



Charles Edward Plank

May 12, 1927 - January 9, 2024

Charles Edward Plank died peacefully on January 9, 2024 in Tavares, Florida at age 96. He was born on May 12, 1927 in North Irwin, Pennsylvania and had lifelong pride and fondness for life on Penn Avenue. While he enjoyed many a shenanigan with his pals on “the hill,” he also grew up working through the depression in the family businesses. As a child, experiencing the hardship the depression brought to those around him, those memories left a profound and lasting impression on him, shaping his adult life. While not the best academic student, he boasted of bribing teachers with gas stamps for a passing grade. He was an excellent student of life experiences, hard work and opportunity. As a young man he would give guys, teetering at closing time from the downtown bars in Irwin, a ride home in a wheel barrel for a nickel. He was industrious. Ed served in the Seabees in the South Pacific during the World War and made lifelong friendships. Returning home he was keen to settle down. Other than his wife Harriet Mae Lee (Plank), deceased, whom he was married to for 62 years, Ed had another love, sports. In his youth he loved to play basketball for Irwin High School. Ultimately this love of sports turned into a flourishing night job as a high school and college basketball and football referee. He officiated some of the biggest high school sports rivalries of the WPIAL and the PIAA. He loved the action and mentoring young officials, but he also relished the notoriety that Western Pennsylvania sports brought him. He couldn’t listen to local sports radio without calling in to clarify an offensive charge or technical foul he had called in a close game. He didn’t back down.

Refereeing gave him his greatest boasting claim to fame, being a paid actor in the box office dud "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh." He carried a \$9 Screen Actors Guild paystub in his wallet as proof. It's probably still in his wallet now. He excelled in the limelight. Ed's primary job was that of a proud garbageman, the business he and his brother Billy took over from their dad. Up at 4 am each day, a quick nap after lunch and then off to officiate a game. Day after day, year after year. He lived to work. Somehow he found enough time at home to have six children. Ed and Harriet were proud of the fact that each child was educated and successful. They are Cindy Nagle (Joe), Renee King (Jim), Ed Plank (Bridget), Dr. Susan Plank, John Plank (Richard) and Steven Plank (Julie). Ed was blessed with nine grandchildren Bryce, Jimmy, Brendan, Jessica, Amy, Maddie, Tyler, Cooper and Justin and three great-grandchildren Jimmy, Aiden and Kayla. He was a family man. Travel was another passion for both Ed and Harriet. Packing the travel trailer and rounding up the six kids into the station wagon they would crisscross the states. Ultimately as retirement came along they enjoyed wintering at their home in St. Augustine, Florida again making friends everywhere they went. He was an adventurer. It's impossible to encapsulate his life in a few paragraphs. Whether pitching pennies with strangers in a restaurant line, being a gentleman farmer throwing a good old-fashioned barn dance, or weekly golf and poker games with his buddies at the Masonic Lodge, Eddie will forever be remembered for his larger-than-life character, his love for his family, good times with friends and his unwavering work ethic and financial success. He leaves behind a legacy of resilience, determination and a zest for life that will continue to inspire all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He lived life to the fullest. Friends and family will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, at the William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc., 521 Main Street, Irwin, 724-863-1200. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in the funeral home. Interment and military honors will be held at Union Cemetery, Irwin, following the funeral service. For online condolences please visit www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

Cemetery Details

Irwin Union Cemetery

431 Bridge St
Irwin, PA 15642

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

JAN 19. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 20. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.



January 18, 2024 at 10:41 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.



January 17, 2024 at 06:37 PM



“ Mark, Michelle & Jay Nagle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Edward Plank.

Mark, Michelle & Jay Nagle - January 17, 2024 at 06:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.



January 17, 2024 at 05:03 PM

RM

“ My Condolences to the Plank Family Your Dad was definitely a hard worker He sold a large share of his business to my Brothers The Morgans Praying for your Family Bob Morgan

Robert R Morgan - January 16, 2024 at 06:28 PM

WD

“ Will & Sharon Dillon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Edward Plank.

Will & Sharon Dillon - January 16, 2024 at 04:38 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.



January 16, 2024 at 04:38 PM

BO

“ Pitched Pennies, played golf, played cards, drank beer, attended church, attended lodge, enjoyed all his stories and his friendship. Farewell my brother it was great knowing Ed. Bob George

BobGeorge - January 16, 2024 at 04:17 PM

JB

“ Joseph B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Edward Plank.

Joseph B. - January 16, 2024 at 03:25 PM

SG

“ I was privileged to meet Ed Plank Snr who achieved so much in his life, including raising his children which gave me the chance to meet Ed Jnr in Southampton. I am grateful to have received the hospitality offered by Ed and Harriet and heard many tales of a happy childhood on ‘the farm’ - being particularly intrigued by the reindeer in the garden! He was an amazing man and leaves a great legacy via his children and grandchildren. He will be missed, my thoughts are with you all. Sarah

Sarah Galbraith - January 16, 2024 at 05:59 AM

LH

“ Love, Randy and Kathy Hedlund planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Edward Plank.

Love, Randy and Kathy Hedlund - January 15, 2024 at 10:00 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.



January 15, 2024 at 10:00 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.



January 15, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.*



January 15, 2024 at 01:37 PM



“ *Susan sad to hear of your Dad's passing. Steve and Patrice!*

Steve and Patrice - January 15, 2024 at 09:16 AM



While reading the obituary I could only think" I wish I had known this wonderful man." Sympathy to all and much love to Bridget and Ed. ❤️
🙏

ellen flood - January 15, 2024 at 10:23 AM



Susan, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. What a long and happy life. He'll be missed! Linda Santimyer

Linda Santimyer - January 15, 2024 at 02:20 PM



“ *Gertrude Williams purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Charles Edward Plank.*



Gertrude Williams - January 15, 2024 at 09:06 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles Edward Plank.

January 15, 2024 at 03:13 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charles Edward Plank.



January 14, 2024 at 04:55 PM