

Jacob “Chuck” Vogler

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1999



Jacob Vogler, known affectionately to his friends and family as “Chuck” was born in Chicago, Illinois, but graduated high school from Notre Dame High School in Riverside, CA.

He began his career as a very successful building contractor in Seattle, in the 1960’s. Boeing one of the biggest employers in the Seattle area had a bad couple of years, however, which made the building industry go into a recession. In his 30’s tired of being a salesman and pressured by economic changes in Seattle Chuck and his wife moved to California and returned to college.

It was at San Jose State that he discovered, and fell in love with, speech. Chuck had a mentor at San Jose State in the communications department that gave him the motivation to be active in forensics. He began to judge at tournaments at nearly thirty-eight old graduated from San Jose State with double majors in speech and sociology.

He spent the next twenty years teaching with his best friend at Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance. During sixteen of those years he served the WBFL in an executive capacity: as treasurer for four years, and as president for twelve years. As a member of the CSSC he was a reasoned and forthright advocate of necessary reforms of competitive forensics as well as a staunch supporter of vital programs for speech communication education.

In 2000, Chuck and Marilyn moved to Galt where he taught English and coached at Sacramento High School for three years before retiring. Tragically, four years after retirement Chuck passed away in December of 2007 after a lengthy illness while visiting Honolulu with his family. Chuck had lived in Galt for over seven years and become an active member of the community. A lover of literature, he was active with the Galt Friends of the Library, serving as president in his last year. He also volunteered for Meals on Wheels.

His wife of over thirty-five years, Marilyn, shares with us that Chuck loved everyday of his teaching career, and would often say, “I love to get up every morning and go to work.” His weekends were filled with speech tournaments and his wife became a judge at many tournaments as well.

Even after retirement Chuck continued to serve at the state tournament in the congress tabroom through 2006. A truly giving soul, Chuck was beloved by the speech community and welcomed back each year.

For his dedication to CHSSA and its students, Chuck was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 1999. His wife and best friend wrote, “It was one of his finest accomplishments. His children and grandchildren came to see the induction. He was very proud.”

