



## Charles J. Tisa

July 21, 1939 - December 4, 2019

Charles J. Tisa

Pedricktown, New Jersey

(formerly of Mullica Hill)

Charles “Charlie” “Chas” Tisa died suddenly December 4. He was born in South Philadelphia in 1939 and celebrated his 80th birthday in July. A K-8 student at St. Paul’s School on 9th Street, he graduated in 1957 from St. John Neumann High School and immediately enlisted in the United States Navy. His last tour of duty took him around the world ending in 1960 when he began working for the Dept of the Navy.

His father, Sam, loved standardbred horse racing and Chas shared his interest. Chas loved a challenge and one day said “I can do that,” moving his young family to North Carolina in 1966 where he learned the standardbred horse business from the ground up, becoming a professional trainer and driver. He raced at Liberty Bell, Brandywine, and achieved Driver of the Year at Rosecroft Raceway in Maryland.

He returned to his former position at the Philadelphia naval base, and restarted a 30-yr career that exactly paralleled computers coming of age. Chas worked in U.S. Naval Intelligence, building and troubleshooting Intelligence Center computer systems on every aircraft carrier in the U.S.

fleet. Doing so required the highest security clearance issued by the U.S. Govt. His coworker suggested he get his degree and Chas said “I can do that” attending at night to earn a degree eight years later in “Computer Programming” (now Computer Science) from LaSalle College (now University). He moved to South Jersey, kept his home in South Philly, and converted it to apartments, completing most of the work himself. He could do that too. He retired with 33 yrs of service and was anointed “Geek Emeritus” by his friends who were happy to have his free tech support.

In 1991 he and his wife, Liz, built a new home in Mullica Hill, NJ where he was renamed “Chas” by the builder. It stuck. Retired, he took an interest in local municipal government and faithfully attended Planning Board Mtgs to learn NJ Land Use Law. Then, when also attending Harrison Township Committee Meetings, he had another “I can do that” moment and ran for election. He served two terms on the Harrison Committee, including one year as Mayor in 1996. He also served on the Harrison Planning Board for six years and later on the Salem County Planning Board for four years. But his favorite township role was volunteering as a Judge at the kids Lip Synch Contest on Harrison Township Day each year. He also kept his hand in the standardbred world, no longer driving but owning and training horses off and on for 25 more years with his sons.

In 2004 he achieved a life-long dream of owning land, moving to rural Pedricktown. There he learned farm equipment and its maintenance, and enjoyed keeping his seven acres trimmed, properly fenced and presentable. Despite ever declining health over the past five years, he soldiered on and in the final weeks of his life he had his final “I can do that” moment. He learned a professional gambling strategy on YouTube for playing Blackjack for profit. Always a good card player, he started playing online daily--with real money--and it worked! He went out a winner.

He was predeceased by his parents Santo and Marie (DeBenedetto) and his first wife Theresa (Ferri). Chas is survived by his wife and best friend of 35 years, Liz Stevenson, and his brother, John (Cheryl). He will be greatly missed by his two sons, Kenneth (Nikki) and Chuck (Mark); grandchildren, Theresa Mathiesen (Rudy), Lauren Hurlburt, Ava, and Sam; and great-grandchildren Nolan and Samantha. Also by his good friend of 50 years, Lou DiGirolamo.

Chas played golf for over 20 years, loved baseball, collecting cards and memorabilia, and with his sons aced every video game that ever came out from day one. In later years he enjoyed many luncheons with his St. Paul's classmates and for 22 years he and Liz vacationed in Aruba with friends Kathy and Bill Golden. He was a very strong man, firm but fair, and very kind. He spoke up. Watch out if you were being disrespectful or doing something wrong! A friend described him well, saying "when he was in a room, you knew he was there." His family and friends will miss him enormously.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions in his memory to the Harrison Township Historical Society, P.O. Box 4, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062, or the Pedricktown First Aid Squad, 37 Straughns Mill Rd., Pedricktown, NJ 08067.

His ashes will receive a military burial on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at precisely 2pm at Finn's Point National Cemetery, 454 Ft. Mott Road, Pennsville, NJ 08070. The cemetery is located behind Ft. Mott State Park along the Delaware River.

People may gather at the Ft. Mott Visitors Center before continuing to the graveside for the 2 pm service. Family will greet from 1 to 1:45. Reception immediately following the service at the late residence.

# Cemetery Details

## **Flnn's Point National Cemetery**

454 Fort Mott Rd  
Pennsville, NJ 08070

# Previous Events

## **Graveside Service**

**JAN 8.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Flnn's Point National Cemetery  
454 Fort Mott Rd  
Pennsville, NJ 08070

# Tribute Wall

EM

“Hi Liz. Very sorry to learn of Charlie's passing. Jack Sommer was kind enough to let me know. I was at PRC supporting NESEAD (Bldg. #76) beginning in 1981 - 1996. I remember most of the team fairly well, but Charlie stood out from the rest. He was gregarious, gracious, and had a great disposition -- as you well know.”

*Charlie was the best dressed guy @ NESEAD (with the possible exception of the tie wearing PRC crew). But, more importantly, it was the way that he addressed people that always got my attention. He was the epitome of civility, decency, and respect. Very calm and cool under pressure. Great sense of humor. Never sweated the small stuff.*

*Your obituary was beautifully written (you set your own high editorial standards way back when). I will keep you and your family in my daily meditations and hope that the wonderful memories that you have of your life together with Charlie comfort you during these difficult times.*

*I remember how much your words comforted Hal Davis (Col., USA, Retired) when he faced a tragically sad loss himself back in the early 1980's. He told me many times how much your words comforted him. I hope that you hear from the many, many folks whose lives were touched by Charlie.*

*I think, for me at least, I am a better man today having known Charlie Tisa when we were all quite younger.*

*With my deepest sympathy and love,  
Ed Mayer-*

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**Ed Mayer** - December 16, 2019 at 01:11 PM

NW

“ Liz and family  
My heart goes out to you and family. I thank you for keeping our St Paul's group together. If it wasn't for you and Chaz. I wouldn't have the opportunity to get together with our elementary classmates and share old times . Chaz was always the gentleman and a goodlooking one at that. He will be in my prayers and you and family as well. 🙏❤️ Nancy Carito Weimer

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**Nancy Carito Weimer** - December 11, 2019 at 01:12 AM

LR

“ Dear Liz,  
I am so sorry to hear about my dear friend Chas passing. He was always kind to me and I learned a lot from him! Prayers and hugs to you!  
Lorraine Reeves ( formerly Roberts )

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**Lorraine Reeves** - December 10, 2019 at 07:21 PM

LW

To the Family and Liz,  
  
We our sending our deepest sympathy, We feel like we know you thru Mark and Chuck, You have a very close family to lean on.

Frank and Lorraine Wesner (parents to Mark)

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**lorraine Wesner** - December 11, 2019 at 07:33 PM