



Charles "Chuck" Jay Lewis

November 3, 1948 - June 21, 2024

Chuck Lewis, a visionary entrepreneur and beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away on June 21, 2024, at the age of 75, following a courageous battle with a Glioblastoma. He was surrounded by his loving family in his home in Austin, Texas.

Chuck was born on November 3, 1948, in Dallas, Texas, where he spent his childhood. He attended Benjamin Franklin Middle School, where he was a cheerleader, attended Hillcrest High and continued on to UT Austin, fostering friendships that have lasted his lifetime.

At UT, Chuck joined the Sammy Fraternity, remaining an active member throughout his college tenure playing intramural softball and playing a lot of poker. To support his education, he worked at the UT computer center, where his fascination with technology began. Chuck graduated with both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business from UT, marking the start of a remarkable career that blended his business acumen with his passion for technology.

Chuck moved to NYC in the 1990's, where he founded Financial Technologies Inc. (FTI), driven by his innovative Data Model that revolutionized banking efficiency. His invention received a patent and remains a cornerstone in the banking industry today. After relocating back to Austin, Chuck founded

MyVest, a financial securities company based in San Francisco. He commuted tirelessly between Austin and San Francisco, dedicated to nurturing MyVest into a thriving enterprise while forging enduring friendships along the way.

Amidst his professional accomplishments, Chuck's greatest joy was his family. In NYC, he met Lauren Graye, and developed a deep and enduring partnership spanning 38 years. Together, they raised their beloved children, Jessie Hope (born 1989) and Jake Austin (born 1992), whom Chuck cherished above all else. He took immense pride in their accomplishments and treasured every moment spent with them.

Chuck had a profound love for art, with a particular admiration for the Bauhaus Movement, which he avidly studied and collected. He played guitar and wrote some original songs. He sang his kids to sleep each night when they were young in place of the typical bedtime story. He loved the Longhorns and wore his burnt orange with pride. He had a wonderful playful goofy side we adored. He was quick witted and a great storyteller. He loved astronomy, looking at the stars and kite flying with his kids. He is well known and endeared for his handing out of dog treats to every dog in the neighborhood as he took his morning walks and his doling out of dollar bills at traffic lights to those in need. He was up for axe throwing, curling lessons, mini golf, batting cages, go carts, bowling and just about anything you suggested. He was an avid tennis player and downhill skier. He loved food and would not shy away from anything new (except cooking). He was warm, and sensitive, caring and loving.

Chuck Jay Lewis leaves behind a legacy of innovation, integrity, and profound love for his family and life. He will be dearly missed by his wife Lauren, his children Jessie and Jake, extended family to include Lauren's mother Mildred, brothers Glen and Bruce and their wives Faye and Susan and countless

friends and colleagues whose lives he touched with his warmth and wisdom.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the non-profit Power for Parkinson's, where Lauren works and Chuck was very proud to support, Hospice Austin, who made his last journey as comfortable as possible, or a charity of your choice.

Chuck's indomitable spirit and enduring legacy will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know him. May his memory be a blessing, knowing he made a lasting impact on his community and beyond.

A Funeral Service and Reception will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd., Austin, TX 78756.

Shiva will be at the family's home on Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Thursday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Funeral Service and Reception

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Congregation Beth Israel
3901 Shoal Creek Blvd
Austin, TX 78756
<http://bethisrael.org>

Tribute Wall

MM

“ So sorry to hear the news about Chuck - heartfelt sympathies for all his family and many friends. I came onboard after Predrag as the new CEO of FTI from 2002 to 2014 during which we rebranded from FTI to GoldenSource . Chuck was a wonderful board advisor and mentor to me over the years . He brought joy and inspiration and vision to our discussions and most importantly had a big heart for all the FTI staff many of which stayed on thru many years due to Chuck's original vision and passion. He has a beautiful soul and will be missed by all. God Bless Chuck !! - Mike Meriton 6/28/24

Mike Meriton - June 28, 2024 at 05:21 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Charles "Chuck" Jay Lewis.



June 27, 2024 at 09:26 PM

BK

“ Tribute part 3 from Bill Knecht:
As you can see, Chuck had a huge positive impact on my life. I will be forever grateful to him and all that he did for me. He was one of the smartest, hardest working people I have ever known. We played a lot of tennis and racquetball and he was a terrific athlete with a strong will to win at everything he did. I miss him a lot. And to think that this all started with an accidental meeting in Reston over 50 years ago!

Bill Knecht - June 25, 2024 at 11:31 AM

“ Tribute part 2 from Bill Knecht:

Chuck met Lauren in New York and before long they became engaged and then got married. I was his best man. The wedding was in a high rise building in New York. What an experience! Lauren turned out to be a wonderful wife who stayed with Chuck the rest of his life. I spent a lot of time with both of them and enjoyed every minute of it. After a while, Chuck decided not to spend seven days a week in New York City. He bought a fantastic house out in the Hamptons on Long Island. His back yard consisted of a swimming pool and a tennis court! Karen and I visited them a lot out there, which was wonderful.

After 14 years of being away from home every week, I decided to leave FTI. I loved the job and working for Chuck, but I just couldn't be on the road any more. So I found a job back in Virginia and Chuck stayed with FTI a few more years. Then Chuck decided to leave FTI, so he and Lauren and their two kids moved to Austin. Lauren was new to Texas and sent us very funny stories about how Austin was so different than New York and New Jersey. Karen and I visited them occasionally but when I retired at the end of 2013, we decided to stay in Virginia because we loved it so much. Everything was going fine until early in 2023, when we learned that Chuck had incurable brain cancer and couldn't travel any more. That especially hurt since in July Karen and I were throwing a big party to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary and we really wanted Chuck and Lauren to be there. They just couldn't. So we stayed in close touch with them and Chuck gradually got worse. We decided to pay them a visit in Austin in October, hoping that Chuck would survive until then. Unfortunately, I got sick right after arriving in Austin and the doctor said I shouldn't go near Chuck and certainly couldn't touch him. No shaking hands or hugging. So I was feeling a lot better the day we visited him at his house, but I had to stay at least ten feet away. He was obviously in bad shape. He couldn't walk and had considerable trouble talking. But amazingly he had a good appetite and we could tell he enjoyed our visit. What really hurt was when it was time for us to leave, I couldn't shake his hand, hug him, or even

come near him. We figured that this would be the last time we would ever see him in person and this wasn't how we wanted to depart, but there was no other choice.

We stayed in touch through communications with Lauren. When 2024 arrived he was still around, so I decided to set up a Zoom meeting to talk to him visually. He liked the idea and asked us to invite Dick McLamb and Trent Tetterton, two people who worked with us at CACI in the 1970s and were still good friends. So we set up the meeting on April 24. It only lasted 30 minutes but it was very rewarding to see Chuck and Lauren again. He could barely say a word, so we did all the talking, but we could tell that he for the most part understood what we were saying. We kept things humorous and very light hearted. So enjoyable. After 30 minutes we had to terminate the meeting, so I said to stick around because I would set up Zoom to continue the meeting. But Lauren texted me and said it had worn Chuck out and he had to go to bed. However, we all agreed that we should do it again. So I set up a 1 hour Zoom meeting on May 29. This time Dick and Trent were still taking part, but I also invited Carl Fischer, who was one of Chuck's best friends when he lived in Virginia. It was very enjoyable and really great having Carl with us. Chuck was unable to say anything at all and was completely bedridden, but Lauren set it up so he could participate in the meeting. Chuck actually stayed with us the whole hour, and we all are so grateful that we had this last chance to see Chuck in person and let him know how much he meant to all of us.

Bill Knecht - June 25, 2024 at 11:30 AM

BK

“ Tribute part 1 from Bill Knecht:

I want to pay a huge tribute to Chuck. He had the greatest positive impact on my life (except for my wife Karen, of course). I met Chuck in the early 1970s at the University of Texas at Austin. At that time we were just acquaintances, not friends, because we didn't really spend any time together. In 1975 I was a programmer at the Texas Water Development Board (a state agency) and they sent me to visit the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. I was walking down the hall there and coming from the other direction was Chuck! As it turned out, he had moved to Reston to work for a company called CACI, which had a big contract with the USGS. At that time I wanted to leave my current job, so I asked Chuck if they had any job openings. He said yes and set up a meeting with his boss for an interview. It went well. A couple of days after I returned home, his boss called me with a job offer. I talked to Karen and she said OK, so I accepted, and in July 1975 we moved to Reston and Chuck was my boss. If I had been walking down that hallway one minute earlier or later, I would have missed Chuck and none of this would have happened. To this day I think that somehow that was meant to be.

Chuck and I worked like crazy, 50-60 hours a week, and achieved much success. He became a Vice President at CACI, then became a Senior VP when under his leadership I became a Vice President. Twice a year, CACI required me to have a “planning session”, where Chuck and I joined a top manager to spend two days going through my career plans and objectives in great detail. We were required to have these sessions away from our office and CACI spared no expenses in doing so. With Chuck, I had planning sessions in London, Paris, Dublin, Quebec City, Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico City, San Francisco, and Monterey, California. We also had a session at Herb Karr's house (the founder of CACI) on Catalina Island, right off the coast from Los Angeles.

In those days, the U.S. tax laws made it possible to develop products in Bermuda at virtually no after-tax cost to the company.

CACI asked all its managers to come up with ideas to do this. Chuck jumped in and together we came up with an idea that CACI decided to accept. Chuck hired two developers from the UK and made me the project manager. I had to go to Bermuda for a week at a time very often. Amazing! Without Chuck, I would have never experienced any of these terrific travels.

Later on, both of us left CACI and worked in separate places. But one day Chuck called me and invited me to visit him in New York City, where he was currently working. He had always wanted to live there, so he found a company called Financial Technologies International, a brand new spinoff from a huge bank called U.S. Trust. Chuck offered me a job and I accepted but I refused to move to New York. No problem. I continued to live in Virginia and commuted to New York on a weekly basis, all paid for by FTI. Chuck found me a place to stay right next door to him in a high-rise. For many years we worked in the World Trade Center. I spent 14 years doing this. Thanks to Chuck, we had customers in Zurich, Amsterdam, Luxembourg, Toronto, Seattle, San Francisco, and San Diego. Like no one else I ever knew, he could find customers and close sales better than anyone. So I lived on airplanes and became a member of United Airlines million mile club. That entitled me to free upgrades to first class and enormous amounts of air miles that I used to fly free first class to places like Hawaii. Again, I would never have experienced any of this if it weren't for Chuck.

Bill Knecht - June 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM

DB

“ AMS - Asset Management System - the "paper eliminator"! What glorious days at FTI exploring with Chuck ways to communicate such an innovative concept for financial services operations - automated guidance to enter the information needed "once" at the beginning of the transaction! Then view it from any perspective. What a joy to work with such a visionary - ahead of his time. Chuck was always eager to learn a new transaction so he could improve the way in which it was processed. From a dozen transparency slides to screen captured flows on CDs to "live" demonstrations, we "eliminated paper" across the banking and investment world. A closely knit family formed within FTI as each member felt responsible for different aspects of our success. Chuck's understanding of data elements formed the data modeling foundation for the present day hugely successful GoldenSource products. Chuck's supportive management style inspired the creative juices of those around him. My successes after FTI were directly related to the confidence built while working with Chuck. It has been an honor to consider he and Lauren friends. My deepest sympathy for Lauren, Jesse and Jake - may their memories hug them in love.

Danita Btanam - June 25, 2024 at 07:05 AM

JR

“ Heartbreaking news. I was Chuck's admin at FTI until he retired. He was always kind, had a fantastic sense of humor and was an all around good guy. We kept in touch ever since he left FTI and he never forgot a birthday text or to check up on me during Hurricane season here in Florida. I will miss the random texts bragging about his children or the good natured ribbing about my beloved Mets. My thoughts are with Lauren and the kids during this difficult time. Chuck will be missed.

Janice Riccio - June 24, 2024 at 01:39 PM

JD

“ gosh, a very sad day. I have very fond memories of those early FTI days. Chuck always seemed to be around and somehow we (the team) all managed to muddle along in an FTI kind of way. I had an absolute blast working at the company despite all the ups and downs. I send my deepest condolences to the family. John Day

John Day - June 24, 2024 at 12:52 PM

JC

“ I worked with Chuck at FTI and it was very kind and nice to me. I even went to his house for an FTI event and what a host he was. The world lost a good person and a proud Texan.

J.P. Scarisbrick, CAS - June 24, 2024 at 12:37 PM

AN

“ I met Chuck in 2011, when i got hired at MyVest. Chuck was always smiling and welcoming, it was an honest, and personal pleasure of mine to see and talk to him every time he came to San Francisco. My sincerer condolences to the family, and Godspeed Chuck, rest in peace..

Anton - June 24, 2024 at 11:45 AM

CS

“ I met Chuck soon after I pledged the Sammy fraternity at UT in 1967. I don't remember if he found me or I found him, but we had an immediate bond. He became my pledge father and our relationship grew from that time to now. I could share many stories. The one that comes to mind is the time we were in Juarez in the back seat cage of a police car. They saw that we threw a small bag of pot out of our car. Truth is they didn't want to bust us, they wanted to rob us. It was Chuck's good sense that recognized their intent and managed to get them to take us back to our car for most—not all—of the money we had. I was about to give them our skis, boats and poles (we had been on a ski trip in Ruidoso). Even thought about my Rolex. But Chuck looked at me with the expression of “Hell no”. He got us out of that bind with a minimum loss.

I used to go to NYC several times a year and often managed to see Chuck for dinner. I stayed at his Liberty Tower penthouse a time or two. He knew the new best restaurant or the in place to be. He took me to a Yankee game at the old stadium with the best seats behind the catcher about five rows up.

And then he met Lauren. I never saw him happier or more content. They were a perfect match and Chuck knew it.

I will miss my dear friend.

Charles Skibell

Charles Skibell - June 23, 2024 at 12:32 AM

BH

“ I worked side-by-side with Chuck when he founded MyVest. He was the rock around which the company was built. He envisioned the strategy, hired the team, found the clients, and grew the company brick-by-brick for many years. He had humor and grit - a compelling formula for leading and for life. I will miss Chuck as will everyone who worked with him in those early years at MyVest. Bill Harris



Bill Harris - June 22, 2024 at 08:10 PM

RK

“ I am so sad to hear about the loss of Chuck. We were cheerleaders together in the 9th grade at Benjamin Franklin Junior High and he was called Chucky! He was the most positive, active, funny person who told me that he had a crush on me! We attended Temple Emanuelle in Dallas and I pray for his family to be at peace.

Rita Feldman King - June 22, 2024 at 07:53 PM