Reception and Vigil
for Canon Charles (Chuck) Henry Perfater

July 2, 2019

Trinity Cathedral of the Diocese of New Jersey
801 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
6:00 pm  Reception

The Dean meets the body at the door of the church and says

With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the body of our brother Chuck for burial. Let us pray with confidence to God, the Giver of life, that he will raise him to perfection in the company of the saints.

Silence may be kept; after which the Dean says

Deliver your servant, Chuck, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set him free from every bond; that he may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Let us also pray for all who mourn, that they may cast their care on God, and know the consolation of his love.

Silence may be kept; after which the Dean says

Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of your servants for whom we pray. Remember them, Lord, in mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon them; and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
7:50 pm  Prayers for a Vigil

Dean:  Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Let us pray, then, for our brother Chuck, that he may rest from his labors, and enter into the light of God’s eternal sabbath rest.

Dean:  Receive, O Lord, your servant, for he returns to you.

People:  Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Chuck.

Dean:  Wash him in the holy font of everlasting life, and clothe him in his heavenly wedding garment.

People:  Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Chuck.

Dean:  May he hear your words of invitation, “Come, you blessed of my Father.”

People:  Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Chuck.

Dean:  May he gaze upon you, Lord, face to face, and taste the blessedness of perfect rest.

People:  Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Chuck.

Dean:  May angels surround him, and saints welcome him in peace.

People:  Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Chuck.

The Dean concludes

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our brother Chuck into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let his heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.
CHARLES HENRY PERFATER

Charles H. (Chuck) Perfater passed away June 29, 2019. He leaves behind his loving wife of 63 years, June Cooper Perfater; his son, Jeffrey, of Atlanta, Georgia, his daughter, Susan Zitofsky and one grandson Alexander (Sasha) Zitofsky, of Fanwood, NJ. He was predeceased by his father, Charles Henry Perfater and his mother Alice Wimpenny Perfater. He is also survived by his sister, Elaine Haney, her four sons and families.

Chuck was a lifelong resident of Ewing Township. Shortly after graduating from Trenton High School in 1953, Chuck went to work for NJ Bell Telephone Company as a splicer’s helper/lineman. In 1960, he was selected to enter a competitive, advanced management development program.

This opened the door for a rotational management experience in various departments with increasing responsibilities. In 1983, after numerous middle and upper management assignments he was named General Manager, Installation & Maintenance for NJ Bell. Later that year, as a result of the AT&T Divestiture, he transferred to AT&T as Area Vice President for NJ. In 1985, Chuck was named Area Vice President for the state of New York. He retired from AT&T at the end of 1989 as Access Vice President – Eastern Region. During these years, Chuck took numerous bachelor’s and master’s college courses at Rider, Rutgers, Penn State, and via the AT&T Advanced Management Program.

After retirement, Chuck began a second career as an independent management consultant, largely in the telecommunications arena, which he continued for over a dozen years, including a six month stint in Mexico. His consulting business was interrupted in 1994-1996 when he accepted the call to be the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Episcopal Diocese of NJ. In 2003, Chuck was recruited to be the Executive Coordinator of Province II of the Episcopal Church, a position in which he served until April, 2017.

Chuck was a lifetime parishioner at Trinity Cathedral where he has served in many leadership capacities, including Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Stewardship Chair and Chair of the Trinity Cathedral Community Day Golf Event for ten years. He also served as a lay Eucharistic minister, usher and lay reader.

In the late 1980s, Chuck began a long series of activities with the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey. His initial leadership role was on the Committee for a Unified Budget Exploration, followed by the CFO role in 1994, multiple terms on the Finance & Budget Committee. He has served on the Audit Committee, Board of Missions, Diocesan Council, Episcopal Election Committee, Stewardship Commission and two terms on the Standing Committee. In addition to serving the Diocese, Chuck has contributed to the wider Church as a deputy to its General Convention, where he was assigned to the Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance.

Chuck and June have maintained a summer home on Long Beach Island, where Chuck had become quite active at St. Peter’s at the Light Episcopal Church, including service on the Futures Committee. He was also a multi-term President of the North Beach Taxpayers’ Association. For over thirty years, Chuck was very active in the American Heart Association, including election as Chairman of the Board, NJ Heart Association, and Vice President of the Regional and national organization.

His hobbies included golf, cooking, travel and until recently, skiing. He had been heavily involved in researching his family genealogy. In fact, he recently confirmed that he is a 4th Cousin of the 34th President of the US, Dwight David Eisenhower. Of little interest perhaps is the fact that Chuck has been an aggressive collector of meaningless items. For instance, his genealogy collection includes 9000 inter-connected familial names. Plus, he has accumulated over 1000 logo golf balls, all of which are displayed; well-over 300 scorecards of golf courses he played; over 1200 matchbooks from public establishments throughout the world; ski trail maps from numerous ski resorts; and hundreds of cookbooks and recipes.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Chuck Perfater’s name may be made to Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618, or to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation online at https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/PFFTribute/ChuckPerfater or by mail to 230 E. Ohio Street, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60611. More information on Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis may be found at www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org.