

Charles Thornton Pettigrew

February 26, 1946 - January 6, 2021

Charles Thornton Pettigrew (“Charley”), 74, of Napa, California passed away on January 6, 2021 at his home. Charley was born in San Mateo, CA to Vincent Raymond Pettigrew and California Charlene Pettigrew in 1946. He went to Hillsdale High School in San Mateo and graduated in 1964. He served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968, including in the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam in 1968. Living in Napa for over 50 years, he was a dedicated member of the Catholic community and regularly attended mass at St. John’s and St. Apollinaris. Charley developed a quiet sense of accomplishment and pride during his career as an Ironworker. He was an active member of Local Union 378 for 31 years, contributing to the construction of the San Francisco Airport, the Warm Springs Dam, the Four Seasons in San Francisco, the Green Island Railroad Crossing and the Elihu Harris Building among other projects in the Bay Area.

He enjoyed reading, history, classic European cars, and following automobile racing. He expressed his creativity through building projects at home, welding the impressive gate at his home today. Charley treasured a close-knit group of longtime friends. He was deeply bonded with his friends at Imports Unlimited for over 50 years. In his retirement, “Friday Donuts” at the shop was a ritual that he looked forward to every week. On another front, fun and lively conversations filled early morning Wednesdays for Charley and Karen at the Breakfast Club.

Family was the center of Charley’s life. He was our pillar and we were his

strength. Charley is survived by his wife Karen of Napa, his two children, Brie Noel Pettigrew Aalto (Emilius) of Santa Clara, CA and Charles California Pettigrew (Crystal) of Winters, CA, his brother, David McMillan Pettigrew (June) of Sebastopol, four grandsons, Peyton California Pettigrew, Arthur Johan Raymond Aalto, Logan California Pettigrew, and Mahon Curran Take Aalto, one niece, Sasha Ann Pettigrew of Valencia, Spain, one nephew, Gabriel Richard Pettigrew of Portland, OR, and his mother-in-law, Barbara Pedersen of Napa.

Charley is preceded in death by his mother, California Charlene Pettigrew, his father, Vincent Raymond Pettigrew, and his brother Vincent Raymond Pettigrew Jr.

Funeral Mass will be held by St. Apollinaris Catholic Church outside on January 19, 2021 at 11 am with Father Fergal McGuinness officiating. Burial will follow at Tulocay Cemetery in Napa. All events will be outside and masks are required. When gatherings are safe again, there will be a memorial at the Pettigrew home and garden for all family, friends, and colleagues.

The family greatly appreciates Dr. Thomas Suard's personal and outstanding care for 35 years. Gratefully, we honor all of Charley's UCSF medical caregivers these past six and a half years, especially his Sarcoma Team doctors: Dr. R. Wustrack, Dr. T. Jahan, Dr. M. Mann, and Dr. A. Gottschalk. We also wish to thank newer members of his medical team: Dr. S. Piawah, Dr. V. Mittal, and Dr. N. Damle. Britta Wallace, Queen of the Valley Lymphedema Specialist, contributed immensely to Charley's quality of life.

Memorial donations may be made to: If Given A Chance Foundation (Napa); Salvation Army; Cancer Wellness Center at Queen of the Valley Hospital (Napa); Wounded Warrior Project; and the UCSF Sarcoma Center.

Cemetery Details

Tulocay Cemetery

411 Coombsville Rd
Napa, CA 94558

Previous Events

Mass

JAN 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Apollinaris Catholic Church
3700 Lassen St
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 257-2555

Graveside Service

JAN 19. 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (PT)

Tulocay Cemetery
411 Coombsville Rd
Napa, CA 94558

Tribute Wall



“ *Charles Thornton Pettigrew*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Charles Thornton Pettigrew*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *I lived across the street from Charlie (C T) and his family for about 10 years in the 1950s. Charlie and I were the same age and we went to school together for a couple of years, and were in the same Cub Scout den. Charlie and I and his brothers played simple sports and went to the movies. As I remember, his dad worked at Bethlehem Steel in So. San Francisco and he sponsored a Cub Scout field trip to the facility. Nice family (although I didn't like their big German shepherd!)*

Ken Schieck

Ken Schieck - May 27, 2021 at 02:04 PM



“ *Lori Lallement lit a candle in memory of Charles Thornton Pettigrew*



Lori Lallement - January 25, 2021 at 06:03 PM

KO

“ For Karen and the Pettigrew family, Giuseppe and I send our deepest condolences. I met Charley when he was doing rehab at Piner's on California Blvd. Giuseppe took me because he kept coming home telling me about his time visiting with Charley and I told him I wanted to meet this guy who apparently was so funny and wise. And, boy, was he. Giuseppe took me multiple times and I absolutely loved my visits with Charley. Once he was home, he and Giuseppe would chat on the phone and I'd periodically add myself to the conversation.

I didn't know Charley for very long but I knew he was a very special person. He's in a peaceful place and can rest now. Love to Karen and all of the family from Giuseppe Cammaroto and Kathy Oates.

Kathy Oates - January 18, 2021 at 08:55 PM

SB

“ To our Beloved Friends Karen, Brie and Cal,

We hold you and your family members in our hearts as we honor your gifted Charley. He was an outstanding friend and human being. We don't have the words to adequately express our condolences.

In memory of Charley we have made a donation to If Given A Chance Foundation.

*With love & respect,
Sherry & Joel Breitigam*

Sherry Breitiam - January 18, 2021 at 01:54 PM

BW

“ Thinking of you Karen and family members!

I am saddened by the news of Charley's passing but am full of love and gratitude for having a friend in Charley. We shared many laughs and his dedication (& Karen's) to his lymphedema program was the reason for his success in controlling this chronic condition. My deepest sympathy and love to you all. I will be in touch!

*With love,
Britta*

Britta Wallace - January 15, 2021 at 09:00 PM

KD

“ Condolences and prayers to Karen, Brie, Cal, and family. We are forever blessed to have been the recipients of Charley's kindness, generosity, and welcoming nature. May he delight in seeing the face of his God! --Kevin & Claire Daw

Kevin Daw - January 15, 2021 at 03:49 PM

RN

“ Karen, Brie, & Cal,
*We're so very sorry to learn of Charley's passing. I always enjoyed talking with him about family (we both loved to brag about our kids), politics, and the old days. Synergy won't be the same without him. He was so easy to talk with it seemed like we were best friends just hanging out. His friendliness and kind nature is a great example of a good life well lived.
Your beautiful family is a wonderful tribute to him.
Love, Richard & Marsha Niemann*

Richard Niemann - January 14, 2021 at 07:27 PM



“ Dear Karen and family. I was so sorry to see that Charley died. He was such a cheerful spirit and it was a joy to have known him so long ago. Catherine Scott (Smith) Linden

Catherine Linden - January 14, 2021 at 11:38 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Thornton Pettigrew.

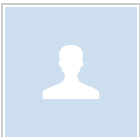


January 13, 2021 at 08:40 PM



“ Charlie and Karen were so kind, and hosted our wedding at their gorgeous home in 2014. We will always remember Charlie's warmth and big heart, and family was so lucky to know him and call him a friend. A donation was made in Charlie's memory to If Given A Chance. We hope his family can find some comfort during this sad time in remembering all of the lives that Charlie touched. —Jessica & Rob

Jessica - January 13, 2021 at 09:50 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Thornton Pettigrew.



January 13, 2021 at 12:52 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Thornton Pettigrew.*



January 12, 2021 at 10:23 PM