



Charles Henry Dickey

February 28, 1955 - March 18, 2026

Charles Henry Dickey, 71, passed away in Orlando, Florida, on March 18, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born on February 28, 1955, in Los Angeles County, California, Charles was the son of Myron and Charlotte Dickey. He was raised primarily in Orlando, Florida, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Design from the University of Florida and a Master of Architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Charles built a distinguished career as a highly respected architect and owner of CDA Design Studio. Through his work in residential, institutional, and small commercial design, he expressed a deep passion for creativity, thoughtful design, and craftsmanship. He spent much of his career in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he left a lasting architectural mark on the community, later continuing to share his creativity throughout the state of Florida.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Charles embraced life with enthusiasm and joy. He loved the Florida Gators, as well as the sun and the sand. He had a fondness for simple pleasures—soft serve ice cream and a giant plate of nachos among his favorites. He remained active throughout his life, enjoying biking, walking (always at a brisk pace!), and running, including the Marine Corps Marathon in his earlier years and several half-marathons alongside his daughter. Charles never met a stranger and had a remarkable

ability to bring a smile to everyone he met. He was creative, incredibly generous, artistic, kind-hearted, and deeply loving.

Charles is survived by his daughter, Susan (Matthew) Smith, and their children, Claire and Cooper; his siblings, Barbara (David) Graul, Robert (Nancy) Dickey, and Mio Pais; and his nieces and nephews, Shannon (Tony) Casati, Erin (Bob) Delehanty, Sarah (Joe) Buckner, Sean (Deborah) Dickey, Patrick (Michelle) Dickey, and Talia St. Clair, along with their children. He is also survived by his former wife, Christina Rees, with whom he shared an enduring bond of friendship and mutual care, and his partner, Diane Croson, a cherished and loving companion.

Charles will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him. The world is a little less interesting without him.

Tribute Wall

DL

“ I met Chuck through a mutual friend in 2020. They would meet up annually in Gainesville for a Gator game and me and another good friend would get together when they were in town. It was always way too much fun with so much laughter and genuine connection. He was such a sweet, funny man who adored his daughter and grandkids. And his ex, for whom he truly cared. I am so sorry about this loss, and especially for his daughter and family. He was a light in the world and will be dearly missed. You have my deepest sympathies.

Dotti Leichner - April 29 at 10:54 PM

TR

“ Chuck was my husband for nearly 24 years and we raised the most awesome human possible--Susan. Susan adored her dad and the feeling was mutual. Chuck and I shared a special love for one another even long after our divorce. I will miss his sense of humor, his lightheartedness , his intellect, his spontaneity. He was a great architect who did not know that about himself. He was an artist, a joker, a lover. He was messy and complicated. Susan, Claire, and Cooper were the most important people in his life and he cherished any time he got to spend with them. I will miss his phone calls and his sense of humor and also his compassion when things were not going well for me. Our love continued long after our divorce. I am so grateful that Diane got to spend time with Chuck and to love him through the end. He deserved all the love he could get. I am also grateful for getting to spend his birthday weekend in Orlando with him, his siblings, Diane, and Susan and her family. He was struggling but also enjoying the love surrounding him. Just a few weeks later he passed. He told me to get out in nature more--so that is my intention. I will always carry in my heart a special love for Chuck.

Tina Rees - April 26 at 04:10 PM

RH

“ This one hurts. Chuck was his own unique man who celebrated life, people and art every dang day. So much fun to watch him dive into and explore his passions. He was proud yet he had zero pretentions. Life felt good when I was hanging with Chuck. He was a rolling stone the last 20 years until he found Diane. What a gift to land with a soul mate. The rolling finally stopped and he was truly happy.

Richard Hazard - April 26 at 10:35 AM

LQ

“ I worked with Chuck in Charlottesville and he always made the office a much more fun place to be. Too many hilarious stories to relate here, but such great memories. (None of us who were there will ever forget the musical birthday candle in his pants.) He could be very subversive, but in an endearing way.

Chuck didn't take himself too seriously, but he was very serious about his designs, though. His house on Locust St. was like his Monticello. He transformed that house with his skill and hard work. Everything from the rear yard with Koi pond, to pouring concrete countertops, to the lighting fixtures and furniture he designed was exquisite.

And when I mentioned I had a project, like putting a deck on my house, Chuck wanted to help. He loved doing that kind of work as well as helping people. A good friend and family man, he will be sorely missed.

Larry Quirk

Larry Quirk - March 22 at 04:30 PM

HA

*Well said.
Aging woman.*

Helene S AUSTIN - March 25 at 08:59 AM

TA

“ *Condolences to the family from Rachel Alben's dad, Ted. Chuck was a great friend through these 33 years that I'd known him. Always great for a joke and as generous with his time as anyone I've known. I will miss his kindness.*

Ted Alben - March 19 at 04:31 PM

DC

“ *Chuck came into my life just shy of two years ago. We found out three months later that he had terminal cancer. We rarely were apart and shared everything necessary for his treatments and his well-being. I am so grateful to have had him in my life as he knew how to love and share and embrace life with joy and humor. He was an extremely intelligent man, but he knew how to laugh and how to make everyone around him laugh. We had hoped to have many years together, we made plans to do several things and travels, etc. I wouldn't have traded my time with him for anything and know that I will see him in the next lifetime. he was a good man, he was a fair man, and he was a very affectionate man. I will miss him for the rest of my life, and I will love him forever. Diane Irion Croson*

Diane Croson - March 19 at 02:31 PM

HA

*Rest in Peace Chuck.
Helene Austin*

Helene S AUSTIN - March 20 at 04:03 PM

LM

As your neighbor & friend in C'ville for many years, you were a force in my life and everyone's who knew and loved you. Smart, witty, talented, loyal describe only a few of your attributes. You clearly adored Susan & those precious grands and I'm so happy you found an amazing partner in Diane to be by your side these last few years. You were one of a kind and I shall miss you immensely.

Lisa McRae

Lisa McRae - March 20 at 06:59 PM

LC

Chuck was my savior when I was going through a challenging health journey and I am very glad, Diane, that you were SO there for him these last two years. He deserved to have all the support he rendered others returned to him, and, from what he himself said, you were every bit a true angel. I wished he'd have had more time with you and his precious family, whom he treasured, especially his Bunny and the wee Bunnies. My whole family adored Chuck and we all have funny stories we've been sharing. He was generous and thoughtful in a myriad of ways. I am eternally grateful for the five years he was in my life. I know he's bringing irreverence, laughter, and joy wherever he currently inhabits!

Lynn Crytzer - March 22 at 01:38 PM

RH

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Richard Hazard - April 26 at 10:32 AM

JM

Chuck was a recurring character in the journey of my life. In those chapters that we were together we wrote about laughter, adventure, intrigue, sadness, joy, romance, mystery, celebrating life and most importantly love. When I heard of his passing, I closed the book we had written and cried because the final words anybody doesn't want to read in a good book is "The End". As sad as I am that it is over I will be forever grateful to have his memories and the story of the time we had together.

We all have different love stories that we created with Chuck. He was lucky to have so many stories of his life.

I hope Chuck is either building his little cabin in the woods or strolling naked at Canaveral National Seashore for those places would be a little bit of heaven for him.

Chuck, I am going to sit on my back porch and drink a Jack and Coke in your honor. Cheers!

Joelle Mills - April 26 at 12:58 PM