In Remembrance of Charles “Chuck” Lavaroni
By Don Leisey  5/2/15

When I received a call from Peter Lavaroni that his father, had passed, I was in shock even though Chuck had warned me numerous times that the end was near. I have been fortunate and proud to call Chuck my friend for the past 40 plus years. Aside from being friends we were partners in various business ventures related to education.

We all know about Chuck’s impressive resume and extensive life achievements. He was a multi-talented individual and was an inspiration to all of us. His extraordinary generosity touched the lives of many people. He was a World War II Navy Veteran, a passionate educator, a motivating teacher, an educational entrepreneur, a creative innovator, a generous philanthropist, an entertaining and talented musician and singer, a published author, a dynamic public speaker, a true visionary leader, an intrepid traveler and was very generous with his attention and affection for his family (Chuck’s highest priority in life), friends and colleagues.

Chuck and I got to know each other much better and our friendship grew stronger in 1998 and 1999 when we were spending a lot of time together writing the book, The Educational Entrepreneur: Making a Difference. We interviewed twenty-two educational entrepreneurs throughout the country, most of whom we met in person in their home towns. We also used this occasion to play some wonderful golf courses on our trips.

In his book, The Greatest Generation, Tom Brokaw describes my close friend and business partner’s generation as: “This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values - - duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and above all, responsibility for oneself.” I believe this summarizes the Chuck Lavaroni that I have known for over 40 years. We will miss Chuck’s unique presence in our lives.

The following was passed on to me from our friend, Anna Pilloton, that I think will always keep Charles “Chuck” Lavaroni in our thoughts:

THERE ARE SOME WHO BRING A LIGHT SO GREAT TO THE WORLD THAT EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE GONE, THE LIGHT REMAINS!!!