



Charles G. Palagi

July 24, 1941 - April 2, 2016

Mr. Charles G. Palagi passed away peacefully Saturday evening at the Copper Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center surrounded by his family. He was born in Butte July 24, 1941 the only child of Augustine A. "Gus" and Laura D. "Toots" (Vivian) Palagi. He was raised with his cousins, George Tierney, Dan Peters, Linda McGee, Roberta Smith and Myrna Vivian and never really knew he was an only child. He attended Butte schools, graduated from Butte High School and earned his degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the Montana School of Mines in 1964. He started his career with the Atlantic Richfield Corporation and soon became manager of the Clyde E. Weed Concentrator until its closure in December of 1985. In 1986 Charles was one of a small group responsible for starting Montana Resources Inc. He was made Vice President of Operations under Dennis Washington and following the mine closure in 2000 he decided to retire in November of 2001, but went back to work and was instrumental in the re-opening of the mine in 2003. Much of the contemporary mining history of Butte was influenced by Charles.

Charlie married Brenda Brophy in Butte on June 29, 1968 and following her death on March 20, 1978, Charlie, with the help of his parents and brothers and sister in-laws, raised his two daughters, Patti and Pam. Much like his father, Charlie was a very nurturing person. He loved to feed his crew at the mine and took great joy in cooking for them right at the mine. He was also the one who spearheaded the feeding of "The Auditor" dog and took gentle care

of his father until his death in 1999. Besides his wife and father, he is also preceded in death by his mother, Laura "Toots" Palagi.

Charlie was an avid motor sports fan and enjoyed snowmobiling, motorcycles and cars. He collected guns, was a card carrying member of the NRA and a member of the Butte Gun Club.

He is survived by his daughters, Patti Palagi of Fort Collins, Colorado and Pam Palagi of Seattle, Washington, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Bernie and Moe Brophy, Barry and Pam Brophy and Barbara Brophy all of Butte, Nieces and nephews, Travis and Melissa Johnson, Matthew, Kellie and Britney Brophy, great niece and nephew, Reese and Rody Johnson as well as his longtime friend and companion, Nancy Jemmings of Butte.

Memorials in memory of Charles may be made to the George Tierney Scholarship Fund c/o Butte High School, Shoes for the Sole c/o Butte High School attention Mary Kay Erickson, The Chelsea Bailey Animal Shelter or the Wounded Warrior Project.

Tribute Wall

BL

“ *So Sad!!, I will miss but never forget Charlie. He was one of the Best! If I can help in any way contact Me. Sincerely, Charlie's Tire Guy Bob Lisac*

Bob Lisac - April 08, 2016 at 09:46 AM

JB

“ I was deeply saddened by the death of Charlie and send my condolences to his family.

I met Charlie in a Dale Carnegie course in the early 70's, worked for him at the Butte Concentrator, and with him during numerous labor contract negotiations. Always pragmatic with just a touch of cynicism, I found him to be a man of great character and rough hewn humanity.

Charlie's first love was his Concentrator and he guided her with a steady and innovative hand over many years of trials and crisis. There was never a man more dedicated to his craft and his accomplishments stand as a testament to a life well served.

One thing I learned early on was never go toe to toe with Charlie in a beer drinking contest. Boy, could that man drink beer! I say this without a touch of criticism, but with awe and reverence. On more than one occasion I would be nursing a hang over that would bring a water buffalo to his knees and Charlie would show up clear eyed and ready to go. The man was truly amazing!

I'm not sure if Charlie believed in God, we never discussed it, but if there is a God I'm sure he believed in Charlie. He served humanity well and I was proud to call him friend.

Jim Ballard

Jim Ballard - April 07, 2016 at 11:29 PM

MR

“ We will really miss Charlie. We spent many days in the Big Hole visiting with him and reminiscing about our lives and days gone by. He was one in a million. Mike and Virginia Rivenes

Mike and Virginia Rivenes - April 07, 2016 at 01:53 PM

ES

“ *Patty, Pam and family so sorry about your Dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. If there is anything we can do please let us know. Joko and Erin Stajcar*

Erin Stajcar - April 07, 2016 at 06:26 AM

SC

“ *Rest in peace Charlie. You were a wonderful mentor for many of use in the beginning of our careers.*

You held the true nature of the Butte Spirit. Enjoy this next journey.

Steve Carhart

Steven Carhart - April 06, 2016 at 12:37 PM

AM

“ *I first met him in high school. When I returned to Butte as a Family Practice physician, Charlie and his daughters, and his wonderful parents, became loyal patients. I continued as their family physician until I retired in 2006. However Charlie remained a friend and we would occasionally see each other and talk about "the good old days", the future of mining in Butte, and his very accomplished daughters. My sympathies go out to his daughters and family, but we all know he accomplished a lot in his life. He was always 100% caring and dedicated to his family and was always there for his parents. The death of his mother was particularly difficult for his Dad, but Charlie was always so understanding and supportive. I will always remember and miss his presence, optimism and friendliness. I now live most of the time in St. George, UT, so I will miss the celebraton of his life, but will be thinking of you all. Anthony M. Konecny, MD.*

Anthony M. Konecny, MD - April 06, 2016 at 11:15 AM

SL

“ *Great guy I'll truly miss him*

Scott Lang - April 05, 2016 at 05:19 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - April 05, 2016 at 05:10 PM