



Damon

Charles Thorsrud

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Obituary

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Jun 7, 1950 -

Dec 17, 2023

On Dec. 17, 2023, Chuck Thorsrud passed away quietly in Homer, Alaska. This remarkable man who created a legacy of love, adventure and service was surrounded by his daughters, wife and youngest sister as they spent hours telling tales of his life. When everything quieted down and became peaceful, Chuck decided it was time to go.

Chuck, or Charlie as his family and Midwestern friends call him, was born in Marshall, Minn., on June 7, 1950. When he was 7 years old, the Thorsruds moved north to Anchorage, Alaska, where Chuck's dad worked at the still in existence 4th Avenue Army-Navy store. Within a year, they returned to Minnesota and later settled in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Chuck grew up duck and pheasant hunting, fishing and honing his shooting skills. He graduated from Cedar Falls High School and went on to graduate from Mankato State University.

In early 1974, Chuck moved up to the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, on a Yamaha 750 motorcycle. Riding through snow along the way, Chuck arrived at Jim and Nedra Evenson's homestead in North Kenai. That homestead - the land, the lakes, his aunt and uncle - became his and later his own family's cherished Alaska place of the heart.

Chuck enjoyed a distinguished career as a Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer that spanned three regions and earned him respect throughout the state. Adventures never stopped. Once on patrol, as a new Trooper in the middle of nowhere, he questioned the Brothers motorcycle gang. He was assigned to the P/V Enforcer, a boat that worked winter fisheries, requiring pounding thick ice off the structure. After spending a week camping in Denali National Park, Chuck and Chris married, overlooking Marie Lake on the Evenson Homestead, on July 8, 1978, with old timers, family and friends.

The State transferred Chuck and family to Petersburg in Southeast Alaska. Our assumption was he would fit well in a Norwegian town with the last name Thorsrud. The State boat had a leaky raft; on one trip the lieutenant came down from Juneau, and they headed west in the boat. In rough waters, Chuck told his boss that if something happened, the survival suit was his and the Lt. had the leaky raft. Sure enough, a new, non-leaking raft arrived shortly after. Mountain goat hunting on top of the Coastal Range tested Chuck's daring and once resulted in spending the night

up high wrapped in a bear skin. One year, that same old Yamaha 750 took Chuck and Chris 2400 miles around the west coast. Their time in a special town also brought the birth of the family's first daughter, Erica Renee, on March 6, 1980.

Next was Tok in the Interior for 10 years. The Interior brought close friends, astonishing northern lights, hunting Dall sheep, moose and caribou; and working the Bristol Bay commercial fisheries. Chuck learned to fly and loved it, buying a Bellanca Scout and putting many hours on the plane. Once on patrol down Chicken Trail, he heard a bullet go off, simultaneously dove off the four-wheeler as he felt the bullet go by the side of his head - being mistaken for a caribou of course. His off work days included smoking salmon and moose salami, rainbow trout fishing with two young daughters, standing in below zero temperatures watching Erica and Sara play ice hockey, and he became known for the rest of his life as the best prime rib roast griller at 30 below zero. On Sept. 7, 1982, Sara Michele was born, adding even more excitement to the family.

Returning to Homer in 1992, Chuck worked the Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries as well as hunting season and sport fishing until his retirement in 1997. He spent many hours at the high school watching sports and band concerts. Over many years he attended the State Trap Shoot in Fairbanks, winning awards as a tough competitor. He helped coach the Kachemak Bay Skeeters trap shooting team, bought the F/V Nedra E and Upper Cook Inlet fishing permit and frequently returned to the upper Midwest to see his father and hunt pheasant. Chuck's dream of a lifetime were two trips to Namibia; his stories were filled with the wildlife, land and friends he made on the other side of the planet. Chuck never wanted to live anywhere other than Alaska; as the years went by, he ventured Outside less and less. This part of the world was always where he wanted to be.

Chuck was a man of unwavering integrity and character leading a life rich in experiences, relationships and unforgettable moments. His love for his family was boundless, evident in countless moments of joy and wisdom he shared. His legacy is a testament to a life well-lived, one of love and adventure.

Chuck's family includes his wife, Chris; daughters, Erica (Benjamin and grandkids Alex and Cate) and Sara (Christopher and grandkids Isabella and Brayden); sisters and families, Teri Weidemann, Christine Williams and Marie Wessely; cousin, Thor Evenson and family; and friends near and far. He also leaves Armor, his Belgian Malinois who can jump seven feet at a standing start.

Chuck is predeceased by his parents, Damon Bobzine Thorsrud and Marjorie Irene Van Sant; and aunt and uncle, James and Nedra Evenson. A day of remembering, stories and honoring Chuck will be held in Homer in spring 2024.