



Le Bon Mot

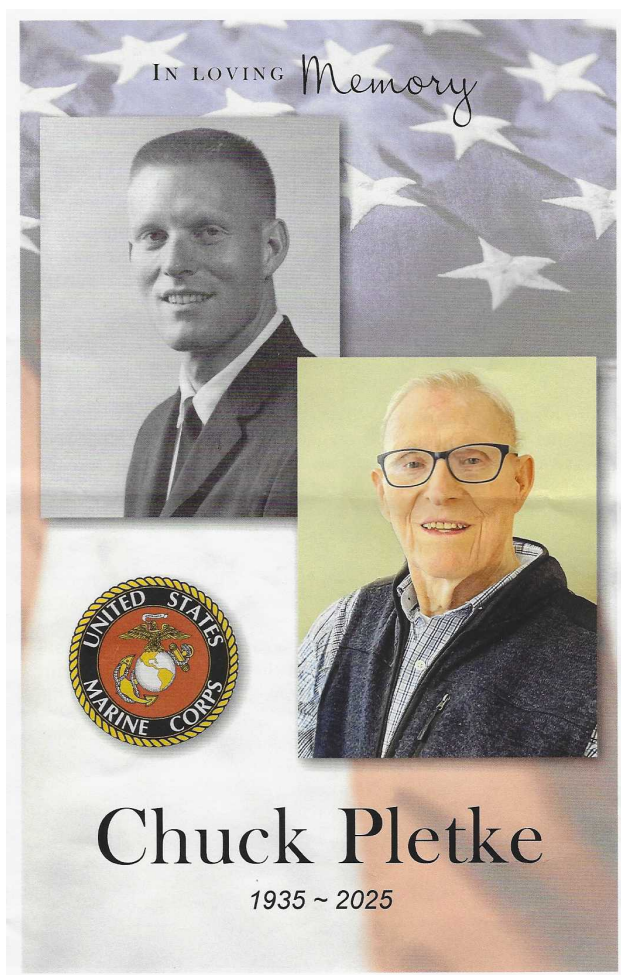


News letter for the John R Mott Chapter of YMCA Retirees of Iowa and Nebraska

May/June Newsletter 2025

IT IS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

TO OUR BELOVED FRIEND



Charles David Pletke, 89, of Waukee, Iowa, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2025 and was received into the loving arms of Jesus.

Chuck was born in the beautiful river town of Winona, Minnesota on October 30, 1935 where spent an idyllic life growing up with his parents, Catharine and Paul Pletke, and his older sister, Marian (Pletke) Jacobson. His growing up years consisted of pick up baseball games, playing handball at the YMCA, fishing, working at Pletke's Grocer and helping his father deliver groceries to the barges coming through on the Mississippi River, pulling pranks, endlessly teasing his mother and sister, "playing" the French horn, and on and on. Noteworthy accomplishments consist of playing on an Olympic bound volleyball team and being a member of the U of Minnesota basketball team. Chuck loved playing and watching sports.

Upon graduation from Winona High School, Chuck hopped around to various colleges trying to find the one with the best fraternities...finally settling in at Cornell College where he made lifelong friends. Upon graduating from college, Chuck spent time at a graduate school for future YMCA leaders (George Williams College in Chicago). He then went into the Marine Corps as an officer and became a Captain. Chuck was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was selected for duty in Vietnam with the Special Forces. He was extremely proud of his service and the association that he had with his brothers in the Marine Corps.

On June 6th, 1964, Chuck married the love of his life, Bonnie, in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1967, Chuck was offered a job as the executive director of the Spencer YMCA. It was at that time that a wonderful match occurred and flourished over the years. Chuck spent tireless hours pouring himself (with the help of many other dedicated community leaders) into helping develop the Spencer YMCA into the community treasure it is today. Along the way, many cherished lifelong relationships were formed within the community.

Chuck and Bonnie enjoyed 30 years of their lives in Spencer. They then moved to Waukee to be closer to family, upon retiring from his beloved Spencer Family YMCA.

Characteristics to describe Chuck include: loyal, servant-heart, humorous, playful, caring, kind, patient, gentle, leader, follower, life-long learner, Christian. Chuck cared deeply about relationships, as they proved to be the cornerstone of his life.

Left to cherish Chuck's memory are children: Cathy (Bill) Raine of Urbandale, Dave (Rachel) Pletke of Waconia, MN, Cindy (Ryan) Blackard of Waukee, Chuck's grandchildren: Tyler (Selina) Roling, Elizabeth (SJ) Risewick, Matthew (Laura) Roling, Katie (Justin) Minger, Tasha (Daniel) Keeling, Andy Sorensen, Ian, Garrett and Andrew Blackard, and Great grandchildren: Jude, Steven, Raymond, Ella, Jace, Charlie, Lily, Annie, Ethan, Jemma, and Amara.

Funeral services will be held at Westview Church in Waukee on Friday, April 18th at 11:00 AM. The service will be live streamed and can be viewed with this link: <https://www.facebook.com/westviewchurch.waukee/>. For anyone wishing to view Chuck, there will be a viewing at 10:00 a.m. prior to the service. Lunch will be served following the service. The family hopes you can stay. A processional will precede the burial which will take place at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter on April 22nd at 2:00 PM. If you wish to be a part of the processional, please meet at Iles Westover Funeral Home, 6337 Hickman Road at 12:45 PM.

For anyone wishing to provide memorial donations, they will go towards the Marine Corps League OR the Spencer Family YMCA. Please make the check out to Cathy Raine if you'd like to donate to the MCL. If you'd like to donate to the Spencer Family YMCA, checks can be sent directly to the Y in Spencer in memory of Chuck.

Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The church was filling as Marv and I, Dodee Pugh and Hank Bagelmann took our places. By the time the service started the church was full.

Representatives from all walks of life that Chuck had touched surrounded us. Some were in Marine Red Dress uniforms, some in black, a little toddler was trying to play, and a little baby slept on her mother's shoulder.

The words spoken by friends and family rang true to the Chuck we had known through the YMCA.

Nick and Nancy Zimmer attended the military internment on Tuesday. "A very impressive service."

"WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT"

REFLECT AND REMEMBER

I hear the 21 gun salute in the background.
The officer barking the orders.
The final goodbye. God Bless.



As an officer: Mary Carol Fish, Chuck Pletke, Beth Oleson, Scottie Sozcek



So proud of his community and military connections.



Other Mott members who have served. Jack Fish, Chuck Pletke, Joe Sozcek, and Hank Bagelmann

On the Road Again

Marv and I continue visiting with members around the state of Iowa. Our last cluster luncheon was in Omaha at Don and Millie's Café. We had a great turnout with new faces WHO JOINED! our Mott Chapter. Welcome to Linda and Joe Butkus and Judy and Ron Davis.

Highlights of the Spring Meeting

The Ozark Chapter knows how to throw a party! We were greeted by the Mayor of St Charles, Dan Borgmeyer followed by the YMCA Director Renee Tillman. Our two speakers for the night were Andrea Allison-Putnam of the Y Retirement Fund (We are solvent.) and Kayla Williams, Senior Manager, of Global Partnerships—World Service.

Everyone stayed to play! We had options of games to play. Pictures below the game Spoons and Right Left Center.

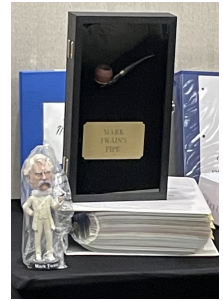


Mary Coates, Louis Warren, Mary Carol Fish



Hank and Jo Bagelmann

The Ozark Chapter always has an auction of Mark Twain's pipe to raise money for EAF. This year they raised \$900.00. Clever, fun, and productive.



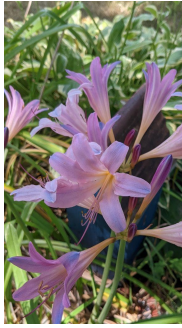
Our tour of historic St Charles, Mo was not dampened by the raining weather. We toured the Lewis and Clark Riverfront Museum and historic buildings downtown.

In the evening, we went back downtown to tour the Coca Cola Museum and Arcade. The museum is a labor of love for the owner and collector. The Arcade follows suit with vintage games. I did not know we had so many pin ball wizards in our group.



Louie Warren and Marv Zimmermann

Monthly Celebrations



Anniversaries May

Dave and Connie Snow 05/28

Birthdays for May

Jim Weaton 05/11

Hazel Coates 05/14

Vicky Roux 05/16

Marv Zimmermann 05/18

Janis Berry 05/26

Anniversaries June

Hank and Jo Bagelmann 06/09

Jon and Lynne Springer 06/10

Birthdays for June

Jan Lauterbach 06/06

Dave Snow 06/11

Scottie Soczek 06/13

Joe Soczek 06/19

Connie Snow 06/20

CHECK OUT THE YMCA ALUMNI
WEBSITE FOR ALL UPDATES!!

www.ymcaalumni.org

How to Donate/Renew

MEMBERSHIP Mail to:

YMCA Alumni Lowell Nees

PO Box 621

Bowlding Green, OH 43402

EAF: Mail to Y USA EAF

101 N Wacker Dr 15th Floor

Chicago, IL 60606

Memo line: designate chapter

NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

Mail to YMCA Alumni Treasurer

PO Box 725

West Chester, OH 45071

Memo line: designate chapter

WORLD SERVICE

Mail to: YMCA of the USA

101 N Wacker Dr

Chicago, IL 60606

Memo line: designate chapter

Mott Chap. Pres.: Marv Zimmermann

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641-792-9518

**Fall meeting dates to be determined
are Oct 14-15 or Oct 21-22 in Omaha.
Planning committee/hosts are Louie
Warren, Hazel Coates .**

Our Mott Chapter goal is 100 %
participation in all Alumni organizations.
Thank you for your support!