



## Charles "Charlie" Decker

July 5, 1933 - January 27, 2021

Charles Decker, 87, of Indianapolis, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. He was born July 5, 1933 to Charles and Charlotte (Matthews) Decker in Waymart, Pennsylvania. "Charlie" graduated from Waymart High School in 1951. He is considered to be one of the 8 greatest basketball players to ever come out of Wayne County. He led the Wayne County Conference twice in scoring. Charlie also has the highest point total in county history, at the time, with 1634 points. He set the single game scoring mark of 45 points versus Northern Wayne. He averaged 24.8 points his senior year and was selected to Second Team All-State. He led Waymart to the Wayne County Conference Championships in both his Junior and Senior years with a 16-0 record. Additionally, he was named to the Associated Press 1951 Little All-Star Pennsylvania Scholastic Team. Charlie was also a star baseball player. He tossed two no-hitters pitching for Waymart. He was drafted out of high school to play professionally for the Chicago Cubs and the Pittsburgh Pirates. He chose to pursue his college education rather than signing a professional contract. He also received 3 varsity letters playing on the Waymart High School Soccer Team. Charlie was inducted into the Wayne County Hall of Fame in 1995.

Charlie played basketball locally after high school at Keystone Junior College and amateur basketball for Lakewood and the Honesdale Ramblers in the Tri-County League. During this time he averaged 39.9 points per game and

scored a single game high of 58. He also set a record for the Brooks Invitational Tournament at the Scranton YMCA with 48 in one game and 125 in three games.

He then served his country in the U.S. Army for 2 years. He was stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia assigned to the Third Army Infantry Division. Charlie was a star basketball player on the Ft. Benning and Ft. Rucker base teams being selected to the All-Post team both years. He earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal during his time there. He separated from service with an honorable discharge.

Charlie then took his talents to McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. There he was a sport standout in basketball and baseball. He was an All-Conference selection in both sports in the 1950s for the Cowboys. In basketball he was a starter on the Cowboys 1956 NAIA National Championship team that went 33-3 his senior year. They defeated Texas Southern 60-55 in Kansas City, MO. In baseball, he was a two time all league pick and the Gulf Coast States Player of the Year in 1956 when he led the Cowboys to the Conference title. Twice he was named the team Most Valuable Player. Charlie once pitched both games of a doubleheader winning both! Charlie was inducted into the McNeese Hall of Fame in 1984.

After college, Charlie played in 8 National Championship Tournaments in the AAU Basketball Circuit. Three times with the McDonald Scots in Lake Charles, four times with the Akron Goodyear Wingfoots of the National Industrial Basketball League and once with the Burger Chefs of Indianapolis. He won two National AAU titles while playing with the Goodyear Wingfoots. While with Goodyear, he played many exhibition games all over the world including Mexico, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, France and Afghanistan. Charlie competed at the 1960 Olympic Team Trials in Denver, Colorado with the Scots and the Wingfoots. Some of the notable players he competed against were; Bobby Plump, Bob Boozer, John Havlicek, Jerry Lucas, Bob Knight, Oscar Robertson, Terry Dischinger, Jerry West, Walt Bellamy, Adrian Smith and Zelmo Beatty. After his playing days Charlie coached the Indianapolis team in

the AAU League.

After working for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company as a special assistant, Charlie started his career in sales with Doubleday Book Company. He settled down in Indianapolis, Indiana with his family. He retired from Doubleday in 1990 and then worked a variety of jobs including painting houses, golf course maintenance, and flower delivery driver. He then became an avid golfer twice winning the Sarah Shank Men's Club Championship in Indianapolis. He achieved a low handicap of 2 at the pinnacle of his golfing career. His group of golf buddies were very near and dear to him through the years. He often took golfing trips with them.

Charlie was a staunch Indiana University fan. This was mainly due to his relationship with Coach Bob Knight. They played basketball together back in the 1960's while Charlie was in Ohio. He often attended games and practices of the Hoosiers.

He was also a huge Indianapolis Colts fan. They held season tickets from the inaugural season and then 14 years after that.

Charlie was preceded in death by his loving wife of 40 years, Mary Cecilia Decker. Charlie is survived by his five children, David (Maria) Decker, Paul Decker, Dana (Michael) Cavosie, Jennifer (Jason) Hedge and Katherine Decker. He also had 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Our father was a kind, gentle and humble man. "He was loved by many and will be missed by all."

Visitation will be held Thursday, February 11, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. until the time of service at 7:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel, 5377 East Washington Street.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel  
5377 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
(317) 357-1181  
info@shirleybrothers.com  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

## Memorial Service

FEB 11. 7:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel  
5377 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
(317) 357-1181  
info@shirleybrothers.com  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory** - February 12, 2021 at 03:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Decker.



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February 10, 2021 at 06:09 PM



“ *I was sad to learn of Charlie's passing. He and I were close friends and spent a lot of time together during high school and later years when he was in the area. I had the privilege of playing with Charlie on Waymart High School two 1950 and 1951 champion basketball teams. Charlie was liked by everyone who knew him. My sincere condolences to his family.*

*Roswell (Mac) McMullen*

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**Roswell S McMullen** - February 10, 2021 at 09:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Decker.*



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February 09, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ *Charlie Decker Family,*

*Suzanne and I are so sorry for your loss! Charlie was a good man and a good friend! I will miss him! He had an incredible life and the world is a better place because he was in it! RIP Charlie!*

*Love  
Jim and Suzanne Dellenbach*

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**Jim Dellenbach** - February 07, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ *Charlie and I were friends for over 50 years we played golf together we worked together we partied together, what a good man he was. Great family man very talented I knew how talented he was Because I spent a lot of time playing golf with Charlie and working with Charlie what a good man I miss him dearly rest in peace my friend.*

*Samuel Bowling*

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**Samuel Bowling** - February 07, 2021 at 10:45 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Decker.*



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February 03, 2021 at 06:25 PM



“ *Michelle Wilham purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Charles "Charlie" Decker.*



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**Michelle Wilham** - February 03, 2021 at 04:46 PM



“ *Dad,*

*You were larger than life! A wonderful father. You loved being with your kids and we loved being with you! We always knew how much we meant to you. How much you loved us and cared about what was happening in our lives. Thank you for being there for us no matter what we needed. You made this world a better place because of the unconditional love you gave us and, in return, we are better parents to our own children. Thank you for your love and guidance. For your hugs and phone calls. For being the best father a kid could want. You will be missed more than I can say. I love you, Dad.*

*Love, Dana*

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**Dana Cavosie** - February 02, 2021 at 08:41 PM

JH

*Charlie was a kind, gentle loving giant. His love for his children was very apparent. They were his joy. It was my pleasure to have known him. He always greeted me with a kiss. Rest in the arms of the Lord my friend.*

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**Judi hedge** - February 03, 2021 at 08:01 PM

JC

*My friend Charlie,*

*As you go through life you hope you can meet good, kind people. Well, I was lucky enough in my life to meet such a person in Charlie. I truly was proud to call him my friend. I sure will miss seeing him make all those putts with his trusty "NUGGET" putter. Travel well my friend.*

*Jerry Crouch*

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**jerry crouch** - February 05, 2021 at 07:34 AM

AL

*Charlie was a legend in the little town of Waymart Pa. where I grew up. I remember watching him pitch baseball when I was a little kid. He was amazing. It was something to see him play basketball in our little gym.  
Alex Lilje*

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**Alex Lilje** - February 10, 2021 at 03:03 AM

SH

*Charlie was the guy you wanted to be around. A great golfer that played a lot of golf at Sarah Shank. So many of my friends have passed and now I will miss Charlie. He will never be forgotten.*

*Steve Hoffman*

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**Steve Hoffman** - February 10, 2021 at 08:04 AM

BS

*To the Family of Charlie Decker*

*We were blessed to be neighbors for many years. Our girls grew up with his kids. We have many happy memories of living across the street from the Decker family. We are so sorry that we will miss seeing everyone. But due to our age and this pandemic, we are not gathering at this time. We hope you know how sad that make us. But you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time and always.*

*With love, from Barb and Fred*

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**Barb and Fred Sullivan** - February 10, 2021 at 11:14 PM