



After a brief and valiant battle with cancer, Charles F. “Chuck” Hoge, 61, was welcomed into his Savior’s arms on Sunday, May 2, 2010, while surrounded by his family at home. Chuck’s life ended in the same unselfish way that he lived it. Less than two days before his passing, he found the strength to sit up and pray with his wife and children, asking God to watch over each of them.

Chuck was born March 25, 1949, in Spring Valley, IL. and was raised in Toluca, IL. As his single mother worked diligently to raise him and his brother, she instilled in him the importance of strong character, integrity, compassion, and humor—the characteristics that would define him throughout his life.

Chuck’s passion for sports started at a young age and he especially loved basketball.

In high school he was named the Tri-County free-throw champion when he made 25 free throws in a row. Shortly after his

graduation from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, he moved to Great Falls, MT., to work for a beverage distributor and later transferred to Billings, then to Dillon. It was in Dillon that he met the love of his life, Linda. After a whirlwind romance (six weeks), they married on July 21, 1979. From that day, Linda, Chris, Robyn, and soon-to-arrive Adam were the center of Chuck’s life.

He and his family moved to Bozeman in January 1980, when he started work as a finance manager at a local car dealership. In June 1986, he began working as a loan officer at First Security Bank in downtown Bozeman and was a Vice President there at the time of his death. In 1994, he graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School. With a contagious smile, Chuck always treated bank customers with respect and developed long-time friendships with many of them. If they were lucky, they also would get to see him laugh until his eyes watered and his face turned red when he told one of his many jokes.

Chuck was actively involved in the Bozeman community, especially in organizations that focused on helping children and the underprivileged. As a long-time member and treasurer of the Breakfast Optimist Club, he was awarded the President’s Citation for Outstanding Optimist Club Member from Optimist International in 2008. He was so humbled by the award that he didn’t even tell Linda about it until it was mentioned by a friend over dinner the following day. Although he did much to help others, he never sought recognition. He also was past president of the Gallatin Valley Food Bank and on the board for Montana Food Bank; past president of United Way; and served on the board of the Red Cross and Gallatin Development Corp. He attended Evangelical Free Church of Bozeman.

In addition to his community involvement, Chuck was an avid sports fan, although not always a fan of some referees. Except for a few out-of-state college football games, he and Linda never missed a sporting event involving their children and you could always hear him in the stands cheering them on. Until a few years ago, Chuck spent his lunch hour playing on the Noon Basketball League at MSU.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Linda, of Bozeman; daughter, Robyn (David) Cotton of Billings; sons, Chris Nimmo (Wren Willett) of Billings, and Adam Hoge of Kalispell; beloved grandchildren, Adrianna and Hunter Cotton, and Alexis Nimmo; brother, Jeffrey (Mary) Hoge of Creve Coeur, IL ; special cousin, Melodee (Ted) Franklin of Florence, MT. Chuck was preceded in death by his mother, Beverly Hoge, and mother-in-law, Dorothy Love.

A celebration of Chuck’s life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8 at the Evangelical Free Church on South 19th Avenue. A visitation time with the family will take place from 5 – 7 p.m. Friday at Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service.

In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, memorials in Chuck’s name may be made to the Montana Hope Project, PO Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604-5927; Breakfast Optimist Club, PO Box 331, Bozeman, 59771-0331; or Gallatin Valley Food Bank, 602 Bond Street, Bozeman, MT 59715.