



## Charles Louis Thierheimer Jr.

May 27, 1952 - September 28, 2020

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Charles “Chuck” Thierheimer passed away at home on Monday, September 28, after a year-long struggle with ALS. He was surrounded by family and friends. Chuck was born in Florissant, Missouri, to Charles Sr. and Joan Thierheimer, and grew up in a large family of four brothers and one sister. He received BS and MS degrees in Chemistry from the University of Missouri—St. Louis. He worked in a variety of industrial chemistry and laboratory positions in that area, contributing to new products and analytical techniques. Chuck married Cindy Dahl in St. Louis in 1982, and they moved to Corvallis, Oregon in 1987, where Chuck went to work for Hewlett-Packard in the ink chemistry group. He held a variety of positions over his 18+ years at HP and obtained many patents. Chuck spent another five years at Cascade Microtech in Beaverton, Oregon, where he greatly enjoyed the work and his colleagues. During his time in Beaverton, Chuck took up flying radio-controlled airplanes, which became a long-term hobby. He built several planes, of increasing complexity, and enjoyed taking them out on sunny mornings. He also enjoyed the wide variety of birds, squirrels and chipmunks who frequented the backyard, and always made sure they were well fed.

Chuck and Cindy have a son, Erik (Rick) and a daughter, Marisa. Chuck was proud that both of the kids were interested in science – Rick obtaining a Mathematics degree and Marisa obtaining an Honors Degree in Chemical

Engineering, both at OSU. It was also a blessing to have them close by. Chuck is survived by his wife of 38 years, Cindy; his son Rick; his daughter Marisa; brothers, Jeffrey and Jerry (Peggy); sister Patti Koeller (Matt); and several nieces and nephews. Chuck was especially grateful for visits with all of his siblings in the last year. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, John.

The family is especially grateful to the medical and support staff at Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care in Corvallis, and to all of our local friends and neighbors who have been so supportive.

DeMoss Durden is handling arrangements. Online remembrances can be posted at [demosdurden.com](http://demosdurden.com)

Donations in Chuck's memory can be made to Heartland Humane Society, Chintimini Wildlife, SafeHaven Humane Society or Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care.

# Tribute Wall

CZ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Clint Zlatnik** - January 13, 2021 at 09:19 PM

JR

“ Cindy--  
*You have my sincere sympathy for your loss, and for the difficult year you've had. I enjoyed meeting Chuck when I was at CH2M HILL/CVO, and afterwards knowing him slightly after moving over to HP. He was a good guy--smart, decent, and a strong contributor, and he will be sorely missed by many. I hope you and your family can move on in peace.*  
*Warm regards,*  
*Joe Reynolds*

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**Joe Reynolds** - October 16, 2020 at 03:37 PM

RO

“ I worked with Chuck at HP Corvallis. We were both in Silicon Micromachining work center. Chuck was a true gentleman and was respected by all his colleagues. A personal story I will share is that I asked Chuck to be the signatory witness on my greencard application. He read it through carefully and then signed it. He then said to me that he did not know why I had chosen him since there were far more impressive people at HP I could have chosen. He was very modest. RIP Chuck.



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**Richard Oram** - October 15, 2020 at 08:29 PM

ET

“ Chuck was one of a kind. I feel blessed to have had him as a colleague and a friend. He was not only brilliant and insightful, but deeply principled and empathetic. I had total respect for him. I appreciate the insights, humor and passion he shared and am grateful for the many things he taught me. He left his mark on so many. His love for his family was deep and obvious. My condolences to Cindy, Rick and Marisa and all who loved and were touched by him.  
Ellen Tappon

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**Ellen Tappon** - October 14, 2020 at 04:49 PM

TW

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Chuck's passing. My first reaction was relating to many things we had in common - running, engineering, working together on the Hobbes Team, seeing his happiness in his children, even working together on a project when he was at Cascade. I totally admired his consummate engineering skills and I reflect now wondering how it is that he could be gone. Time heals all things. May he rest in peace.

*My sincerest condolences to Cindy, his children and his family. It was an honor to know Chuck.*

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**TOM WINSLOW** - October 11, 2020 at 12:11 PM

GC

“ Chuck was my first mentor at HP, 25 years ago. With this perspective, I can see how his advice set me up for a great career. Chuck certainly focused on the scientific method and staying close to the data, but he also understood people and politics and how work gets done. I could feel how Chuck valued me as a person and was looking out for me. I have mentored many new engineers over the years, and continue to do so, always remembering to try to pass on what Chuck had given me.

*My deepest condolences go out to all who will miss Chuck.*

*Sincerely,  
Garrett Clark*

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**Garrett Clark** - October 07, 2020 at 12:12 PM

JL

“ I have worked with Chuck over the years on a variety of projects at HP going back to the 90's. One of the things that made working with him so fun was his love of the science. He was willing to share the basic chemistry, the subtleties, and the limits of his understanding which he continued to expand. Some of the best books that I have read over the years came from his reading list, much of it science and biographies of scientists.

*I am thankful for Chuck's teamwork and influence.*

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**John Liebeskind** - October 04, 2020 at 11:36 PM

GH

“ Hello,

*I had both the honor and privilege to work quite closely with Chuck over the years, especially back in the "early days" when we were both involved with a difficult program called Hobbes. We were a small close knit team that took on a lot, but also accomplished a lot.*

*Though much has transpired in the 30 years since that effort, my memories of it and Chuck are as clear as if it had happened last week. Special circumstances and very special people do that. And Chuck was a truly a very special person.*

*One thing we had in common was our love for running in the beautiful Oregon countryside. Chuck was just an amazing scientist and it is doubtful that our program would be been successful without him. But what I remember most about Chuck was that he was a wonderful person in every way. Someone that made work interesting, if not fascinating. A person that made it fun, and a person that you just wanted to be around. The best of the human spirit and a teammate second to none.*

*We will miss you Chuck but never forget you. To Chuck's family, my sincerest condolences and thank you for sharing such a wonderful person with the rest of us.*

*With respect and the warmest of regards,  
Glen Hopkins*

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**Glen Hopkins** - October 04, 2020 at 08:20 PM

Jl

“ I had the pleasure of working closely with Chuck for a number of years while we both were at Hewlett-Packard. Excellent engineer, team player and a real gentleman. Years later we reconnected and shared a love of Oregon State Women’s Basketball. Chuck will be greatly missed.

*Jeff Igelman*

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**Jeff Igelman** - October 04, 2020 at 06:45 PM

TH

“ All our best thoughts and prayers for Cindy, Rick, and Marisa. We are so sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed visiting and sometimes collaborating with Chuck at work, and getting to see you all in the neighborhood. Peace and comfort to you all. Fondly, Todd & Lisa Herder and family.

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**Todd Herder** - October 04, 2020 at 05:05 PM

DS

“ Chuck’s knowledge and technical gifts, communication ability, and high integrity are a rare combination. I was privileged to be his manager for a few years in the 90’s while we both worked in the Advances Research Lab at HP in Corvallis. Not being a chemist myself, he tolerated my basic questions with grace and after 3 years dubbed me and “honorary chemist.” He always told me, “Dave, you gotta describe things at the chocolate cake level - they gotta, smell it, taste it, and feel it. Then you know they’ve got it.” Rest well, my friend.

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**Dave Snider** - October 04, 2020 at 03:19 PM

BW

“ *This saddens me  
He was a mentor and a great person  
I've missed him  
He inspired me*

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**Bryan Willis** - October 03, 2020 at 07:23 PM

CZ

“ *I always enjoyed spending time with Chuck.  
He had a quick wit and a wonderful smile- it  
was often just a bit like there was more to the  
story than on the surface. Whether talking  
about etching silicon or flying his model  
planes, his stories were humorous and engaging. The last couple  
times I saw him, he could no longer talk, but we still managed to  
have very meaningful conversations. Peace*



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**Clint Zlatnik** - October 01, 2020 at 04:35 PM

CD

*Thank you, Clint. Your visits, messages and earlier lunches out were  
very important to Chuck. We all appreciated your care and concern.  
Cindy*

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**Cindy Dahl** - October 02, 2020 at 11:31 AM

MG

*Chuck and Cindy met me on a gray day when I flew our new big single  
engine plane with all the bells and whistles - my first solo flight in it -  
into Corvallis. Cindy and I had lunch and Chuck came by to see the  
plane and take photos - those are the best photos of me in the plane  
ever, and I cherish that he took the time to help celebrate someone  
else's milestone.*

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**Michelle Girts** - October 02, 2020 at 10:12 PM

FS

*So many great memories with Chuck! So glad we kept in touch over the years and we have some nice visits when he came in town. He will always be in my heart. May he rest in peace! Prayers for you all! Much love!*

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**Fran Seward** - October 05, 2020 at 07:31 PM

PM

*Chuck was one 'fine fellow'. He had a special touch with understanding the mysteries of industrial process evolution. His clear thinking and adherence to verified data made him a great sounding board for strategic discussions. He was a great team player and coach for many young engineers a great critic for some of us. He enjoyed life and work based on his coffee break discussions. His passing is sad for all and maybe a relief from the grasp of ALS, a dreadful malady. Travel well Ol' Friend . Peace to family and support teams.*

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**Paul McClelland** - October 07, 2020 at 06:40 PM

AS

*Chuck wasca great engineer. He was even a better human being.*

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**Alan Silverstein** - October 09, 2020 at 12:37 PM

PR

*My condolences to Cindy and family. I could not believe Chuck died, all I could think of were the wonderful conversations I've had over the years, the last one at the Innovation fair at OSU last October. I never had the pleasure of working with Chuck at HP but always appreciated his wit,intellect, and empathy for others. RIP Chuck and thank you.*

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**Paul Reboa** - October 16, 2020 at 03:11 AM