



Charles Edward Seabold

May 3, 1944 - September 3, 2023

Charles Edward Seabold was born on May 3rd, 1944 and died September 3rd, 2023 after a lengthy and courageous fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Charles' passion for life and legacy is exemplified through his commitment to his family, and his humble service to his community and world. Charles lived by the motto, "The harder you work, the luckier you get." Charles was a very lucky man.

Charlie was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana to Walter Edward Seabold and Erma Celeste Seabold (Peterson). In 1952 the Seabold family moved to Merriweather in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to buy a gas station-party store-post office combo after Walter retired from The Wabash Railroad. Working at his parent's station taught Charlie the values of hard work and skilled customer service.

Charlie broadened his service to others in the Boy Scouts achieving the rank of 1st class; and then became a Boy Scout Leader until entering the US Navy in September of 1962. Also formative in Charlie's younger years were his experiences working as a counselor at Camp Luther; leading campers with developmental disabilities and traditional campers.

Charles married his high school sweetheart, Janet (DeMolen) Seabold on September 18, 1965. The couple knew each other since the first and second grades and even lived next door to one another for years in Berland, Michigan, before they began dating: After Charles bought his first car, a pea green 1952 Pontiac 4 door. Charles already served three years in the Navy

before he got married. He completed military training, including Machinist Mate and Nuclear Power School; and traveled to dozens of countries on goodwill cruises supporting other ships and allies of the United States of America, including Italy, Spain, France, England, Germany and Austria on the Navy Ship, USS Tidewater, AD31, out of Norfolk, V.A.

After Charlie and Jan married, the Navy moved the couple to San Juan, Puerto Rico. This Navy deployment included Charlie's education in the trades of refrigeration, air-conditioning and electrical installation and services.

The family, now including their first daughter Lynn, moved to Rhode Island where Charles earned an Admiral Accommodation for his pioneering work refueling a helicopter in-flight from a Navy Ship, while on deployment.

Charlie made the rank of Chief shortly before honorably discharging from the Navy, only to re-enlist in the Navy Reserve in 1970, after Charles and Janet's second daughter Becky was born.

With a few stops along the way, the family moved to Cadillac, Michigan. They fell in love with Cadillac while driving through Michigan to visit their families in the Upper Peninsula. The Seabold family grew along with their business, Seabold's Refrigeration, Heating and Mechanical Contracting: their son Carl arrived in 1980.

Mr. Seabold continued to earn rank in the Navy Reserves. Highlights of his service to his country in the Navy include a medal and certificate from an Admiral as he began his next thirty years of service in the Naval Reserve. Seabold was Commanding Officer of many units, e.g., The USS Capodano. Mr. Seabold's retiring rank was Lieutenant Commander with over 40 years of service in 2002. Mr. Seabold's service to country in the U.S. Navy spanned from the Vietnam War to the Gulf War. Charles believed his biggest accomplishment in the Navy was earning the rank of Commander.

Charles understood the value of commitment to one's duties. He demonstrated this via his lifetime focus on personal improvement; steadily going through the enlisted ranks from E-1 to E-9; earning the Warrant Officer

Ranks, and achieving Commander in the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) ranks based on skill.

Charlie and the late Floyd Snyder began the Cherry Grove Fire Department with two men and a 1949 fire truck in 1970. Charlie took a leadership role throughout his life at the Fire Department. He served in every capacity; assistant Fire Chief, Fire Chief, Fireman, Engineer, Training Officer, and he participated in the maintenance of the department and fleet. He also led the process of installing dry hydrants throughout the township.

Charlie's final role at Cherry Grove Fire Department included going back to school to earn his EMT license; expanding his ability to serve others. In all, Charlie was involved with Cherry Grove Fire Department for 47 years, plus 2 years before it was an official department.

For 49 years, in addition to his family, business and his commitments to the Navy, Charles was willingly woken from sleep to save another's life or property. There would be no way to calculate the number of times Charlie Seabold showed up to save, or respectfully process the destruction of, others in his community with courage and compassion. The exact magnitude of his heroism is immeasurable and reminds us all to give a little more to those around us. Charlie's most quiet act of service and heroism was donating literally gallons of blood to the Red Cross over his lifetime.

In addition to Charlie's many skills of service, after retirement he obtained his chauffeurs and CDL license and served Wexford County as a driver for the Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority (CWTA) for over a decade. In many ways Charlie's last career at CWTA revived his love for helping people including those with disabilities get around and live fully, just like he did at Camp Luther as a teenager.

Charlie's last years were marked by his continued sense of adventure and love of travel. He participated in zip lining and other extreme thrills whenever he had the chance. Charles took his family on an amazingly beautiful adventure to Hawaii. Charlie learned to fly and practiced piloting small planes

throughout his life and he has jumped out of planes to experience sky-diving. Although he gave up his love for riding motorcycle a few years back, he bought a side-by-side which gave Charlie, Jan, their family and friends, days and nights of fun and excitement on area trails. Charlie spent many hours in his woodshop after retirement making each family member heirlooms to treasure. His talents in woodworking are remarkable; he and Jan shared many hours working together making gifts for others in their wood-art shop.

Those who will miss Charlie the most are his loving family. His wife of 57 years, Janet Seabold, his son and daughter-in-law Carl Seabold and Amy (Heyboer) Seabold, of Bath, Michigan. Daughter, Becky Seabold-LaBeau of Cadillac, Michigan, and his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Lynn Seabold-Foster and William Foster of Fruitport, Michigan. Charlie's grandchildren: Laura Foster, Elizabeth Vollmar (LeBeau) and Vance Vollmar, Noah and Melinda LeBeau, Cassandra (Foster) and Ryan Coonrod, and Lincoln Seabold.

Charles also cared deeply for his numerous great-grandchildren Ayden, Henrik, and Olivia. Charlie will also be missed by his many friends, neighbors, co-workers, firefighters, and those he knew through his military service.

Charlie was never known to brag about his lifetime of service to others; instead, he set examples worthy of emulation. Charles Seabold lived his life faithfully, sharing his gifts graciously with others through his work, his volunteerism, and his love for his family. Peter 4:10 Reminds us, "Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Peter 4:10. In this way Charles has been a faithful steward to honor the Grace of God as demonstrated as a life live with integrity, honor, faithfulness, self-discipline and service.

Memorial services will be 12 Noon Friday, September 15, 2023 at the Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene with Gary Pullen officiating. Full military rites under the auspices of the Cadillac Area Honor Guard will take place at the Cherry Grove Township Cemetery following the service. Visitation will be from 10:00 AM Friday until services at 12 Noon at church. In lieu of flowers you are asked to consider memorial contributions to Cherry Grove Fire & Rescue. An

online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP **15**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene
8450 S 29 Road
Cadillac, MI 49601

Memorial Service

SEP **15**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene
8450 S 29 Road
Cadillac, MI 49601

Tribute Wall

KR

“ *The Sebold family is as rugged as the Lake Superior Coastline, as Stalwart as Michigans native White Pine. Every member has depths as deep as the Great Lakes! Then throw in the values and fortitude of growing up in the UP, what do you get... Charlie and Jan Sebold! Their lives inspire, they all made the grueling journey through the battle of ALS. Charlie is finally free from all that ravaged his body and the rest of us will often reflect on what a great guy he was, we will remember his welcoming smile, his great laugh, his patience, generosity and professionalism in all his endeavors and we will smile, glad we got to know him, work with him, live with and love him. Anyone who has known Charley and Jan and their family has been blessed by the experience*

KR - September 15, 2023 at 08:41 AM

JF

“ *I work with Dr. Lynn Foster part of the article about him resonated with me. He was humble and didn't brag about his accomplishments, but let his actions speak for themselves. I did not get to meet Charles, however, knowing the amazing Dr. Lynn I can see his impact on the world. She has joined our Special Education Team and is so passionate it is catching! I can see the amazing person he was in Lynn every day. Rest in Peace now that your battle with ALS is over. Condolences, Mrs. Fulton”*

Jennifer Fulton - September 08, 2023 at 09:47 AM

SC

“ Charles Seabold was a gem of a person, a true treasure. His military training was evident in the way that he conducted himself, confident, self-assured, yet, humble. It was an honor and pleasure to have been a co-worker with Charlie at CWTA and a coach driver at Great Northern Tours of Lake City. In the company vehicles, he drove, it was not uncommon to find scraps of paper or cardboard strategically wedged in spots to eliminate squeaks and rattles. He was very meticulous in that manner, They were his calling card of sorts, they may have well said, "You're welcome" Have a quiet trip. He would say, imagine being submerged in a submarine and listening to those annoyances for hours at a time. Charlie rode his motorcycle to work one day and was catching some good-natured ribbing from the fellas for having "training wheels" on his bike, he explained that the extra wheels belonged to his wife and that he belonged to his wife as well, and that she worried about him when he was out on the bike alone. So, since I love my wife, and care about what she thinks, the wheels stay on for now. His love of family was always evident. Charlie was an exemplary human being. Good-natured and kind.

Shianne Couch - September 07, 2023 at 05:44 PM

MF

“ We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Charlie. He was such a nice man and good neighbor. Our hearts are with Jan & family during this difficult time..Mary & Pat Fitzpatrick

Mary Fitzpatrick - September 07, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Seabold.*



September 06, 2023 at 09:01 PM



“ *Becky and family sorry for your loss, praying you all find comfort in the memories*

Becky S Alworden - September 06, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *I knew Charlie from the CG Fire Department. And what a big role he played, without requiring that the spotlight be shown on him. He made each person feel that their role was important by welcoming them with his big smile.*
Margo Copley

Margo Copley - September 06, 2023 at 10:49 AM



“ *I have spent a while thinking this over before stating there is not enough words or space to tell the good of this neighbor and friend. I think his great accomplishment for the community and people was the cherry grove fire department with the help of Floyd Snyder and Gary Pullen .i know i have missed dozens of others i apologize too you.it was so hard to get support and funding at that time but they did it many good things have came to Cherry grove for the work they did.Charlie a great person born leader wonderful neighbor was a honor to know him. rest in peace. The Hawkins family.*

Jerry Hawkins - September 06, 2023 at 10:27 AM