



## R. Charles "Chuck" Boelkins

January 2, 1939 - October 26, 2014

Richard Charles (Chuck) Boelkins, II passed away on Sunday, October 26, 2014. Born on Jan. 2, 1939, he was preceded in death by Richard C. Boelkins, MD, and Jean Blocksma Boelkins of Grand Rapids, MI. He attended Calvin College and graduated from Oberlin College. He attended University of Wisconsin as a research assistant to Dr. Harry Harlow where he received his M.Sc. (Experimental Psychology). He received his Ph.D. in experimental psychology in 1972 from Stanford University. He was elected to Society of the Sigma Xi.

Chuck served as Assistant Professor in the psychology department at Georgia State University from 1973-75. He worked for the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health in the late 1970s.

While at Harvard, Chuck served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and as a reviewer of grant applications and manuscripts submitted to several peer-reviewed scientific journals. In 1978, Chuck left academia to follow his passion in the arts and woodworking designing and building residential furniture. In the late 80s Chuck was selected to co-chair the first Rockdale County Comprehensive Land Use planning committee. He chaired a volunteer committee to develop a County Solid Waste Management Plan to include residential recycling. Chuck then created the Rockdale County Transfer/ Recycling Center. For the last eleven years of his career, he worked in industrial recycling for the State of Georgia in the Department of Natural Resources.

He is survived by Sue Chappell of Conyers, his wife of 38 years; brothers, David D. Boelkins of Holland, MI and James Nelson Boelkins of Jennison, MI; his daughter, Valerie Jean Hayes of Springfield, VA and son, Richard Charles Boelkins III of Oakland, CA; his grandsons, William Bennett Hayes and Jonathon Roger Hayes also of Springfield VA.

A celebration of his life will be held Wednesday, October 29 at 11:30 a.m. at Scot Ward Funeral Services. Please, no flowers. Donations may be made in Chuck's memory to [www.nationalgeographicsociety.com](http://www.nationalgeographicsociety.com) or [www.georgiaconservancy.org](http://www.georgiaconservancy.org). Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT **29**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ I'm deeply sorry for your loss. I hope the words found in the bible at Isaiah 25:8 brings comfort. God promises to "swallow up death forever". No more will we have to suffer heartache for God says he will "wipe away the tears from all faces". Such a joyous time it will be; reunited with our dead loved ones!

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**cheyenne** - February 12, 2015 at 05:01 AM

SS

“ Chuck and Sue were such wonderful friends and neighbors here in Massachusetts. Many fond memories. So glad we were able to reunite several years ago in NH during their New England tour. May Chuck rest in peace. Love to Sue.



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**Sally and Gary Smith** - November 10, 2014 at 11:26 AM

JN

“ Chuck was so much help to so many! He was someone that really made a difference in a lot of lives! We lost you too soon! Thanks to your family for the support they gave you and thanks for caring and sharing your knowledge with others!

*Judy Noles*  
*Keep South Fulton Beautiful*

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**Judy Noles** - October 29, 2014 at 03:35 PM

LG

“ How lucky I was when Chuck came into my sphere of associates and soon became my friend. He was always my first phone call when a question arose on how to handle difficult materials. I would look for him when I would attend the GRC Conferences and he always made time to catch a meal and share his knowledge. He will be so missed by all of us in the industry. We were lucky to have him and his dedication to leaving the earth a better place.

*My condolences to Sue and his family.*

*Leslie George*

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**Leslie George** - October 29, 2014 at 01:39 PM

AK

“ I know first hand that Chuck was truly dedicated to making this world a better place. He took the time to help Keep Smyrna Beautiful with a recycling issue years ago, and I am sure that he has touched more people for the good than we will ever know. I met him at an electronics recycling event long ago and remember him to be a hard worker and a very pleasant person. He was a great example to follow and an inspiration. My condolences to all of Chuck's family and friends. I am sorry for your loss and the loss of a great man. We need more people like him.

*Ann Kirk*

*Director, Keep Smyrna Beautiful*

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**Ann Kirk** - October 29, 2014 at 12:45 PM

JA

“ Chuck will be remembered fondly as a helpful and enthusiastic collaborator by our Georgia Tech research team. Bringing a smile to every meeting, Chuck was always very encouraging and supportive to our students, who came from many parts of the world with very diverse backgrounds.

*From 2002-2007 Chuck had important impact on the state of Georgia as the lead facilitator of the Georgia Computer Equipment Disposal and Recycling Council, where he was known for his broad-based expertise and experience, for his many contacts and connections with business, government, and universities, and for his passion and commitment to the adoption of sustainable practices.*

*Chuck worked to make the world a better place for future generations. We appreciate Chuck for the special person he was, and are grateful for the blessings he shared.*

*Thanks, Chuck.*

*School Chair and Professor Jane Ammons  
Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering  
Georgia Tech*



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**Jane Ammons** - October 29, 2014 at 12:44 PM

MR

“ Chuck was a great advocate for recycling and industrial waste reuse. Our group at Georgia Tech was always excited to meet with Chuck and he contributed significantly to the research that we did. His attitude and enthusiasm were a great tonic and I may never have seen a wider and more expressive smile.

*Thanks Chuck.*

*Professor Matthew J Realff  
School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Georgia Tech*

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**Matthew J Realff** - October 29, 2014 at 12:10 PM

JA

“ I learned so much from Chuck and his passion for sustainability was infectious. Thank you for doing so much to enhance your community and world for future generations.

*Judy Adler*

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**Judy Adler** - October 28, 2014 at 09:21 PM

HO

“ What an interesting, passionate man. Remember how excited him and Bud Sosebee would get about recycling! My thoughts are with you Sue.

*Holly Lafontaine*

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**Holly** - October 28, 2014 at 08:55 PM

DT

“ Chuck is one of those altruistic heroes of Rockdale county that did wonderful things...for the sake of doing something wonderful for the benefit to the community. Unfortunately, we never saw anything eye to eye...politically. But, he had and deserved my utmost respect for his volunteer time, expertise and determination to co- produce and have enacted the Long Range Land-Use Plan of Rockdale County which included the Watershed Protection zoning. That effort has made a good portion of North Rockdale a very desirable and protected area to live along with a utility that will provide for the entire county. His determination to work through and place the current Rockdale Recycling Center shows a level of success that one can see anytime you pull into the Center. Chuck's name is on MANY volunteer ventures that have proved and will continue to prove to inure a benefit to all of Rockdale County.

*He was ahead of his time and a good man that always fought for the good fight to educate the general public about long range planning and it's positive effect.*

*Our thoughts and hearts are with you at this time Sue.*

*Dan & Susan Turner*

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**Dan Turner** - October 28, 2014 at 06:45 PM

JR

“ Chuck was such an interesting person and I am so glad I got to know him when we worked together at Rockdale County and through his years volunteering. Sue, you are in my thoughts and prayers during this time.

*Jennifer Rutledge*

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**Jennifer Rutledge** - October 27, 2014 at 08:37 PM