

Charlie Lord

Oh Charlie! How we miss that broad smile; that bear hug of a greeting; that raucous laugh that told us everything would be alright. You were one of our heroes: to Sally and me, and to our children and grandchildren. The very night before you were med-evacked off Nantucket last August, you came to see 12 year-old granddaughter Tess play Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz", and told her to "...save a ticket for you at her Broadway debut".

Such a **kind** and **generous** and **instantly likable** man. Your family called you "**Big Guy**"-- big in build, and big in heart. You had **scores** of life-long friends.

William Butler Yeats wrote just weeks before he died,

"Think where man's glory most begins and ends,
And say **my** glory was I had such friends."

Indeed, you had "**such friends**". You and Gay had friends from **everywhere**---good friends. It seemed that whenever Sally and I would come to your house in Washington or Nantucket we would always meet another friend, or a daughter or son of a friend, or a friend of a friend. And we would invariably get a warm introduction and welcome.

I first met Charlie at Yale; but our friendship flourished well after graduation. It was **just like Charlie** to embrace new friends and be open to new confidences. But in his heart he had a special place for his Yale classmates, many of whom are here today.

He was our leader, Class Secretary for 10 years. In those years he wrote our class column in the Yale Alumni Magazine, 8 or 10 times a year. His columns were, like him, gracious, funny, and interesting. Yet, he saved his special empathy for the unfortunate

classmates who had passed away. His brief obits were always moving.

The name, **Charlie**, begins with a “C”, and I think the three qualities which made him so extraordinary also begin with a “C”: **Curiosity, Courage, and Compassion.**

Curiosity: Charlie was unfailingly curious. Whether it was trying a new lure to catch those elusive bluefish, or learning about young Charlie’s carbon offset calculations, or Tim’s latest educational gambit, or Deirdra’s connections to the electrical grid. During his life he lived in four countries, 16 houses, and spoke many languages- admittedly, all more or less derivative from Spanish. In trips we had to Yorkshire, Provence, and the Amalfi Coast, Charlie never tired of new dishes, new views, or new driving experiences—some pretty hairy.

Courage: What **courage** he and Gay had in coming to grips with the death of their beloved grandchildren, Hayden and Cameron. Showing courage not only in dealing with this double tragedy but in turning this **loss** into a permanent **gain** for all Tay-Sachs families. The Hayden and Cameron Lord Foundation funds advanced research into the causes of this dreaded disease and assists parents in coping with their children’s affliction.

And what **courage** Charlie showed in coming to terms with his own dementia. Over the last few years he faced his short term memory loss with honesty and humor. He would doggedly try to turn a chance remark into a good pun. However, failure to succeed did not occasion less persistent efforts.

He knew his memory was failing, his frame of reference diminishing; but he was never-the-less a delightful conversationalist, a boon dinner companion, and a marvelous storyteller. And he had a smile for everyone.

Compassion: Charlie had compassion for so many things: for education, for the environment, for the less fortunate, and yes, even for the New York Giants. But his real passion was for his family: for Charlie, Blythe, Taylor and Eliza; for Tim, Allie, Annie and Mary; and for Dierdre, Alex, and Charlie. **And for Gay:** how he loved you, and how you returned that love. Your all embracing, passionate partnership set the standard among your friends, even down to his using your Gbird email address.

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I ~~turn to~~ Charlie's last words in his personal essay in our 50th Reunion Yearbook: - *10 years ago*

Quote: "My faith affirms my prayer that one day we will find a path to reconciliation in this country, a day when every individual, regardless of economic class, race, gender or sexual orientation will be cherished and supported by every other individual. I also pray that we can find a way to peace in the world, when the most powerful nations work harmoniously together to eradicate the causes of international strife and protect the environment for our children and surviving grandchildren."

What a guy! **Goodbye** my dear friend. **How much** we have all been increased by knowing you. **How much** we loved you.

Tersh Boasberg 10.29.16