

## **Charles A. Hamblet**

MS. FORD: Charles A. Hamblet, 10th Headmaster of St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island, and its second-longest-serving head in the school's history, died January 9, 2010, of a brain tumor.

Born in 1941 in Massachusetts, Chuck graduated from Methuen High School and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Subsequently, he earned a master's degree in education at Rutgers while he was teaching at South River High School in New Jersey. The next year, 1967, he earned a master's in mathematics at Brown, which was followed by a three-year stint teaching at Governor Dummer Academy. For the next 19 years he taught and coached at Phillips Exeter, where he also directed the summer school.

He diversified that program by recruiting Native American students as well as urban students from New York City. From 1989 to 2004 he led St. George's through an unprecedented era of growth and prosperity. His wife, Carol, was actively involved at the school as coordinator of student services during his tenure.

Chuck was an unfailing advocate for teachers, determined to support them in their efforts with students in many ways, not the least of which was through competitive compensation rivaling the best of their peer schools.

The Centennial Celebration in 1996 and the \$36.6 million Centennial Campaign were hallmarks of Chuck's tenure. While students and teachers were always his priorities, his legacy is also marked by the dramatic expansion of campus facilities.

Beyond physical facilities, under Chuck's leadership a host of academic and other school programs also were expanded: Among them were diversity, administrative and academic technology, Asian culture and Chinese language, and financial aid. Chuck and Carol believed in a holistic approach to student wellness and academic success. Together they established a team of school health professionals and administrators, The Health Group, which continues to meet each week to discuss student issues, and to support the health and emotional well-being of the students.

While at St. George's, he served as a trustee of Bridgton Academy in Maine and was a leader and board member of the International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame and A Better Chance. He himself was inducted in 2009 into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in the Scholar-Athlete category.

Following his retirement, after two years of enjoying the good life in Florida, he became the first interim and then headmaster of Westchester Country Day School in High Point, North Carolina, in 2006. Only his illness forced him to stop in 2009.

Chuck was clear about his priorities: Students first. He was a consummate school person, greatly revered. He leaves his wife, two sons, and three grandchildren.

This memorial was written by Eric F. Peterson, with excerpts from the Boston Globe. Eric, as you probably know, succeeded him as head of school.