



Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III

April 16, 2020

Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III, age 84, died Thursday, April 16, 2020 at his residence in East Petersburg. He was the son of the late Charles, Jr. and Marguerite (Peg) Portser and the husband of Mary Jane Singer Portser with whom he celebrated 55 years of marriage on July 19, 2019.

He graduated from McCaskey High School, Class of 1953, and from F&M College, Class of 1957. He also took graduate courses at Millersville University and Temple University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1958-1964 and was stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Chuck had a teaching and coaching career at Donegal High School that spanned 35 years teaching Business Education as well as coaching the Boys & Girls track teams. He did not miss a day of work in his first 30 years of teaching. During his summers, he worked as the manager of the Mount Joy Community Swimming Pool in the '70s. After his teaching career, he drove a school bus for Manheim Township for 15 years. Chuck was also a former PIAA track official.

He was a long-time member of Trinity UCC, East Petersburg and served as Trustee on several committees. He was an Army Veteran Member of the American Legion.

Chuck was a lifetime Phillies and Eagles fan. He was avid about his health and fitness and enjoyed running, weightlifting, bicycling, golfing, and going to the shore. He ran in the Boston Marathon in 1982. In his later years, he was a member of the Silver Sneakers Program at Universal Athletic Club. He also enjoyed his dogs that he adopted from the Humane League.

Chuck is survived by two sons: Charles (Chip) IV, husband of Alaina, Burtonsville, MD and Troy, companion of Jean, Palmyra, a daughter, Kelly, wife of Doug Schuessler, five grandchildren: Alexis, Isabella and Ryan Portser and Jordyn and Maxwell Schuessler and a sister, Peggy, wife of Dr. Walter Kreider and his beloved dog, Cole. He was preceded in death by a sister, Elaine Forrey.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Humane League of Lancaster County, 2195 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602 or Trinity UCC, 2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520.

A Private Service will be held at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



C Portser - April 16, 2021 at 12:59 PM



“ *Oh wow I just learned of this from a video on FB that Pastor Rankin posted. My condolences to the family. He was such a nice person. He talked my husband Joseph up a storm when we came to Trinity.*

Donna Jill Barnes - January 08, 2021 at 07:37 PM

MH

“ I want to share my deepest sympathy to Jane and the Portser family on the the loss of Coach Portser. I too was part of that beginning of a track team in 1969 that my teammate Cliff Betty mentioned. Without Coach there may not have been the successful program at Donegal high school that there is now. Coach Portser motivated many athletes, myself included, with positive thinking, hard work, determination, and how to handle defeat with grace. These qualities carried me through my professional career . Throughout the years I often saw Coach at local athletic events and we shared many fond memories. I will miss those moments. Marty Heisey Donegal Class of 72

Marty Heisey - April 23, 2020 at 11:19 AM

SW

“ Mr Portser was a great teacher but more importantly a great man! The fondest memory I have of him is in study hall in '86 my junior year and it involved Jay Darkey who was on the varsity basketball ball team I rode the bench on the JV squad, but sat behind the bench and watched when varsity played. I remember Jay was having a not so good game and took himself out of the game which was not often, the next day in study hall Mr Portser called him out in class why would take yourself out of the game?? Jay when times get tough the tough get going I remember him saying to him! My point is he was teaching a lesson not just in basketball but in life. To this day I've never forgot that story! RIP Mr Portser thanks for reading me the riot act a few times! 🙏

Scott Williams - April 21, 2020 at 04:58 PM



“ I was shocked to learn of Chuck's passing. I knew Chuck from the Universal Gym. He was a great friend and we would talk about everything and anything from A to Z. You have my deepest sympathy....RIP my friend...Jack Vulgaris

Jack Vulgaris - April 21, 2020 at 02:14 PM

CB

“ In the Spring of 69, a couple of us were hanging out by the gym when Coach walked up and said he was starting a track team for Donegal...any of you guys want to join? Hmmm, there's no track we said. Coach said, we can rehab a track in Columbia don't worry about it. I could write a book about the first 4 years of the track team that started with a few JV meets, then got varsity status and never won a dual meet, but had winners in the County and District meets and represented Donegal at States...yet never had a track or home field meet. Coach saw the big picture with establishing a track team and no doubt helped a lot of young people, including myself. R.I.P. coach.

Cliff Betty class of 72.

Cliff Betty - April 21, 2020 at 11:33 AM

KS

“ Reading all these memories of my father has brought great comfort and joy. But along with it, I have great sadness that those who would want to pay last respects to him will not be able to as we lay him to rest today.

We hope and pray that we can celebrate his life at a later time when we can all be together.

Kelly Portser Schuessler - April 21, 2020 at 08:16 AM

JS

“ J Davis & The WLT Staff/DC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III.



J Davis & The WLT Staff/DC - April 20, 2020 at 11:59 AM

DS

“ Mr. Portser was a phenomenal teacher. He made every class fun and interesting. I know I mentioned him often when people would ask who my most influential teachers were. Mr. P, you will be missed. 💙

Deborah Evans Stum - April 20, 2020 at 11:15 AM

DE

Also, just have to add that I truly wanted to get into accounting but didn't. I ended up managing a travel agency for 12 years then got involved with money in the form of banking. I worked for several banks over 10 years and often thanked Mr. Portser for my love of debits and credits!

Deborah Evans-Stum - April 20, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III.



April 20, 2020 at 09:00 AM

WS

“ He is one of the main reasons I am alive today. He believed in me when no one else did. I left Donegal in 91 and never looked back. I regret not having at least one more conversation with him. RIP.

Wilson Santiago - April 19, 2020 at 10:55 PM

KS

He always talked highly of you.

Kelly Portser Schuessler - April 20, 2020 at 07:06 AM

AW

“ We are so sorry to read about the passing of Chuck. Our heartfelt sympathy to you Jane and to the rest of your family. It was always a joy to see you when we were visiting Nancy. Take care and hugs to you. Arlene and Terry Wilhelm

Arlene Wilhelm - April 19, 2020 at 08:14 PM

BK

“ Sorry for your loss! I ran into Mr Portser awhile back, and it was so nice to talk with him briefly. he was a great teacher respected by all. He will be missed by so many. RIP

Beth Kraus - April 19, 2020 at 06:57 PM

BG

“ Mr. Portser was my track coach in high school. He always strived to get the best out of me. I will always be thankful for him. RIP



Beth Gainer - April 19, 2020 at 04:51 PM

DC

“ I was one of his early track stars, class of 74, I was there when Raymond was killed, he liked to talk, and I was the one the class would have distract him if we had a test.

Donald Collier - April 19, 2020 at 03:52 PM

DC

Me again, he was one of my favorite teachers, RIP Mr Portser, sorry for the families loss

Donald Collier - April 19, 2020 at 03:57 PM

AN

“ Sorry for your loss. He was such a nice man. Enjoyed talking to him while he walked his pups at the park. The kids called him “Guy” and he always answered them and always had time to speak and play with them.



A neighbor - April 19, 2020 at 01:38 PM

MG

Chuck's classroom was directly across the hall from mine at DHS. His voice was so booming that I would have to shut my door just to be heard. He told me if he was too loud I could come over and shut his door 😊
A good guy

Mary Gildea - April 19, 2020 at 03:46 PM

MR

“ *What a blessing to read these messages about a man I knew as Chuck. Back row Chuck. I wish i knew him in the way his students knew him. Although I could tell he had a passion for the future of the youth. He would stop after class (silver sneakers) every week to talk to me and my grandson to remind me to "love them and spoil them". Then he would tell me that I worked him too hard in class. Called me the drill sergeant, he said you remind me of my drill sergeant. I will take that as a compliment. My condolences to his family and close friends. A life well-lived never goes unnoticed. I'm one of the instructors of the silver sneaker program. I've only known Chuck a few years but he has left an indelible mark on my heart*

Margie Rodgers - April 19, 2020 at 11:10 AM

JH

“ *Loved this teacher! He made class fun! Very sorry to hear of his passing! Condolences to his family and especially during these times!*

Julie Hamilton - April 19, 2020 at 07:12 AM

MW

“ *Martha Wilkinson lit a candle in memory of Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III*



Martha Wilkinson - April 19, 2020 at 02:55 AM

JR

“ I love you Aunt Jane! I was so sorry to hear about Uncle Chuck! Sending prayers for the whole family and a big hug from VA. I'm glad we were able to all spend time together with you & Uncle Chuck over Xmas. 💜 Love, Jodi

Jodi Riehl-Irwin - April 18, 2020 at 09:07 PM

JW

“ So sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. It has been many years since we have seen any of the Porters But we had many good year's together when are kids we're younger. We have been in Florida almost 13 years. Staying safe. Jane would love to hear from you after things settle down. Again our condolences to the entire family. Judy and Bill Witmer

judy witmer - April 18, 2020 at 08:27 PM

BH

“ Barry Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III



Barry Hawkins - April 18, 2020 at 08:04 PM

BH

“ One of the good ones. Some of my best memories at DHS was with him in his class. He was a great teacher, coach, motivator and man. I cherished the times we had at DHS and times I ran into him after I graduated. He would always tell me stories about his family, the boy and how he felt about me. He will be truly missed. Wishing his family healing and strength in there time of need. Chuck, (he said I could call him that when I graduated) it was a true blessing to know you and Thank You for the great motivational stories and memories. Until we meet again.

Barry Hawkins - April 18, 2020 at 08:00 PM

MW

“ I wasn't the best track athlete, but Mr. Portser instilled determination and confidence in me that made me proud to do my best, win or lose. I only ran track for one season, but will never forget his mentorship and support. It is clear from the memories shared here that his memory will live on in so many hearts and the influence he bestowed in others' lives. My deepest sympathy goes out to the family in this difficult time. May you find peace and comfort in the care and love of those around you.

Martha Wilkinson - April 18, 2020 at 07:51 PM

DG

“ He was one of my favorite teachers.

Donna Germer - April 18, 2020 at 07:48 PM

AJ

“ Annette & Arthur Carter, JR purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III.



Annette & Arthur Carter, JR - April 18, 2020 at 07:28 PM

JJ

“ He was one of a handful of teachers that reached me. He had patience with me but would also sometimes just hit me like a bulldozer with brutal truth and no filters. It was a balancing act and he did that well. Great guy.

In my prayers and heaven must be laughing at his crazy stories.

Jerry Avers Jr - April 18, 2020 at 06:14 PM

AH

“ My condolences to family. I remember him from the Mt Joy Lions Club Pool as a child. Great teacher❤️

Amy Hess - April 18, 2020 at 06:03 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Charles (Chuck) H. Portser, III.



April 18, 2020 at 04:58 PM

PP

“ Mr. Portser was my teacher for bookkeeping in 1968 and was always very kind to me. I was not a math whiz but he made it so easy that I got "B's" in that subject!
My deepest sympathy to the family. I will always remember Mr. Portser!

*Phyllis Good Pullan
class of 1969*

Phyllis Good Pullan - April 18, 2020 at 04:56 PM

JR

“ Mr. Portser's influence was tremendous. My accounting talents are attributed to his proficiency at teaching! Great man! Jean Hoffer Reuter

Jean Reuter - April 18, 2020 at 03:57 PM

AL

“ I can still remember his voice saying “Mellinger...There's no Mellinger in this class” after I had skipped accounting for a month straight. Fond memories may be forever Rest In Peace

Amy Lineberry - April 18, 2020 at 03:48 PM

GM

“ I remember Mr. Portser as a track coach my freshman and sophomore years. He was a great person, and I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with him. He wasn't my coach, as I was a distance runner, but I remember having conversations with him. He will be missed.

Greg Musser-Class of 98

Greg Musser - April 18, 2020 at 03:47 PM

KA

“ Like many already said, what an amazing teacher! He will definitely be fondly remembered! I loved him as a teacher & his class!



Kim Albert - April 18, 2020 at 03:39 PM

JJ

“ To one of the best teachers that taught you lessons in the classroom, and about life outside in the real world. May be gone but never forgotten as he left an impact on my life. He always cared even though sometimes he didn't show it. He was always there even when you thought he wasn't. Glad and proud to have known him and had him as a teacher and mentor.

John Jones - April 18, 2020 at 02:38 PM

S(

“ Mr Portser was one of my favorite teachers. What he taught me in business math I still use today. He was truly a teacher to look up to. He was disciplined and fun. You knew you could have a good joke...as long as you didn't take it to far. He will live on in all the memories of the students and athletes that he had a DHS!!! RIP Mr Portser...what the Mel...One Tribe!! ❤️❤️❤️

Stacey Crider (Wilson) - April 18, 2020 at 02:26 PM

AD

“ He was great at molding young people and a great teacher.

Adm - April 18, 2020 at 02:25 PM

JH

“ Mr. Portser was a great teacher and a great man. I enjoyed his accounting classes very much and still use much of what he taught me. I also always enjoyed talking sports with him. Praying for his family and friends.

Jason Hebbe - April 18, 2020 at 02:07 PM

JE

“ What a great teacher he was. Definitely my favorite at DHS. Many fond memories of his Accounting class. “Gotta read the book!” was one of his all time great sayings, as he swayed back and forth holding a rolled up paper. RIP Mr. Portser!

Jim Evans - April 18, 2020 at 01:59 PM

MH

“ Mr. Portser’s classes were a blast. I still re-tell some of his jokes! What a big personality and great guy.

Mark Herman - April 18, 2020 at 01:57 PM

MW

“ I’m so sorry to hear Mr. Portser has passed away. He is the only teacher I remember from high school. He was real and funny and made me enjoy class. An amazing teacher!

mandi winters - April 18, 2020 at 01:26 PM

DP

“ I had Mr.Portser for several classes. Such a great teacher that would do anything for his students. I so appreciated the time he spent with me teaching me computer skills (data processing concepts)so I could complete in the FBLA competition. I came in 2nd place 2 years in a row because of his help.. He will truly be missed

Danielle Calnan Pfautz - April 18, 2020 at 01:24 PM

JA

“ Mr. Portser will forever be one of the most memorable and favorite teaches I had. He was real and down to earth. His story telling impeccable. I will forever know why turds are tapered. RIP.

Jen Angeles - April 18, 2020 at 01:12 PM

 Greg Nazareth

“ A great teacher at DHS, one of my favorites!!! He used to say “boy do we have a MOAH!” And we’d be like 🤪👉👉👉🤪👉👉👉 And he’s say “yeah, we have a Meck of a Hess“ 😂😂 RIP Mr. Portser

Greg Nazareth - April 18, 2020 at 01:11 PM

HK

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Mr Portser. He taught me how to balance a checkbook and an accounting ledger. While he was teaching us the basic life skills that were so needed, we laughed so much with how many times he told us that if we didn't add that correctly or deduct that correctly then we would have a mell of a hess! Used to crack me up cause back then it was so close to cussing in class! Still makes me laugh to this day. He will be missed!

Heather Kenney - April 18, 2020 at 12:58 PM

CC

I was class of 1973. I remember Mr. Portser well. Loved to share many stories!! Great memories at DHS thanks to teachers like him.

Cindy Collins - April 18, 2020 at 01:22 PM

AB

As a track athlete, and later a coach, Mr. Portser always supported and respected me. He encouraged me, congratulated me and cared about me as a person. I am eternally grateful for his influence in my life. RIP sir and thank you...

Alan Bundy - April 18, 2020 at 06:32 PM

MI

“ *Mr. Portser was one of my favorite teachers. I still write checks & balance my checkbook the way he taught us to. I ran into him at Walmart not too long ago. So thankful for that little reunion. Thank you for being a great role model and teacher. 💙*

Mindy - April 18, 2020 at 12:56 PM

JH

“ *My condolences to the Portser family. Mr. Portser was one of my favorite teachers at Donegal in the late 80's. I had him for both keyboarding and business. He always had me in stitches with some of his sayings. He kept our classroom lively. Years later, my wife and I ran into him on the conewago trail with our youngest son still in the stroller. He was on his bike doing a crazy amount of mileage. I think he had recently had his knee or knees replaced. He remembered who I was and we chatted for quite a bit. More recently, we would chat at Universal Fitness where I would see him regularly in the mornings. It was nice to reconnect once again. I'm so sorry for your loss. He will be missed.*

John Hallgren

John Hallgren - April 18, 2020 at 12:31 PM

TB

My track coach for all 4 years at DHS. He always pointed out the positives after meets. I used his 'meet sheet wrap up' all the years I coached track. Wish I would have bumped into him during my alumni years to shake his hand and say 'thanks'.

Terri Booth - April 18, 2020 at 10:47 PM

KR

My condolences to the Portser family. Coach Portser was certainly one of those people who make a positive impact on your life. I often think of his little "life-lessons" all these years later. My favorite is "dress warmly. If you get hot you can always take layers off but if you get cold and don't have them, you can't put them on".

Kathy Rye - April 20, 2020 at 08:20 AM

BJ

Sorry to hear about Chuck, always remember him running and a great neighbor. Was glad i got to see Jane and Chuck at John Wolfs viewing not long ago. Condolences to Jane and family. Bev (Keuper) Jensen

Beverly Jensen - April 21, 2020 at 09:20 AM

JZ

My wife and I were so sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. I taught for many years with Chuck at DHS. From time to time we would "run into each other" after our retirements and he would always have time to talk about our eastern seashore vacations and our past teaching and coaching experiences. We will miss Chuck! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Jim & Marlene Zuch - May 09, 2020 at 10:24 AM