

## Charles William Murray '38 (June 1920 – September 2013)

Born in Charlestown, Charles grew up in his parents' home on 1 Ludlow Street and passed away at age 93 in San Luis Obispo County, an agricultural area on the scenic central coast halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, with two Spanish Missions (c.1772) and Hearst Castle. Immediately after graduation from BFIT in 1938, Charles accepted an all expense-paid trip offer to the seaside town of Morro Bay, CA in exchange for driving and maintaining the moving truck and auto of the husband and wife who were relocating.



Upon arrival without incident, Charles fell in love with the climate, found a great job at the Ocean View Garage (still in business catering to classic cars) in Morro Bay as a mechanic. He met and married a beautiful local ranch girl in 1941 and over the next six years they had two daughters who later married and gave him four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Buying ranchland adjoining his in-laws, he built his own home and was a partner to his father-in-law's beef cattle and grain operations on 2,500 acres. Charles' education really paid off as he kept all the ranch vehicles and equipment in top condition, including harvesters and Caterpillar tractors, from D4s to D7's, as he continued to ranch over 55 years and became a master welder.



He was drafted by the U.S. Army and sent to Camp Crowder, MO in 1943. Before finishing basic training he was recruited to teach Signal Corps operations and maintain motor pool vehicles at West Point Military Academy, NY. Turning down a request to re-enlist, he returned to the CA ranching life that he had grown to love.

As much as he loved raising livestock and growing wheat and barley, his greatest satisfaction was that of teaching mechanics. Over the years, while still ranching, he was employed by several CA state departments as Automotive Maintenance Instructor at two Correctional facilities: the Youth Authority and Men's Colony, so after release, the inmates would have learned basic auto mechanic skills. His proudest work-related achievement was receiving, around 1965, the highest score on the State Dept. of Forestry Exam for Heavy Equipment Operator. His employment with C.D.F. involved operating a giant bulldozer to fight wildfires anywhere within CA.



He enjoyed teaching skills to youth via the 4-H club and was a School Board Trustee. As an officer in the local CA Farm Bureau he coincidentally met a friend from his Charlestown days, Donald Lindquist, also learning about agriculture and married to a local lady with roots in ranching.

He always spoke highly of his alma mater. He and his family were treated to a delightful campus tour by BFIT faculty and staff in 2001 and again in 2009. All were duly impressed by the beautiful, historical campus, wide range of programs, and dedicated faculty and staff.

Charles enjoyed a full life: one lived with kindness, humor, and patience. He managed to overcome obstacles along the way by his intelligence, faith, hard work, and a solid education.