alverna B. Coffey Award, the organization's

highest volunteer honor), and 30+ years playing Santa at several local venues, most notably the Santa Chalet in West Racine and Educators Credit Union. If you ever read your Christmas list to a local St. Nick after 1980 or so, there's a good chance you once sat on this man's lap.

Uncommon in the generosity of love he bestowed on those around him, Chuck was happiest when celebrating with family, holding a child, watching the Packers, pontooning on Pine Lake, or sitting on his patio, drinking a glass of red wine as the heat of a summer's day slowly succumbed to the quiet, calm of night.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; their four children, Larry (Cindy Lou) Radcliff, Lon (Linda) Radcliff, Lori (Jim) Henderson, Lana (Pat) Krueske, and their nine grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren; brother-in-law John Prentice; sisters-in-law Bonnie Gast and Peggy Beckett; and nieces Ginger Rotunno, Gail Oleski, and Sharon Miele. He is Preceded in death by his parents Gladys (Palada) and Charles Chalker; sister Joyce Hinchley; Grandson Shane Radcliff; Father-in-law John Prentice; mother-in-law Margaret Prentice.

Visitation will be Thursday, Mar. 15th, at Sturino Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m.; and Friday, Mar. 16th (visitation 9:30) before a celebration of Chuck's life at 10:30 with Rev. Jennifer Miller officiating. Burial will follow at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

In 2014, Chuck took one of the most meaningful trips of his life – the Honor Flight with his son, Larry, flying to Washington D.C. to visit the war memorials. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages contributions to the Wisconsin Stars and Stripes Honor Flight: <http://www.starsandstripeshonorflight.org/donate/>. Special Thank you to Dr. Paige Rackcliffe for her kindness and compassion for which we will be forever grateful. Also, to Hospice Alliance for their support during his final days.

# Cemetery Details

## Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery

21731 Spring Street  
Union Grove, WI 53182

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home  
3014 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404  
(262) 632-4479  
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

## Visitation

MAR 16. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home  
3014 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404  
(262) 632-4479  
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

## Funeral Service

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MAR **16**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home  
3014 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404  
(262) 632-4479  
[info@sturinofuneralhome.com](mailto:info@sturinofuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sturino Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Oliver Chalker*



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**Sturino Funeral Home** - March 14, 2018 at 10:22 AM

LI

“ *We lost an awesome person, i will always remember his smile. My sympathies to everyone.*



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**lisa** - March 16, 2018 at 10:21 AM

CG

“ *What an incredible loss to you Betty and all the family..how very much Chucks laughter and teaseings we will miss.  
We re so saddened by his loss  
You are all like family, and our hearts are breaking with yours.  
I cannot begin to say how terrible it is to be unable to attend Chucks service..but know that we are with you in thoughts love and prayer.  
Carolyn and Larry Graf. 🥰😘💕*

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**Carolyn graf** - March 14, 2018 at 05:03 PM



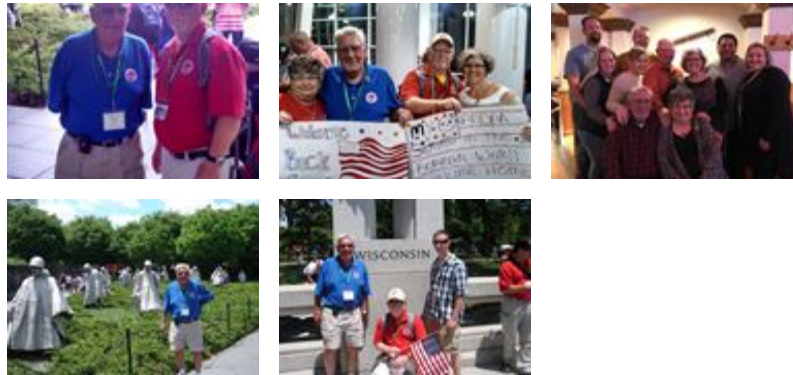
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles Oliver Chalker.



March 14, 2018 at 05:02 PM



“ 144 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sturino Funeral Home - March 14, 2018 at 09:06 AM



“ Love, hugs and prayers for the whole family from Don and Aileen Kangas

Aileen Kangas - March 13, 2018 at 11:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles Oliver Chalker.



March 13, 2018 at 07:03 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Krista** - March 13, 2018 at 04:02 PM

MS

“ My husband Ben and I are saddened that Chuck is no longer with us. Our fond memories was that he was always was such a happy fella. His smile and presence always was so comforting. We witnessed the passion he had for life and especially for his family and community. I will always remember the stories told of his days that Betty and he enjoyed Christmas so much every Christmas playing Santa Claus and Betty Mrs. Claus. We will miss you Chuck. We know you are resting now. The memories we hold will always be everlasting.

*Our sincere condolences to his wife Betty and all of his children, grandchildren and of course the grand-pups.*

*Ben and Mary Swahn*

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**Mary Swahn** - March 13, 2018 at 03:11 PM