

Charles Frederick Becker

Charles F. Becker, "Chuck," passed away on May 21, 2015, after a valiant battle with the after-effects of cancer treatments.

Chuck was born January 23, 1939, to Kathryn Becker (nee Hoppe) and Charles C. Becker at St Michael's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He grew up in the loving environment of an extended family that included his maternal grandparents and several aunts. He was called Freddy by his family, and not until high school was he called Chuck.

He attended Catholic grade school and high school, and graduated from Marquette University in 1971 with a degree in marketing and business development. He married his high-school sweetheart Suzie (Susan Ann Westmore) and soon after children David, Daniel and Donia joined the young couple, followed a few years later by son Dylan. Chuck pursued an early career in the pharmaceutical industry that had him traveling through the mid-western area of the US and moving to Grand Prairie, Denver and Albuquerque.

In his travels to different cities he discovered an interest in government relations and soon started his own consulting company, representing several cities, including Anchorage, "on the Hill" in Washington DC. From there, George Sullivan brought him to Anchorage in the late 1970's, where Chuck found his new home. Soon after working for the municipality of Anchorage, he became a respected communications consultant to some of the most important businesses in the 49th state. In 1990 he joined the US Department of Commerce and managed their Anchorage Export Assistance Center until his retirement in 2010. In this role, he served several stints as a commercial attaché in US Embassies: first after the Kuwait war in Bahrain, and twice in the same role in Baku, Azerbaijan. He accompanied trade missions to many countries and loved what he was doing, interacting in the Alaska and international business communities.

On May 28, 1990, Chuck and Adelheid "Micky" Langston married after a three-year courtship of laughter and music and adventure –which continued on for the next 25 years. To Chuck, Micky remained "my bride" until the end.

Chuck's interest in economic development and his belief that the oil and gas industry was essential to the prosperity of Alaska led to two legacies: co-founding the Alaska Support Industry Alliance in 1979 and expanding the role of the Anchorage Export Assistance Center in support of Alaska businesses overseas.

He was appointed by the US Secretary of Commerce to the Alaska Export Council, where he provided leadership for several decades. He also served as a long-time board member, including as president, of the Alaska World Affairs Council. He was named director emeritus by the Alliance and the World Affairs Council and served on their boards until his death.

Upon retiring in 2009, Chuck signed up with the American Red Cross and after weeks of training became a fully accredited disaster-response volunteer, helping out locally as a responder in Anchorage, and heeding calls for help from Florida, to Louisiana and New York during devastating hurricanes. He was a responder to hurricane Sandy in New York even after he had been diagnosed with cancer.

He was community-minded and took an interest in dozens of causes; he was passionate about helping his fellow-man; he was a dutiful Rotarian; and he was ubiquitous on the fundraising events scene around town. He was a devoted and loving father and grandfather to his children and grandchildren, and he had an amazing sense of humor. Chuck loved any kind of adventure: he was always ready for traveling and exploring foreign countries, and he loved the arts, whether at the Uffizi in Florence, the Performing Arts

Center in Anchorage, or the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Other than spending time with his family and his friends, there was no better experience for him than to be in a boat, catching a big fish. And, we simply have to add that he was a huge Green Bay Packers fan.

He is survived by his “bride” Micky, his children David, Daniel, Donia and Dylan and their spouses, his grandchildren Raiza, Nicolai, Demi Sue, Shaylee, Makena, Riley and Grace, and by his step-children Michelle and Mark.

A Memorial Mass will be held at the Holy Family Cathedral, downtown Anchorage, on Wednesday, May 27, at 3 pm, followed by a celebration of life at the Hotel Captain Cook Quarterdeck.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Janssen Funeral Homes. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in his name to the American Red Cross of Alaska, 235 E 8th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501; or Catholic Social Services, 3710 E 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508.