



## Mr. Charles G. "Charlie" Richards

November 27, 1945 - March 9, 2017

UTICA – Mr. Charles G. “Charlie” Richards, age 71, passed away peacefully at 10:00 am on Thursday, March 9, 2017 in the privacy of his home with his loving family by his side, after a courageous battle.

Born in Utica on November 27, 1945, Charles was the son of the late Schuyler W. and Agnes (Eglie) Richards. He was a graduate of New Hartford High School/Class of 1964. At one time he was a member of the former Magnificent Yankees, a drum and bugle corps. A proud veteran of the United States Army, he honorably served his country during the Vietnam Era as a member of the 101st Airborne Division specializing in the repair of field artillery and fire arms, receiving a diploma in training. His favorite part was jumping out of airplanes. In 1967, Charlie was the recipient of a commendation medal for Meritorious Service in the Republic of Vietnam. At one time he was married to the former Martha Meehan and to that union came the blessing of three children. He entered into a second union when he married the former Bonnie Foley Laurer on October 8, 1994, on a beautiful day at the family home. During their 22 years together, they loved and supported each other in good times and trying times.

Charlie worked at Remington Arms, in the shooting gallery, and was also a machinist as well as an assembler of fire arms, a career that spanned 40 years. At home or at work, Charlie was an all-around good guy. He was a respectable, honest man of his word, and was always willing to help. As a dad and grandpa, he was dependable and dedicated in his commitment to family

life. Although he was conservative in showing his emotions, he was a very compassionate man with a sentimental side. Charlie was at one with the outdoors and was at his best when he was at his camp where the scenery and tranquility called to him. Raquette Lake was a sacred place and the majesty of the mountains moved him. When he looked up at the bright, sunny sky or the beautiful star-struck sky, he was spellbound with wonder. He was affectionately known as the "Tree Man", a moniker he earned for his mastery at topping trees and taking them down. He was a member of the Mohawk American Legion Post #25 and a certified New York State Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Mohawk and Raquette Lake Fire Departments.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Bonnie; his children and their loves, Amy Elizabeth Richards, Meg and Daniel Mulvihill, Michael Richards, his step-son Joseph "Joe" and Terry Laurer, and step-daughter Wendy Laurer; his grandchildren, Nyssa, Aidan, Annika; Allie, Thomas and Shawna; Emma, and Ella; Cameron, Joey, and Jordan-their sweet young energy brought much joy to Charlie; and Gianna. His great-grandchild Finn will be three on St. Patrick's Day! He also leaves his siblings, twins Carol Kloczkowski and her husband Leo, and William "Bill" Richards; his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Joyce, Gail, Francis and Connie, Joseph, John and Mary, and Jeffrey Foley who was of great help and support.

The family is grateful to the staff of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., especially Crystal, Irene, and Stephanie who were so gentle and respectful in offering their love and support during a difficult time.

Charlie's family bid him farewell at the time of his passing. Those wishing to honor Charlie's life may make a donation to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., 4277 Middle Settlement Road, New Hartford, NY 13413 or online at <http://www.hospicecareinc.org>.

# Tribute Wall

CE

“ I met Charlie about 15 years ago. I liked him immediately! He was easy to talk to and joke with. His smile was contagious. I'll never forget you Charlie. RIP  
Love, Connie

Oh I can't forget that he bought my favorite wine every Christmas!

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**Connie Epolito** - March 12, 2017 at 07:58 PM

PG

“ Bonnie and family, sorry to hear about Charlie, he will be missed in Burketown and Raquette Lake. Paul and Laurie

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**Paul and Laurie Grube** - March 11, 2017 at 02:35 PM

DB

Martha, Amy, Mike and Meg, So sorry to hear about Charlie's passing. I always enjoyed the time I spent with him. Will remember him on my daily prayers. May he Rest In Peace.---Dave Brindisi

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**Dave Brindisi** - March 12, 2017 at 12:32 PM

CB

So sorry about Charlie's passing. Martha, Amy, Mike and Meg...our thoughts and prayers are with you! Chip and Therese Brindisi

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**Chip and Therese Brindisi** - March 12, 2017 at 01:45 PM

MM

Thank you Dave and Chip and Therese. Meg and I went down to Amy's in Texas last week, but I got your call Chip. He always loved your whole family!!

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**Martha Middaugh** - March 25, 2017 at 12:52 PM