

Charles Albert Lehman III

September 9, 1941 - November 15, 2025

Charles Albert Lehman, III, 84, of Taylors, South Carolina, beloved husband of the late Helen Marie Martin Lehman, passed away peacefully at his home on November 15, 2025.

A native of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Dr. Charles Albert Lehman, II and Elizabeth Parsons Lehman.

Charles is survived by his daughter, Sonya G. Esposito (Mark) of Sackets Harbor, New York; his son, Thomas Charles Lehman (Elyda) of Watertown, New York; two sisters, Judy Lokey of Montrose, Colorado and Anne Lysaght of Wellesley, Massachusetts; and his significant other, Sidonna Daniels of Taylors, South Carolina. He was predeceased by his sister, Beth Zabloski. Our father loved to share stories of his youth. He was deeply connected to his sisters, and Anne fondly recalled that they “were great friends growing up and were one another’s protectors.”

Charles earned his master’s degree from Lycoming College, graduating Magna Cum Laude—an accomplishment he carried with immense pride. On June 1, 1963, he married his high school sweetheart, our beloved mother, Helen. Shortly afterward, they moved to Carthage, New York, where he began his long and meaningful career teaching English.

He became known throughout the community as an extraordinary 8th grade teacher—one whose influence stretched far beyond the classroom. Former students often shared stories of how he guided, encouraged, and believed in them. Even recently, a former student reached out simply to thank him for the

impact he made. It is impossible to count how many people name him as their favorite teacher. His presence in the classroom was truly a gift. He retired in 1996.

In 1967, Charles and several partners founded what would become the well-known Jreck Subs. He was recently interviewed about its humble beginnings: a modest sub shop run out of a school bus on what was then Camp Drum. His entrepreneurial spirit later led him to own the Levis Hotel and operate a used car lot on West End Avenue in West Carthage.

One of his greatest passions was restoring antique cars. He took special pride in his '40 Ford Coupe and his '57 Chevy. Many hours were spent in the garage of his Carthage home, meticulously rebuilding classic car bodies while friends came and went through his ever-open door to talk, laugh, and admire his latest project.

After our mother's passing from cancer, Charles dedicated himself to service. He volunteered extensively with Hospice and later with the Volunteer Transportation Center, where he rarely missed a day. In 2003, he was honored with The Giving Award for his outstanding volunteerism—an acknowledgment of the compassion he showed so freely.

In early 2017, he reconnected with an old friend, Sidonna. Their friendship blossomed into a cherished partnership, and Charles moved to Taylors, South Carolina to share his life with her.

A Celebration of Charles' Life will be held Sunday, November 23rd from 1 PM to 4 PM at The Carthage American Legion Post 789, 415 West St., Carthage, NY 13619.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital—an organization close to Charles' heart and one he spoke of often. Online condolences may be left at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ So sorry to hear about Charlie Lehman. He was a wonderful man. I worked in the middle school in the office where he taught. My son-in-law, Jim Cole worked for him selling the Subs when they first started in the bus. Charlie was a joy to be around. He will be missed very much. We all loved you. Thank you for being in our lives.

Joanne Spencer

Joanne Spencer - November 20, 2025 at 04:24 PM

 Dawn Nolan

“ The best teacher ever. He always had a smile, was kind and funny. He may be gone, but will never be forgotten. ❤️🙏

Dawn Nolan - November 19, 2025 at 11:16 PM

MW

“ You were such a good soul and always looking out for others. I never had you for a teacher myself but you tried to steer me in a better direction and I will always remember that. Fly high with the angels Mr. Lehman may you rip

melody woodward wood - November 19, 2025 at 06:23 PM

BO

“ Charlie was my landlord years ago, he was the kindest and sweetest man. He even took me to the ER twice. My sons thought the world off him too, he made sure we were ok after the ice storm, brought us a grill and food. I remember his wife, she was so sweet and the kindest lady. They are now together again. What wonderful angels are watching over their family and friends. Am so sorry for your loss.

Bobbijayne(Orr)Noll - November 19, 2025 at 10:53 AM

BQ

“ My condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Lehman. To recall after almost 50 years to having been a student in his class; and to reflect what a great teacher he was. As were many others . It reflects what a lasting impression he bestowed. His teaching is his legacy, the knowledge we gained from him is eternal.

Brian Queary - November 19, 2025 at 10:42 AM

JS

“ Mr. Lehman was hands down the best teacher. He believed in his students when the other teachers threw you away he was right there picking you up and encouraging you. A classic gentleman just like his cars. Thank you for being a fabulous man. Thoughts and Love to his family.

Julie Stephenson - November 19, 2025 at 06:52 AM

AD

“ If I may go way back to the early eighties...working lunch on Erie Blvd. When Charlie was there the big rush was fun..lots of laughs. I modeled my customer service style after him Always smiling always calm. Thanks Charlie you were always teaching.

amber demarest - November 18, 2025 at 07:32 PM

MA

“ Charley was my best friend and will be deeply missed. He was always a caring and giving person no matter who you were. Rest in peace my friend.

Maynard - November 18, 2025 at 04:45 PM

JR

“ *Mr. Lehman was a super teacher and he was the man that gave me my first job making submarine sandwiches out of a old school bus just out side the gate on Pine Camp. My deepest condolences to his family at this difficult time RIP Mr. Lehman you will be sadly missed by all that knew you.*



James Rogers - November 18, 2025 at 04:26 PM

TF

“ *The JRECK Subs Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Charles Albert Lehman III.*



The JRECK Subs Family - November 18, 2025 at 02:23 PM

JU

“ *Juanita lit a candle in memory of Charles Lehman*



Juanita - November 18, 2025 at 02:10 PM

RS

“ *When they lived in the wee upstairs apartment near the Carthage library, I baby-sat for them. I also had him for English and always get a JRECK sub when I am home.*

Rolayne Schwendy - November 18, 2025 at 12:32 PM

JG

“ A smart guy with a great sense of humor, who cared about the kids in his classes, even those of us who could at times be mischievous and challenging. We need more humans like Mr. Lehman in the classroom. Thoughts and prayers to his family.

Jeffrey Gray - November 18, 2025 at 11:25 AM

ML

“ Thoughts and prayers to Sidonna, Sonya, Tom, and family, on Charlie's passing. He was a great neighbor and friend. I have many great memories over the years that I will cherish. He will be missed by all. May the Lord welcome him into His kingdom. Until we meet again, Charlie, RIP. 🙏🙏🙏

Michael LaBarge - November 18, 2025 at 10:59 AM

JD

“ Charlie was an an amazing person that my mother in law Gloria Moore trusted with her life. He was her driver for many years thru the volunteer transportation in Watertown, NY and she always said that she trusted him with her life and the fact she was completely blind showed her trust. You dad was an amazing man and left you all some great memories. Myself and my children are very grateful to have gotten to know your dad. There is a video on YouTube Volunteer Transportation 2008 with him in it please watch.

Joanna Dosztan - November 18, 2025 at 10:56 AM

JC

“ I met Charlie while I was employed at volunteer transportation. He would come to my desk and say "how you doing kid ". And then we would have a great conversation. We discussed books we were reading. He was one of the most giving people I've ever met. He had a great sense of humor and he loved transporting his dialysis patients. He came to my desk to let me know that he had reconnected with a woman from his past and he was so happy, and he was going to move South and continue his volunteer work, but his health impacted that. After his move, he came back to the office and saw me and we corresponded some. I will never forget Charlie he had the heart of a true volunteer. I am fortunate to have known him.

Judy Colton

Judy Colton - November 18, 2025 at 10:51 AM

HE

“ Mr. Lehman was my 8th grade English teacher. He was such a loving wonderful person. He's a huge part of why I love to read. Definitely my favorite teacher. He will be missed deeply. Thank you for everything you taught me Sir. Until we meet again.

Heidi - November 18, 2025 at 10:27 AM

DE

Mr. Lehman was my teacher as well. I loved his class and we all enjoyed his sense of humor. My prayers go out to Tom and Sonya

Dwight Evans - November 18, 2025 at 09:58 PM

RG

“ I shared a lot "First's" with Charlie when I worked with and for him down on West End Ave. Great person, you will be missed dearly, God Speed my friend.

Russell Groff - November 18, 2025 at 10:25 AM

DH

“ Mr. Lehman was indeed one of my favorite teachers as well, 8th grade English in 1976-1977. I used to like to see him at Jreck when he would occasionally work there. We read "To Kill a Mockingbird" and it was one of the most enjoyable class reading experiences I had. He gave me a Jreck gift certificate once and it remains a favorite memory of mine.

Dan Haverstock

Dan Haverstock - November 18, 2025 at 10:08 AM

CL

“ RIP Charlie, we will remember the good old days! Our sincere sympathy to the family. Much love, Linda & Claude Lamantia

Claude - November 18, 2025 at 09:29 AM

WP

“ Charlie was one of the kindest men I ever met. My partners and I were fortunate enough to purchase the Carthage JRECK Subs location from him many years ago. He was such an integral part of Jreck subs and its development, he always had a great sense of humor and was always so supportive. Our thoughts our prayers are with his family. Peter and Rita Whitmore.

Whitmore Peter - November 18, 2025 at 08:11 AM

DN

“ Dawn Nolan(Mushtare) sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Lehman



Dawn Nolan(Mushtare) - November 17, 2025 at 10:08 PM

GG

“ He was my English teacher in middle school. He will be missed.
Gina L. Green (Powell)

Gina Green - November 17, 2025 at 10:07 PM

DN

“ Dawn Nolan(Mushtare) lit a candle in memory
of Charles Lehman



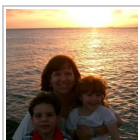
Dawn Nolan(Mushtare) - November 17, 2025 at 10:06 PM

GS

“ Garry Schwartz lit a candle in memory of
Charles Lehman



Garry Schwartz - November 17, 2025 at 09:46 PM



“ recently "to kill a mockingbird" was mentioned in a conversation and
I was immediately transported back to that 8th grade classroom. I
realized the reason I recall it so vividly was his passion and bringing
that piece to life. He was a wonderful teacher who truly impacted
many students. Jean Brady Edwards, Colorado Springs

Jean Edwards - November 17, 2025 at 09:44 PM

CW

“ I remember you as one of my teachers at Carthage Central School in New York. Great teacher and obviously cared about his students. I now live next to Clemson SC. Rest in Peace Mr. Lehman and condolences to your family.

Cindy Hardy Weir - November 17, 2025 at 09:09 PM

MM

“ I have such fond memories of Charlie. He had a fun personality and my Dad's relationship with him started as far back as the old Williamsport days and ultimately a partner in JRECK . Sympathies to his family.
A life well lived.
Peg Haley McKane

Margaret McKane - November 17, 2025 at 08:11 PM

BR

“ So sorry to hear Charles pass. May God Bless. He was a wonderful person always helping people.

Byron and Nancy Rome - November 17, 2025 at 06:56 PM

BF

“ You can add me to the list of grateful students. Mr. Lehman was an amazing English teacher! I often think about the lessons he taught and the stories he shared in the classroom. "The Bargain" by A.B. Guthrie Jr. is one that will forever be ingrained in my memory. I consider myself very lucky to have been one of his students. He created a beautiful legacy with his love of teaching and kindness in the classroom.

Bridget Fetterly - November 17, 2025 at 05:28 PM

GM

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sonya and Tom at this time. Fond memories of your family when Bob and I lived in Carthage. We also had the JRECK , Williamsport, and CCS connection with many stories and memories. Gloria and Bob Miles, Malone NY.

Gloria and Bob Miles - November 17, 2025 at 04:57 PM

JM

“ There are only two wives left from the original ‘pack’, but so many stories. I have thought about Charlie many many times - hoping he was doing well. It certainly sounds like he had a great life right to the end. My prayers and thoughts go out to his friends and family. He was a very special person!

Judy Martin - November 17, 2025 at 03:52 PM

MP

“ I had Mr. Lehman for 8th grade, one of my all time favorite Teachers. R.I.P. Sir.

Michael Peebles - November 17, 2025 at 03:09 PM

DW

“ Dear Sonya, Tom, and Sidonna,
It breaks my heart to see that Charley has passed. He is the last of our wonderful days with JRECK. So many memories of him and Helen and all of us.
I am so sorry for you all. He fought a good fight. He and you are in my prayers.
Donna and family

Donna Waltz - November 17, 2025 at 02:43 PM

JZ

“ *PRAYERS SENT TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS. R.I.P.
I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST CUSTOMERS TO GET A SUB THE DAY THEY OPENED (SCHOOL BUS IN BLACK RIVER)*



JAMES ZEHR - November 17, 2025 at 01:55 PM

JW

“ *In so many ways, Charlie was such an important contributor to the Carthage Community. As a teacher, he exemplified the best of the profession- being kind, considerate, fair, and loving. We will miss his big smile, friendly conversation, and positive outlook on life. All the best to his family.
John and Laureen Waterhouse.*

John Waterhouse - November 17, 2025 at 12:57 PM