



Charles Douglas Pecha

August 4, 1932 - August 29, 2024

Charles Douglas Pecha, 92, passed away peacefully with his wife by his side on August 29th, 2024. Charles was born in Mosinee, Wisconsin, on August 4th, 1932 to Frank and Henrietta Pecha. At a very young age, Charles moved with his family to Elk Point, South Dakota, where he grew up on a farm. Charles graduated from Elk Point high school in 1950 and immediately enrolled in a summer school program to become a teacher. That fall, after just turning 18 years old, he began teaching in a rural one-room classroom near Elk Point. Nearing the end of his first year of teaching, a group of his friends dropped by to inform him that they were going to join the Navy and wanted to know if he would like to also join along with them. He left his one-room classroom behind and spent the next four years in the Navy with his service split primarily between Key West, Florida and Port Lyautey in French Morocco, North Africa. Upon discharge from the Navy, Charles began attending the Black Hills Teacher's College in Spearfish, South Dakota.

In 1958, Charles graduated with a teaching degree in Industrial Arts and, following a phone interview, accepted a teaching position with Omak High School for "one or two years" as he said and then they would move back to South Dakota. His "one or two years" turned into a long career with Omak High School, eventually retiring after 51 years of employment with the school district.

While attending college, Charles met Joyce Rickett and in 1956 the two were married in Sioux City, Iowa. Once realizing that their “one or two years” in Omak might turn into a longer stay, Charles and Joyce bought their first and only home they would ever own in 1963 and together spent the next 50+ years working on numerous home-improvement projects.

Charles is survived by his wife of 67 years, Joyce, their three sons; Terry and his wife Tammy (Osborne) of Snohomish, Tom and his wife Lori (Buck) of Spokane, Tim and his wife Melody (Bowden) of Omak, nine grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held 11:00 am, Friday, September 20th 2024 at the Okanogan Valley Memorial Gardens.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Okanogan Valley Memorial Gardens
214 Conconully Road
Okanogan, WA 98840

Tribute Wall



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Charles Douglas Pecha.*



September 17, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ *Brenda D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Douglas Pecha.*

Brenda D. - September 17, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ *Carol S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Douglas Pecha.*

Carol S. - September 07, 2024 at 02:03 PM



“ *Mr. Pecha remains in my memory as a favorite high school teacher. Not only did I gain extensive photography knowledge from him I also met one of my lifelong favorite friends in his class. And Driver's Ed!!! Mr. Pecha was most certainly a very brave man to take on the task of teaching us all how to drive :) He had a wonderful sense of humor that complimented his patience and kindness. Condolences and prayers going out to his family during their time of loss. Mr. Pecha will certainly be missed in this world.*

Alexis - September 06, 2024 at 12:26 PM

MC

My memories of Mr. Pecha are quite similar to Alexis. He was very patient and soft spoken, and always so dear. I loved his quiet sense of humor - I felt like he genuinely cared about teaching me and wanted me to do well. I remember, early on in drivers ed. , we went onto the high way. I was very nervous and was creeping along at around 30 miles an hour.

From the passenger seat, I heard "Ok, Mary. Go ahead and speed up now." So I bravely went to 35. I heard that calm, patient voice "Good job. A little faster now." And I got the car up to 40. Then something startled him, and I heard "FLOOR IT MARY!"

So I did! And I kept the gas pedal On. The. Floor. Until, once again in his patient voice, he said " I think you're going fast enough. You can ease up on the gas. "

I felt like Harrison Ford, the first time the Millieium Falcon hit hyperspace.

He got me slowed down sufficiently to take the last exit into Okanogan so someone else could drive.

Bless his heart. That man had nerves of steel.

But you know what else I learned from him, besides how to safely operate a vehicle?

He taught me how to teach someone to drive. I taught both my kids, using the same, unflappable demeanor and quiet voice. I'm proud to say they are both excellent drivers now. And I owe Mr. Pecha a big Thank you for that as well.

Mr. Pecha was a credit to his profession, and a genuinely good man. My sincerest condolences to his family.

mary walls connacher - September 09, 2024 at 03:35 AM

SD

“*Mr. Pecha was and still is a man who inspired me to better in all I do. He is one of the main reasons I decided to move from Elementary teaching to Middle school and have the opportunity to introduce students to photography the same as he did for me. He has a legacy at our school that will live on through many generations.*

Steven Duncan - September 05, 2024 at 10:09 PM

TH

“ Terry and Marilyn, Barb and Harry purchased the Amazing Grace 44" Sonnet for the family of Charles Douglas Pecha.



Terry and Marilyn, Barb and Harry - September 05, 2024 at 09:23 PM

MG

“ Mr. Pecha was my teacher for Graphic Arts and Drivers Education. Then I joined our high school newspaper The Red and Black Special which he was the Advisor. In my Senior year he selected me to be the Editor. He worked very hard to make sure that Barb and I had a successful year. It especially meant a lot because I had also lost my mom early in the year to a heart attack. His constant encouragement and mentorship helped me through and meant a great deal to me. He was a great teacher and a kind man. Thank you

Mary (Tritle) Gordon - September 05, 2024 at 08:56 PM

DC

“ Mr. Pecha was one of the best teachers I have ever had. I took every class he taught and enjoyed learning skills I have used for my careers over the years. One of my careers was teaching at Omak and Mr. Pecha became a fellow teacher. He continued to help me learn and it was great teaching beside him. He will always be remembered as an exceptional teacher and friend. Dennis Carlton

Dennis Carlton - September 05, 2024 at 02:56 PM

YS

Mr. Pecha was one of the most influential teachers I had. He set me on my life work path. Besides I enjoyed my classes with him. Yvonne Cusick Simmermon

Yvonne Simmermon - September 05, 2024 at 09:03 PM

BM

I have always heard positive comments about Mr. Pecha. I remember him as a teacher who wanted his students to succeed and he worked hard to make this happen. I am sure Omak High School is thankful for his years of service.

Betty McKee - September 05, 2024 at 11:59 PM

LM

*Oh Mr.Pecha!!! You will always have a place in my heart!!! You were a great teacher- art, photography, graphic arts, drivers ed and skiing!!! You inspired me so!!! I still have my photography album and my mosaic table and other memorabilia from your classes.
Sending love and comfort to family and all who knew him.
Rest in peace Mr. Pecha!! You will be greatly missed!❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️*

Laurel Jeanne Nilson Mitzner - September 09, 2024 at 10:33 AM

MH

“ Great teacher and kind man! Well done faithful servant!

monte heggie - September 05, 2024 at 01:11 PM

KG

I remember him well. Loved him as a teacher. God Speed 🙏

KAREN GRANT - September 05, 2024 at 02:05 PM

SS

Had Mr Pecha for a teacher and a drivers ed teacher i'm sure i probably scared him a few times too. Thank you for hauling our skis up to the loup every Saturday.

Scott Suder - September 05, 2024 at 08:41 PM