



Charles R. Stevens

July 31, 1934 - July 7, 2020

Charles (Charlie) R. Stevens 85, of Cape Elizabeth, passed away on July 7, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on July 31, 1934 in Westbrook, Maine to parents Laurel and Hazel (MacDonald) Stevens.

Charlie graduated from Westbrook High School in 1952 and went on to get a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Business from Northeastern University in Boston. Charlie married his wife Bernice (Bunny) Manderson in Portland on October 1, 1954. Charlie and Bunny had four children together.

Upon graduating from college Charlie went to work for Burroughs Corporation and worked his way up from up from a junior sales representative to the New England District Manager. His work took the family all around New England and included stops in Bangor, Me., Hampden, Me., Topsfield, Ma., and eventually in 1975 to Gray, Me., when he decided to form his own company, Northern Data Systems (NDS), a successful software company and IT company based in Falmouth, Maine. He truly loved working at NDS and would always proudly say that the company was successful because of his employees and he had several of them that worked with him for over 30 years. NDS customers often became like members of the extended family and he considered many of them to be good friends. NDS had business partnerships with an extended network of other companies and because of this Charlie and Bunny traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, often taking employees along with them. Charlie remained active at NDS for 45 years and was still serving as its board Chairman at the time of his passing. Charlie was a fierce competitor whether it be in sports or in business. He was an avid tennis player; he could play hours of ping pong and he always loved a good game of horse shoes. Many summer days were spent at his brother's camp on Sebago lake. Boat rides, swimming, socializing and of course hours of horse shoes were the order of the day with his brother, sister in law, friends and extended family. In the winter his passion turned to skiing where he was a fearless "old school" skier which earned him the nickname "Two Turn Charlie"; one turn to get on the lift and one turn to get off. He was a member of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club and was on the Ski Patrol at Hermon Mountain. In the early 70s the family began to ski at Sunday River in Newry, ME so that the children could hone their ski racing skills. He and Bunny purchased a winter home in Bethel and then a home

in Newry overlooking the mountain which allowed the family to enjoy active winters on the hill and off. Ski days always began with his famous blueberry pancakes (often times his other favorite food, donuts!) and when the ski day was done Charlie loved to apres ski with his family and friends which always included large batches of fresh popcorn that he would prepare. He made countless friends on the lifts and trails while skiing.

Charlie was a bright light with an infectious laugh, a fantastic sense of humor and an even bigger smile. When asked how he was doing, Charlie would always reply with an emphatic "terrific". He was a gifted conversationalist and was always well read and informed on current events and issues. He was also a master story teller and could tell jokes as well as hold an audience with the best of them. People loved to visit with Charlie and he always made those he spoke with feel better about themselves.

Charlie was definitely busy between working and raising his family with Bunny, but he also was an incredibly giving person and found time to give back to the community. In his younger years Charlie was an active member of the Hampden Jaycees and he also coached his sons Little League teams. In the early 1980s he was a founding member of Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation (aka Maine Handicapped Skiing) and he also served on its Board of Directors and as its President. He also served on the board of directors for the Maine Cancer Foundation and was a board member for Konbit Sante. In addition, he generously donated both money and time to a multitude of other charities within Maine and nationally.

Surviving Charlie is his beloved wife of 65 years, Bernice (Bunny) Stevens; their children, Bruce Stevens of Vero Beach, Fl., and his wife, Ruth; Anne Stevens Reis of Falmouth, her husband Joe, and their children Jacquelyn (Eric) Wilkinson, Hilary Reis, and Taylor Reis; Mark Stevens of Cumberland Foreside, his wife Kristin Mathieson, and Mark's daughter Delaney Stevens; Paul Stevens of Gray, his wife Julie, and their son Pierce, and Paul's sons Duncan (Nicole) Hardy and Kyle (Jenny) Hardy. Charlie is also survived by his siblings; Richard Doughty and Madeline McLucas; his cousin Herbert Myron MacDonald, and many nieces, nephews, and great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother-in-laws; Ernest Manderson and Gordon McLucas who provided him with legal counsel, business advice and moral support.

A celebration of life is being planned and will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in Charlie's name to Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation (www.maineadaptive.org) or Konbit Sante (www.konbitsante.org). The family wishes to thank Hospice of Southern Maine for their guidance and care that they provided for Charlie which allowed him to stay home with his family. They also wish to thank New England Cancer Specialists for the care that they provided to Charlie over the past 14 years.

Comments



“ I am so saddened to read of Charlie's passing. I first met Charlie soon after he formed NDS, and was a client, tennis partner (and opponent), and friend ever since. I will always remember, and so miss seeing, his warm smile, and hearing his very infectious laugh. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. The world has lost a wonderful human being with Charlie's passing.
Jerry Mansfield

Jerry Mansfield - July 17 at 12:27 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He had a huge heart and infectious laugh.
Rhonda Clark

Rhonda Clark - July 17 at 09:51 AM



“ My sincerest condolences to Bunny and family.
There is no way to encapsulate Charlie in a few words. He meant so much to so many. From Family and friends, to employees and customers he touched all our hearts and minds in countless ways. Husband, father, grandfather, great grand father, salesman, business man, entrepreneur, innovator, sportsmen, competitor, benefactor, philanthropist and story teller...wow. I am fortunate to have known this kind and generous man for forty some years. Thanks for the memories and so much more.
Joe Mc

Joe McMenamin - July 15 at 01:51 PM



“ Dear Mark and family.
It is with a heavy heart that I learned of your father's passing. I was fortunate enough to share a lot of experiences with your dad in business and on the mountain. He was a good man and will be sorely missed.
Kindest Regards,
Johnny Pinto

John Pinto - July 14 at 12:23 PM



“ I’m pretty much over the sorrow of Charlie’s passing. Now when he comes to mind, and it’s often, thoughts are of the sage advise he shared with me, the fun times and the joy of knowing a terrific guy for many years. Tom Golden

Tom Golden - July 14 at 11:53 AM



“ Tony Perna & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles R. Stevens.



Tony Perna & Family - July 13 at 09:40 AM



“ Years ago our families celebrated the 4th of July with a great cook out and games. The night ended with fireworks at our gravel pit. GREAT FUN.

Bob and Carole Smith - July 13 at 09:31 AM



“ Charlie was a mentor to many in business, me included. When I had an opportunity to speak with Charlie about business, he always wanted to discuss family first. He would always ask how is Kelly? Like others I learned many things from Charlie and I’m so grateful to have known him.

Kevin Kolar - July 13 at 08:41 AM



“ Some of my fondest memories involve the Stevens family, going way back to when my Tim became the Stevens kids’ ski racing coach. We became friends with Charlie and Bunny and let the good times roll. From bean hole suppers in the Fall at Sunday River, to skiing together every weekend for years as our kids and the mountain grew, to ski trips out west, to water skiing behind the Ski Nautique at Vickie and Dick’s Sebago Cottage, to Sea Dogs games in Charlie’s primo seats, and even a surprise trip to Florida that Charlie planned for the four of us when Tim was dying...Charlie was the friend everyone wishes they had. To know him was to love him. I am comforted by the knowledge that he is up there right now, enjoying laughs and beers with Tim and all the others who have been missing him as much as we will. He leaves a huge hole, but also a huge legacy of which his family can be so proud.

Janice Loughlin

Janice Loughlin - July 12 at 10:10 PM



“ My condolences go out to the Stevens Family!!
I first met Charlie as a new Burroughs employee in 1972. While we worked for different Divisions, we were one Team and it was a great pleasure to be associated with him!
Fun loving, an infectious smile, incredibly positive always! He loved life, all people and was a great mentor to all he came in contact with, he will be sorely missed by all.
Jeff Gray

jeff gray - July 12 at 10:05 PM



“ So very sorry to read the news of Charlie's passing. His tribute is wonderfully written and befitting of a man of His character. He was just a great guy. Thankfully we have many, many fond memories. Sending our deepest sympathies to all the family.
Sincerely,
Glen & Jean Ramsay

Glen Ramsay - July 12 at 02:51 PM



“ To the Stevens Family: We are sending our deepest condolences to the family. We never saw Charlie without that infectious smile. He always made us feel so welcome when we visited family. We know he will be truly missed by you as we also will miss him.

Jim and Joan MacPhee

Jim/Joan MacPhee - July 12 at 01:04 PM



“ Sending so much love and strength to the family. I love the memories of jet skiing out in Sebago, visits to Sunday River, Sea Dog games, and crashing company Christmas parties!

Brittany Rogers - July 12 at 11:23 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bruce Stevens - July 11 at 12:00 PM



“ Sending our deepest sympathies to you and your parents. Jim, Darleen and Megan LaFontaine

The LaFontaine Family - July 11 at 06:46 AM



“ I was fortunate enough to have meant the founder of NDS during a short tenure as an employee at the afore mentioned. For that I'm grateful, because it entitles me the privilege of knowing many of the current management of the still productive organization known as Northern Data Systems. To all the Stevens family my condolences, to Charles I'm sure the 'Cloud' will now be stronger than ever before!
RIP
Sincerely Perl

Perl Laliberte - July 10 at 05:57 PM



“ Charlie was a great help to me when I started my own software company back in the 1977 and quickly became a dear friend as well. Who could forget that warm smile?

Leonard Waldorf - July 10 at 05:29 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Stevens - July 10 at 02:08 PM



“ Condolences to the family. He was a remarkable man. I knew Charlie for over 50 years. I learned a lot from him. Of the many stories, he was always one constant. He was never on time...and I am not talking about a few minutes. We always said he would be late for his funeral. Well, 14 years late ended up a good thing.

Peter Frend - July 10 at 01:27 PM



“ THINKING OF U ALL NEVER AN EASY TIME TO LOSE A LOVED ONE

JEAN GOFF - July 10 at 04:16 PM



“ Condolences to the entire family. I'm sad that our planned get together did not happen last winter. There were certainly some good times back in the early 70's. Love the senior picture - I can see each of you kids in that picture. Peace.

Ken Remsen - July 10 at 04:39 PM



“ I was one of Charlie's 30+ year employees at NDS, and thoroughly enjoyed having him as an employer and a friend. He truly considered his employees to be extended family, and was always concerned and helpful when any of us or our families were having personal challenges. My thoughts and prayers are with Bunny and family at this difficult time!

Pete Haskell

Peter - July 12 at 03:56 PM



“ While growing up next door to the Stevens family in Gray, I have countless memories - from pool parties to x-mas eve gatherings with an asterisk next to the 4th of July celebrations...But one of my fondest memories was playing tennis with Charlie after work. Charlie was very patient to put up with my youthful antics of thrashing around the court - I would do most of the running while Charlie was getting a kick out of strategically placing the ball from side to side with that award-winning grin. To add salt in the wounds he would strategically mention on match point "Age and cunning will always overcome youth and skill every time"...generally followed up by an ace serve...

Charlie was a great mentor and role model for me and as much as I'll miss knowing he's physically around, he has given me (and so many others) memories that will give me comfort in his absence for years to come.

My love to the Stevens Family, Steve Smith

Stephen - July 17 at 10:03 AM



“ I was very saddened to hear of Charlie's passing. I had a great deal of respect for Charlie. I met Charlie back in 1984 when my father and I were starting a business very similar to Charlie's. Charlie ALWAYS went out of his way to help us in any way he could. He soon became best friends with my Father.

What a guy! Charlie will be missed.

Scott Elliott - July 21 at 03:30 PM