

## “From Charles to Beverly” A Love Story Lives On

Valentine’s Day is never easy if you’ve lost the love of your life. That’s true for Charles, who lost his wife Beverly in 2009. This month they would have been celebrating their 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. Charles misses her every day, but the way he honors Beverly’s memory is an extraordinary example of love and generosity. It also shows that Life after Loss can still be filled with meaning – even joy – and the memory of a loved one *can* be kept “alive” in a way that helps others.

Charles and Beverly met in 1970. He immediately knew she was “The One.” “She was gorgeous, great personality and fun to be around.” They were soon inseparable and married in St. John’s Cathedral on February 11, 1977.

They enjoyed a long and happy marriage. Charles, who “loves bugs”, relished his career as an entomologist. “People say if you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life. That’s me.” Beverly enjoyed being a librarian and was an avid gardener. “She loved to grow irises and grew a ‘mean’ tomato.”



Charles and Beverly’s love story was not without challenges. Beverly’s later years were marred by Alzheimer’s disease. He juggled caregiving responsibilities and a fulltime job, but with no family in the area to help, he

eventually had to make the heartbreaking decision to move Beverly into a nursing home. He visited her twice a day. “I hung in there because I took my marriage vows seriously – in sickness and health.”

Eventually Beverly’s health declined and the doctor recommended hospice. Charles chose Hinds Hospice; “the reputation was impeccable.” Beverly passed away shortly afterwards, and Charles began the long struggle to live his life without his soul mate.

The aftermath of Beverly’s death was devastating. Fortunately, Charles knew he could find help at Hinds Hospice’s Center for Grief & Healing. He met with a grief counselor and joined a support group including other “seniors” that had lost their mates. The support group experience was very valuable: “I got other people’s perspective and realized I wasn’t the only one having these feelings.

It really helped hearing how other people were dealing with the same situation. I looked forward to the sessions.”

Charles continued meeting with his grief counselor for several years. This support helped him decide to move back to his hometown in Utah in 2015 to be near family. He says it was a good decision. “I enjoy spending time with my sister, my nephews and their kids. I love going to the kids’ soccer and basketball games.”

*“I WISH I COULD DESCRIBE  
ALL THE WONDERFUL  
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CARE. THEY HELP SO MANY  
PEOPLE IN SO MANY WAYS  
DR. CHARLES SUMMERS*

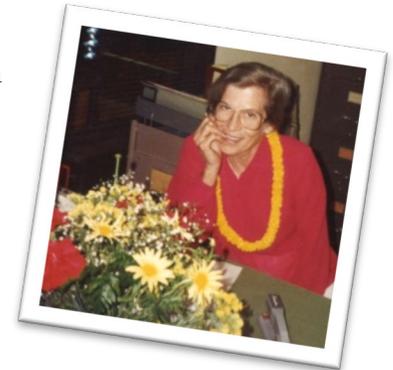
In 2011, he chose to start “giving back” to Hinds Hospice in ways that help him keep Beverly’s memory strong. Over the years, he has supported the monthly bereavement mailings sent by the Center for Grief & Healing to those now experiencing loss. Letters note support provided “by Charles, in loving memory of his wife, Beverly.” This same loving tribute is now included on promotional fliers for the Center’s many support groups, on a memorial brick at the Hospice Home and on a room sponsorship plaque outside Director Kathy Cromwell’s office at the Center for Grief &



Healing. In 2014, Charles added Beverly’s name to the beautiful Butterfly Wall of Remembrance located at 2490 W. Shaw Ave. in Fresno, even though he no longer lives here because “butterflies and entomology go together.” He also has become an annual Patron Sponsor of the Loss of Spouse and Loss of Senior Spouse support groups: “I know what it’s like to lose a spouse.”

“My grief counselor and Hinds Hospice helped me through a very difficult time. I want to make sure others can get such help. I think seniors can be reluctant to participate in support groups. Sometimes it’s because they don’t have much money and are afraid it will cost too much. I want to make sure they can get help even if they cannot pay.”

He adds, “Seeing Beverly’s name honored in so many ways makes me feel warm and fuzzy.” Perhaps that is why Charles allowed us to light a candle in Beverly’s memory and read her name at the 2018 annual Lights of Love Ceremony in December 2018, noting she was being remembered “by her loving husband, Charles.” Charles was in Utah that night – but his presence (and Beverly’s) were both felt - and cherished.



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To learn about the grief support services Charles found so helpful, call the Hinds Hospice Center for Grief & Healing at (559) 248-8579.

To learn about legacy gifting opportunities to honor someone you love, call (559) 320-0308 or send an email to [lpietz@hindshospice.org](mailto:lpietz@hindshospice.org)