

## Charles Edward Rucker

by Phyllis Rucker



Charles Edward Rucker entered the world on Aug 21, 1946, in Brownsville, Oregon as the first-born child of Gerome James Rucker and Imogene Ladela Kunkle. Charles passed away May 29, 2024, while undergoing heart surgery. He leaves behind five siblings: Dan in Albany, OR, Wanda in Medford, OR, Alice in Portland, OR, Robert in Glendale, OR and Billy in Medford, OR. He also leaves behind his French Bulldog, Mattie.

Charles graduated from Glendale High School in Glendale, Oregon in 1965. After graduation, he enlisted with the United States Airforce and served as a Weapons Mechanic. During his four-year tour with the Airforce, he served a year in Thailand and was also stationed at Joint Base Lewis McCord in Washington State and a base in the Midwest.

After his military service, Charles enrolled in Oregon State University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. It was there that he became interested in genetic genealogy and heredity. After graduation, Charles worked on dairy farms in Colorado and in Oregon. Next, Charles moved to Salem, Oregon and made his career at a local cannery. He had several jobs there including driving a forklift until he retired. Later, he moved from Salem to Albany, Oregon and bought a house where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Charles had a love for animals as his degree would suggest. He raised tropical fish while living in Salem and had several aquariums in his home. He also bred and raised prized guinea pigs. He bred the guinea pigs for specific characteristics and was well known as an expert in this field. He was also the President of the Rabbit Association. He also bred Pugs.

Charles had a heart for children as well as animals. He was a Big Brother and mentored several youths taking them fishing, hunting and go-carting.

Charles was a well-respected genealogist. He was a member of The Rucker Family Society for decades. He was also a Co-Administrator of the Rucker Y-DNA Project at Family Tree DNA. His knowledge of genetic genealogy was invaluable to the Project. Through his work, he was able to determine the descendants of the sons of Peter Rucker, the first naturalized Rucker in the United States. Charles was very kind-hearted and generous. He purchased many DNA kits for Rucker relatives to further the research on his Rucker line. During the last two years, I have had the pleasure of working with Charles closely and will treasure that relationship.

Charles was a very kind-hearted man. He continued to help others even after he passed by donating his organs. Later, his cremains will be interred at Eagle Point Military Cemetery in Medford, Oregon where he will join his parents.

Lineage: Charles<sup>9</sup> Edward, Gerome<sup>8</sup> James, Eddie<sup>7</sup> Robert, James<sup>6</sup> Henry, Anthony<sup>5</sup>, Armistead<sup>4</sup>, Anthony<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>.