



## Charles A Ruslavage

February 5, 1932 - February 15, 2016

Charles Anthony Ruslavage, 84, of Clarion, passed away on Monday, February 15, 2016 at the U.P.M.C. Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh.

He was the last member of his immediate family.

Charlie was born on February 5, 1932 in Coaldale, the son of Charles and Paetronella Zalis Ruslavage.

He graduated from Coaldale High School in 1949.

Charlie joined the US Coastguard in 1950 and served till 1952 and then later graduated from Penn State University in 1958, where he played football under head coach Rip Engle and Joe Paterno.

He was first married to Leona Kluckowski in August 1960, who preceded him in death, he then married Janet Harding on December 29, 1984, and she survives.

After college, Charlie taught and coached football at Allegheny College in Meadville, he then moved on to Clarion in 1964 where he coached in 1964 to 1988, including head coach in the 1983 season where he was proud of his record with numerous winning seasons.

Charlie was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion, where he was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He was a member of the Clarion Oaks Golf Course, the Penn State Football Letterman's Club, the Wrestling Club at CUP, and the "Audubon Society Poker Club"!

Charlie was the official timer for Golden Eagle Wrestling from 1966 to 2005

and served as timer at the finals at the National Tournament twice.

He enjoyed watching Penn State and Clarion University Football and Wrestling and tailgating.

Charlie also enjoyed playing golf, cards, gardening, and is well known for his Christmas cookies.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Ruslavage, three sons, Michael "Micky" Ruslavage of Hampton, Virginia, Charles "Chuck" Ruslavage of Canonsburg, Robert "Rob" Ruslavage of Nashville, Tennessee, two daughters, Suzanne Ruslavage of West Warwick, Rhode Island, Amy Ruslavage of Hamburg, PA, ten grandchildren, Amanda, Kayla, Rachel, Danielle, Damien, Craig, Cody, Catherine, Nicole, and Ashton, two great grandchildren, Avery and Sawyer, five step-children, Jeff Harding of State College, Jim Harding of Sarasota, Florida, Judy Ligo of Grove City, Jennifer Harding of Annapolis, Maryland, and Greg Harding of Canandaigua, New York, and eleven step grandchildren. Charles was preceded in death by his first wife, his parents, one daughter, Denise Avery, who died January 9, 2016, his brothers, Joseph Ruslavage and Gordon Ruslavage, his sisters, Mary Ruslavage, Theresa Repinec, Frances Witkofsky, and Debbie Baatz.

Family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion, where a Christian Wake Service will be held in the Funeral Home at 8 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2016 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion with Rev. Monty Sayers, pastor as presider.

Interment will follow in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Dare to Dream Football Scholarship Fund CUP Foundation Inc., 840 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214.

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# Tribute Wall

MS

“ Dear Mick, Chuck, and all,  
I am very sorry to hear about your father's passing. Please know that I am thinking of you all at this time. Your father was such a happy man. He always reminded me of John Wayne! xoxo  
Sincerely,  
Margie (Nanz) Smilowitz

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**Margie (Nanz) Smilowitz** - May 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Yes, coach R was a good friend; when I was benched by Al jacks, he comforted me, as I have no wife.

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**Joe Abal** - March 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Dear Jan, I'm so sorry for your loss. May God Bless you and your family during this difficult time. Friend of agriculture. Its always good to see you at ag events. Blessings, jackie and Donald Everitt

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**Jackie Everitt** - March 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ My sincere sympathy goes out to the Ruslavage family.

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**Dale Jordan** - February 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ Mickey, We are so sorry for your loss! You always, always talked so highly of your Dad! We know you will miss him, we are truly so sorry for your loss! We love you!

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**Jeff & Pam Usher** - February 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ So very sorry to hear about Charleys death. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Leah Archibeque - February 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Jan, so sorry to hear about your husband. We here in Warren County will be praying for you and your family. May God bless you and keep you.  
Love, Warren County Dairy Princess and committe

Charles Harding - February 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My condolences. I was a teammate of Charlie at PSU. A Class person. Always jovial and willing to help when asked. I often think of Charlie and our times in practice and playing at PSU. I will always remember him and on of these days meet again. God bless his family and always keep in your thoughts of how wonderful a person he was. As Rip Engle would say "CLASS ALL THE WAY". Rest in peace Charlie, your work on earth is completed.

John Bozick - February 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ May the thoughts and prayers of those who know you comfort you at this time of sorrow.

Jean Sollenberger - February 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ To the Ruslavage Family:  
May God grant you comfort for your tears and strength for the days ahead. 'We are....'

Pete Ochsner - February 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ I was sorry for hearing of the passing to Coach Ruslavage. He was a great person and I always respected him as a man and coach. I will remember his sense of humor and his laugh. You will be in our thought and prayers.  
God bless.

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**Fran Sirianni** - February 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Jan and all, please accept our prayers and condolences on the death of Charlie. God grant you Peace and strength during this time.

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**Kunz Family** - February 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Sympathy to the Ruslavage and Harding family. Charlie was a very special and unique person. May time and special memories bring comfort to you at this time of sorrow.  
Milo and Betty Reibson

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**Milo and Betty Reibson** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Thoughts and prayers to all of the friends and family... Coach will be missed.

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**Art Walker** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Janet I am so sorry for your loss. I remember the many times we would stop to pick Charlie up for a great time on the golf course. Charlie was a super friend of mine and I will cherish that for the rest of my life.

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**Ron Whitehill** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ My sincere condolences to you and your family during this difficult time.

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**Mark Lawn** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Dear Ruslavage Family,

*I found this especially difficult to write because Coach was one of the most important role models in my life and because I know many of you especially Chuck and Mickey. I also knew Denise quite well and I want to express my condolences, she was a great girl, with a lot of her dad in her!*

*I'll remember your dad as a man full of surprises and a “sources of life lessons” that seemed come from him naturally and without judgement.... I will miss that about him. And I'm not talking about football lessons, although there were plenty of those! I'm talking about the things that shape a good person, a healthy person, a interested person.*

*For instance, he encouraged me to stick with an exercise program that I enjoyed through life as he did with handball and golf.*

*On the football field he encouraged me to think outside the box and contribute to the on-field strategies. He made sure I learned from my mistakes while giving me credit for all the successes. Something I do with others in my daily work life and I often credit Coach for that approach.*

*And a few months ago during Soby's funeral Mass I got to see Charlie one more time. I almost didn't recognize him. He was thin and leaning on a cane. We talked about all of you kids and Denise's illness, which I could see weighed heavy on him.*

*I will always treasure that last meeting with Coach which provided the context for his final lesson: After struggling to the alter that night, he delivered a reading that was eloquent and sincere, it was beautiful, it was perfect.*

*I didn't get to see your dad after the Mass, I wish I did. I would have thanked him for demonstrating that intelligence, compassion and*

*grace are qualities worth emulating. Besides I would have just like to talk to him a little more, to tell him one more time how much I appreciated him.*

*God bless all of you and thank you for sharing your dad with us. I'll miss him greatly.*

*Mark  
'84*

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**Mark Andrekovich** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *Dear Aunt Jan and rest of family,  
So sorry to hear of Charlie's passing. He had a good life and wonderful family 2 times over even. May you find comfort and peace these next few days as we all celebrate his life, knowing where he is now. God bless all of you. Love you, Sharon & RickBOEZ8*

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**Sharon Goldsmith** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *My deepest sympathies and prayers to you Jan and the entire family. Charlie was a wonderful man and will be missed. One of the sweetest memories of him was his delicious Christmas cookies he baked. May God and loving memories of Charlie give you comfort.*

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**Donna Werley** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I would like to extend my heart felt condolences to the family of Coach Ruslavage. He was a pillar on the coaching staff during the 60's, 70's and 80's and put together tough defensive strategies for opposing offenses. He also always made some time for 1 or 2 Polish jokes during practice. (today that would be politically incorrect) I have always cherished my days as a Clarion FB player under the staff of Al Jacks, Charlie Ruslavage, Dick Pae and Gene Soboleski. It doesn't get any better than those guys! Sincerely, Jay E. Gainor, '74

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**Jay Gainor** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Janet, Danielle, and Family,  
Chuck will be greatly missed. I first met him at the Clarion YMCA and he always had a smile on his face when he came in.  
May Jesus show you His love in amazing ways as you remember Chuck.

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**Jennifer Hurrelbrink** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Coach meant a lot to me. He taught me so much about football and coaching. I especially enjoyed his visits to our games at Freeport when I coached at Jeannette. We shared a lot of correspondence over the years. I will truly miss him. I am out of state right now and feel bad I will not be able to attend the funeral.

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**Arthur Tragesser** - February 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ We knew Charlie as the great cook and critique of the recipes for the Dairy Princesses. Not only did he read and sort them, he prepared many of the dishes. Best of all, Charlie's Christmas Nut Horns- Oh the melt in your mouth goodness. Thanks Charlie for your dedication to Jan, because we love her, we loved you too.

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**Charlene Ranck** - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Chuck  
To you and your family  
My deepest sympathies on the loss of your Father  
My thoughts and prayers remain with you  
Ted Sebetich

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**Ted Sebetich** - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I always liked keeping in touch at Christmas and hearing all the news about your kids. I will miss your yearly letter.  
May God give you, his family comfort at this most difficult time.

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**Marlene (Denk) Hill** - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EZ

“ Chuck & family,  
  
Sorry to hear of your loss. You have my deepest sympathy.

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**Ed Zboyovsky** - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ Mick.....there are no words.  
Prayers to you and your family.

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**Gwen Eaker** - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ GOD BLESS!!💕💕💕

Debbie Swartz Bryner - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *My deepest sympathies and prayers. He was a great man!*

Amy Hetrick - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

OS

“ *Words cannot express the sadness I feel for the loss of Charlie. I wish to send my deepest condolences to Jan and the entire family during this difficult time. Charlie was a wonderful man who will be missed by many.*

Onalee Smith-Hall - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ *I am so sorry for your loss Suzanne. Sending love and prayers.*

Anthony Joseph - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *Thinking of all of you in this time of sorrow. Charlie will be missed. I will always remember his delicious Christmas cookies. I know a few coaches who are welcoming him with open arms. Love to all of you!*

Lara (Reish) Bellistri - February 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM