



Charles F. Reichmuth

August 16, 1931 - April 14, 2011

Charles Felix Reichmuth, age 79, of Rensselaer, Indiana, died Thursday, April 14, 2011 in Lafayette, Indiana of complications from esophageal cancer. He was born in Basel, Switzerland, the son of Werner Kaspar and Rosa Reichmuth. He had been a resident of Washington, D.C from 1959 to 2001.

Charles was director of food services for the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC, from 1963 until his retirement in 1993. In that position, he oversaw the operations of the Society's staff restaurants and private dining rooms, and catered hundreds of receptions, dinners, and parties for National Geographic at the Society's headquarters during his 30-year career. These included events honoring President Lyndon B. Johnson, Emperor Haile Selassie, the Shah of Iran, Charles Lindbergh, and Queen Sophia of Spain.

In the mid-1970s, at the Society's request, Charles assisted the French embassy in coordinating an important black-tie gala at the Corcoran Museum. For his efforts on behalf of the nation of France, he was awarded a knighthood — Chevalier du Cote du Rhone in 1976 at a ceremony in Avignone.

Charles, who was fluent in English, French, German, and Italian, left Switzerland for the United States in 1953 with a certificate from Ecole Hotellerie in Lausanne, Switzerland. While he was working aboard a Holland America Line cruise ship in 1953, an American couple befriended him and

suggested they could get him papers to enter the United States. Nothing became of the offer, and several months later, as he was about to accept a job at a resort in South Africa, an envelope arrived from the U. S. Embassy. It was all he needed to go to New York City, which he did – arriving with 60 cents in his pocket. He stayed with a Swiss family in New Jersey, and four months later became a citizen and was immediately drafted. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956 in France, Germany, and Washington, DC.

Charles was a member of the Epicurean Club of Washington, the Restaurant Association of Washington, and the Alfalfa Club, where he held the title Vintner. He was an advisor to the U. S. Culinary Olympic Team, and a member of the Curtis Creek Country Club and St. Augustine Catholic Church in Rensselaer. He was the owner of the Old South Mountain Inn in Boonsboro, Maryland, from 1971 to 1981. He also gave lessons in wine-tasting etiquette, teaching his students how to taste wine, hold a wine glass, and "cheer" dinner companions when they were out of reach.

He is survived by his second wife, Patricia Coons Reichmuth of Rensselaer, his son Charles Frederic (Pippa) Reichmuth of Daytona Beach, FL, 3 stepchildren, Richard (Kris) Coons of San Antonio, TX; Lori (Joe) O'Connor of Bentonville, AR, and Caroline (Wesley Wollner, special friend) Coons of Lexington, VA; four step-grandchildren, Kelly, Kasey and Jack O'Connor and Samuel Wollner. He was preceded in death by his first wife Dorothea, one son Peter Reichmuth, 4 brothers and 3 sisters.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
318 North McKinley Avenue
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5351
<https://stmichaelpastorate.org/>

Service

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Tribute Wall



“ Patti, my condolences to you and your family. I hope you are doing ok. Charles was such a friendly good spirited man and it was both an honor and a privilege to have known him. Though i did not know him on a personal level, from what i did know of him, he was definitely the nicest most helpful and interesting person i have me and i was very saddened to hear of his passing. I wouldn't be where i am today if it weren't for his help. My days were so much better when he would come into the store. May god bless you and your family and may charles rest in peace.##imported-begin##jeremy culbreth##imported-end##

June 22, 2011 at 08:58 PM



“ Chuck, my condolences to you on the passing of your father. I know that he is resting in the arms of the Lord, and is in no more pain. God knows he was a good man. My prayer to Patti as well.##imported-begin##Donna Swope##imported-end##

May 30, 2011 at 01:50 PM



“ Patti, we are so sorry to learn of your loss. Our hearts go out to you and the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Gemini Shippers Group##imported-end##

April 21, 2011 at 02:30 PM



“ Dear Patti,
We were so sad to hear about Charles. What a fantastic man and a great life. All he accomplished and what joy he brought to everyone who knew him. One time when you were in D.C. he came for dinner, (after Rich and Charles had golfed) our children were at the end of their seats listening to his fantastic stories of his life. We will always remember Charles with love. How fortunate we were to have him touch our lives.

You have our deepest sympathy,

The Richard O'Brien Family##imported-begin##Rich and Doreen O'Brien##imported-end##

April 21, 2011 at 01:23 PM



“ Dear Charles, Pippa, Mrs. Reichmuth & family,
We are so very sorry to hear of Charles' passing and wish to extend our deepest sympathy to all. We have known Charles, Dorothea, Charles, and Peter since 1964 when we became neighbors. Over the years our friendship grew even after they purchased South Mountain Inn and moved from Rockville. Even tho'we have not been in touch with Charles for some time we have had news of Charles thru family. It is hard to hear of the passing of a friend or relative but this does not diminish our feelings for them and especially when we have such good memories of years long gone. Rest in Peace, Charles, and may God comfort and strengthen all in their sorrow. With love and prayers,
Anthony & Dottie Varron##imported-begin##Anthony & Dorothy Varron##imported-end##

April 19, 2011 at 04:13 PM



“ Dear Patti, Jim and I were so sorry to learn the sad news about your beloved Charles. He was a very special man who always made the people around him feel good. You two were a perfect complement to each other. May the memories of the happy, loving years you spent together help you with your loss.

Love, Carol##imported-begin##Carol Donayre Bugg##imported-end##

April 19, 2011 at 11:59 AM



“ Patti,
Charles was the best! He will be so missed. My prayers will be with you and your family during this difficult time. Charles was a class act. He was a dear friend to everyone he met, he was loved very much.

Deirdre and Jim Bugg##imported-begin##Deirdre Bugg##imported-end##

April 18, 2011 at 09:13 AM



“ Patti, I am so sorry to learn of your loss. I think of you and Charles often and my heart goes out to you now. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Martha##imported-begin##Martha Gray##imported-end##

April 18, 2011 at 08:58 AM



“ Patti,

Donna and I were so sorry to hear about Charles passing. We remember with great fondness the dinners we had together, in particular at the Jockey Club.

You and your family will be in our prayers.

Love,

*Jay and Donna##imported-begin##Jay & Donna
Liverman##imported-end##*

April 17, 2011 at 09:34 PM



“ Patti:

Obviously it is with a heavy heart that I write this note. Even though we have not seen either you or Charles in several years, we will never, never forget him. He was so devoted to you, which made him great in our eyes. His raspy voice, cheerful smile, and great sense of humor made him forever lovable.

I remember the day he called me to ask if Linda and I wanted to purchase Redskins season tickets. It was like Santa calling with our most appreciated Christmas gift.

I know he won your heart, which means that he was a very fortunate man, and he also treated you with the love and respect that you deserved.

If you ever want to chat, please give us a call @ 336-575-9585.

I know that Charles is sitting at the right hand side of God helping Him prepare his next Heavenly dinner for His Angels.

God Bless you and your Family.

Mick and Linda Riddiough##imported-begin##Mick and Linda Riddiough##imported-end##

April 17, 2011 at 09:28 AM



“ Mr Reichmuth, may you rest in the peace of Christ. Chuck, again we are so sorry for your loss. Love you always my friend.

Scott & Lisa##imported-begin##Scott & Lisa Carpegna##imported-end##

April 16, 2011 at 12:55 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. We will have to get together sometime in June when we get home.##imported-begin##JUDIE Buman##imported-end##

April 16, 2011 at 12:40 PM



“ My deepest condolences and prayers during this great loss.##imported-begin##Sharon J .Kroger##imported-end##

April 16, 2011 at 12:39 PM



“ Dearest Patti and family,

I feel profound sorrow at Charles' passing. What a magnificent person he was! My memories of him will always be of the close association we had at all those DDI Conferences. He was always so kind and caring...It was so great having him be a part of the team.

May God's perpetual light shine upon him. And may he rest in peace.

Fondly, Dale##imported-begin##Dale Bruss##imported-end##

April 16, 2011 at 10:37 AM



“ Patti,

We are so sorry for your loss. The times we spent with you and Charles will always be with us. We will always remember that last dinner we had just before we left for Arizona it was such a good time. You and Charles are in our prayers.##imported-begin##phil and ellen mcgraw##imported-end##

April 16, 2011 at 10:06 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear your loss Reichmuth family. I know this is such a difficult time when you lose someone close to you and my sincerest condolences go out to you and your friends. I hope that all your best memories and the words found at John 5:28,29 of the resurrection can bring you some comfort.##imported-begin##Charles##imported-end##

April 15, 2011 at 02:43 PM



“ We love you Dad. You will be greatly missed by many.##imported-begin##Chuck & Pippa Reichmuth##imported-end##

April 15, 2011 at 10:25 AM



“ Patti, so sorry to hear about Charles. A good man with a great sense of humor. We will miss him. He was a treasure. Our deepest sympathy.##imported-begin##Howard & Sharon Marshall##imported-end##

April 14, 2011 at 10:39 PM