



## Mr. Charles William Bruce

July 23, 1927 - July 15, 2020

Charles William Bruce, long-time resident of Watertown, WI and in recent years of Salem, South Carolina, died on July 15, 2020 at age 92 years. He was born July 23, 1927, in Plymouth, WI, the middle child of Esther E. (Weed) and William R. Bruce and long-time step-mother Lillian (Peterson) Bruce. Chuck graduated from Sparta High School then briefly served in the U.S. Navy until he was honorably discharged. In 1951, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from State Teachers College (UW-Stevens Point). While there, Chuck met Carole Rae Gilbertson and they were married on June 7, 1952 at St. Paul's Methodist Church. In 1968, Chuck earned his Master of Science degree in educational administration from UW-Madison.

“Mr. Bruce” taught, then served as elementary school principal at Webster, Douglas, Lebanon, and Concord schools. He expected good behavior but also saw humor in occasional misdeeds, and “made a difference” for his students. Chuck was a member of Christ United Methodist Church, Watertown. He gave his time and talents to his church, family, friends and students. Chuck was an Eagle Scout, an active member of Lions Club for over 25 years, and was intelligent, social, and fun to be around – known to be a prankster. He enjoyed woodworking, listening to music of his generation – mostly big band and swing, and loved watching and attending sports – Watertown Goslings, Wisconsin Badgers, Green Bay Packers, the Indy 500 and Masters golf tournament. He was a loving father with high expectations, loved dogs, and

enjoyed summer vacations at Pine Lake. He loved spending time with his grandsons and great-grandchildren and cheering their sports endeavors.

Chuck is survived by his wife Carole, their children Anne Bruce (Pam Miller) of Salem, SC, Tom (Peggy) Bruce of West Bend, WI, and Lis Peterson of Omaha, NE, grandsons Chris (Lacey) Bruce of Markesan, WI, Chad (Amber) Bruce of Wauwatosa, WI, and Bob Bruce (fiancée Laura Jansma) of Ripon, WI, and great-grandchildren Brayden and Lucas Bruce of Markesan, and Cormac and Aoife Bruce of Wauwatosa. Chuck is also survived by his brother, Bill (Mary) Bruce of Lakewood, Colorado, sister-in-law Dorothy (Gilbertson) Mott of Madison, many nieces and nephews, other relatives, and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Barbara (Bruce) Jefferson Jackson, brothers-in-law Earl "Brub" Jefferson, Grant Jackson, James Mott, Marshall Cornell and sister-in-law Betty (Gilbertson) Cornell.

The committal service will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Sparta, Wisconsin. A memorial service will be held in Watertown, WI at a future date.

Special thanks to Prisma Health Hospice of the Foothills in Seneca, SC.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Christ United Methodist Church in Watertown, WI (112 Hall St., Watertown, WI 53094; 920/261-0736; or [www.watertowncumc.com](http://www.watertowncumc.com)); and to Lion's Club (Lions Clubs International Foundation, Department 4547, Carol Stream, IL 60122; or [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate)).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Charles William Bruce*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Mr. Bruce was my teacher and principal at Webster School in the early 1960s. In the mornings another teacher taught our class while Mr. Bruce did his principal duties in the attached office. In the afternoons Mr. Bruce taught our 6th grade class. In the fall of 1963 I was the student seated in back, closest to his office door. On one particular day--July 22, 1963--it was my job to answer his office phone if it rang while he was teaching. Sure enough, the phone rang and I slipped out of my seat into the principal's office to answer it. I'll never forget what the caller said: "Young lady, I need to speak to Mr Bruce. President Kennedy has been assassinated." Some things you never forget.*

*To this day, whenever I drive down Western Avenue and pass the house where the Bruce family lived back-in-the-day, I think of him fondly.*

*My prayers are with the family at this time of loss. He was a wonderful man! ☐*

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**Carol Senn Ruffin** - August 09, 2020 at 02:47 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss.*



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**Teresa Burrell** - July 25, 2020 at 07:47 PM

JS

“ *Mr. Bruce was my grade school principal at Douglas elementary in Watertown. He demanded respect and I willingly gave it. He respected me as well. I learned what respect was about. My condolences to the Bruce family. This is a rough period. I pray that God is gentle with you.*

*Julia Stanke*

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**Julia Stanke** - July 23, 2020 at 07:10 AM

SM

“ *To Charles Bruce Family, I'm so sorry to learn about Chuck. The last I saw Carole and Chuck was at a Madison McCoy Family Reunion about 3-4 years ago. Both were looking happy. We were so glad to see them after so many years. I didn't know how Carole met Chuck and learned from the obituary. Of course! It was the Stevens Point connection! I know that Carole, Betty and Dorothy helped my mom out when my dad was in the service. I have fond memories of the Stevens Point home and Buddy the dog. Fond memories. Peace and blessings to all of Chuck's family.*

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**Sharyn Meagher** - July 18, 2020 at 06:51 PM

PH

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad time.*



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**Patricia Holcombe** - July 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ *Kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles William Bruce*



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**Kathy addis** - July 16, 2020 at 04:34 PM



“ *Mr. Bruce was my sixth grade teacher at Webster School in Watertown, Wisconsin back in the late 1950s. He was both the principal and a teacher. He was sincerely a very good teacher. I can even now visualize in my mind the classroom and his teaching after a moment in the attached Principal's Office, which I avoided totally. In every sense of the word he was an educational professional. Wishing the Bruce family well and give you all my condolences.*

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**Dwayne Senn** - July 16, 2020 at 12:14 PM



“ *To all the Bruce family,  
My deepest sympathies to the entire Bruce family. He will always be Mr. Bruce to me, since my days at Douglas School in the 70's where I was blessed to meet and become lifelong friends with Lis. I never had the distinction of having a one-on-one in his office, I'm proud to say! Rejoice in the knowledge that he is at rest with the Lord. I pray that a lifetime of happy memories will be with you all. ❤️  
Lori and Jeff Boeder*

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**Lori Boeder** - July 15, 2020 at 08:13 PM