



Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan

August 3, 1937 - July 2, 2025

Charles Young “Chuck” Coghlan, D.M.D., M.S.D., passed away peacefully at age 87 on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at IU Bloomington Hospital. He was surrounded by his family and beloved wife, Helen, who was by his side for 66 years of beautiful memories—his favorites being Sunday Mass, Bloomington breakfasts with friends, wine trips, and family gatherings at the lake. Chuck was born on August 3, 1937, in Shelbyville, Indiana, the son of Charles V. and Helen J. (Young) Coghlan, from County Cork, Ireland, and Richmond, Indiana. Chuck spent his childhood in Shelbyville, Indiana. Always a creative and crafty problem solver, he built many things from intricate woodwork projects to a foxhole in his backyard. He maintained his handy ways as he embarked on a career in dentistry, attending the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. He spent his days studying in dental school and worked overnight shifts at the grocery store and on night security patrol at International Harvester to provide for his young family. After graduating from dental school in 1964, he entered the United States Army, serving his country for two years as a Captain in the Dental Corps. Following his honorable discharge, Chuck attended Indiana University School of Dentistry’s Graduate Orthodontics Program, graduating in 1968, after which he opened his lifelong orthodontic practice, Coghlan Orthodontics, in Bloomington, Indiana. He spent 40 years practicing as “Dr. C” and was joined by his son, “Dr. Kevin,” in 1989. At the same time, Chuck’s daughter, Karen, joined him at Office Easel, a promotional products company for orthodontists that he created. He retired from practice in 2011 but until his

last day made regular appearances at Coghlan Orthodontics to pick up the mail and check on the building his son, Mike, designed. Throughout his life, and especially in retirement, Chuck enjoyed weekends with his family at Somerset Lake—a tradition that his daughter, Shannon, has continued for the next generation.

Chuck loved to teach—he was very proud to have taught Orofacial Pain and Temporomandibular Disorders to the Orthodontics residents at the Indiana University School of Dentistry for ten years and enjoyed teaching his grandchildren how to communicate in Morse Code. He was an avid Indiana University sports fan, attending countless IU football and IU men's and women's basketball games. A devout member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, he attended Mass every Sunday with his wife, Helen, always followed by breakfast at their favorite Bloomington restaurants. He was a licensed HAM radio operator and a wine aficionado—a proud member of the Indianapolis Chapter of the CCGVN (Confrérie des Compagnons Goustevin de Normandie). He had an impressive wine collection in the wine cellar he built himself. Chuck was also known for his creative hats, socks, and aprons (one of his favorites read, "When Irish eyes are smiling, they're usually up to something"). He had the best, quirkiest sense of humor, and he loved making people laugh and sharing stories. Chuck was especially proud of his Irish heritage, sharing Irish blessings at weddings, holidays, and any chance he could get.

Chuck was predeceased by his parents, and two grandchildren, Adam Eades and Faith Coghlan.

Chuck is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 66 years, Helen Liter Coghlan of Bloomington; his sister Nancy (Ron) Baron of Louisville, Kentucky; children Shannon (Luke) Eades of Bloomington; Michael (Bonnie) Coghlan of Indianapolis; Kevin (Elaine) Coghlan of Bloomington; and Karen (Carl) Matacale of Bloomington; he was a beloved Grandad to Kirsten (wife of Adam Eades), Alex (Amanda) Eades; Elise Eades; Charles G. Coghlan; Adrienne (Isaac) Fullenkamp; Diane (Brian) Chelius; Matthew (Kate) Coghlan; Sarah

Coghlan; and Megan (Peter Leonard) Coghlan; and is survived by fourteen great-grandchildren, whom he loved and adored.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday July 5, 2025 at 10:00 am, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Bloomington, IN, officiated by Fr. Tom Kovach. Visitation will be held at the Church prior to the service at 9:00 am.

Allen Funeral Home was entrusted to the care of these arrangements. In lieu of flowers please consider supporting the St. Meinrad Seminary, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577 or St. Charles Borromeo Church, 2222 East Third Street, Bloomington, IN 47401-5305.

"May those who love us love us, and those who don't love us, may God turn their hearts. And if He doesn't turn their hearts, may He turn their ankles so we'll know them by their limping."

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St Charles Borromeo Church
2222 E 3rd St
Bloomington, IN 47401-5385
(812) 336-6846

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Charles Borromeo Church
2222 E 3rd St
Bloomington, IN 47401-5385
(812) 336-6846

Tribute Wall



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Coghlan was a Bloomington icon growing up, and my dad (Dr. Richard Leyda) also held him in high esteem. Julie (Leyda) Harris

Julie Harris - July 18, 2025 at 09:18 AM

BH

“ Brent H. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan.

Brent H. - July 12, 2025 at 02:59 PM



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

July 05, 2025 at 07:17 AM

TP

“ As a friend of Michael's, I see Chuck's warmth, intellect, and love of family and tradition reflected clearly in the man Michael is today. God rest his soul. Tracy & Jennifer Paul

Tracy Paul - July 04, 2025 at 06:57 PM

MC

“ To Helen and all of Chuck's extended family Mary and I offer our sincerest condolences. We have lovely memories of our visit to Bloomington in 2017. We will remember him in our prayers. Michael and Mary Coughlan.

Michael and Mary Coughlan - July 04, 2025 at 02:10 PM

JM

“ Through my eyes, Chuck was a doer. His work ethic belied his age and he was fond of saying he would rather wear out than rust out. He succeeded.

He was a faith filled family man, a keen observer of the world and the people who populate it, a storyteller with an engaging sense of humor, honest and generous to a fault.

His family, his friends, and this entire community has lost a tremendous asset.

Jim Montgomery

Jim Montgomery - July 03, 2025 at 05:16 PM

AB

Chuck was my first cousin however regrettably I never had the pleasure of meeting him or his family May he rest in peace .Anne Berot

Anne Berot - July 05, 2025 at 10:11 AM



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

July 03, 2025 at 11:25 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan.



July 03, 2025 at 11:25 AM

SJ

“ Scott, Brittany, Ruby and Levi Jerden purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan.



Scott, Brittany, Ruby and Levi Jerden - July 03, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan.



July 03, 2025 at 05:15 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan.



July 02, 2025 at 11:05 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan.



July 02, 2025 at 08:03 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan.



July 02, 2025 at 05:00 PM