

# US ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES CLINTON LYDA

## July 23, 1952 – June 12, 2010



Charles Clinton Lyda was born in San Diego, California. Chuck enlisted in the 132nd Engineer Battalion on January 18th, 1983 and became a combat engineer. LTC Charles Lyda was preparing to deploy on his second tour to Iraq when diagnosed with cancer in 2009. He died at the age of 57.

Chuck is two-time Olympian (1976, 1980) and a two-time World Champion (1975, 1977) in the sport of Canoe/Kayak. He was on 28 national teams, winter (Biathlon) and summer (Canoe/Kayak). He competed in biathlon at the World Cup level before becoming the head coach for the Army World Class Athlete Program (W.C.A.P.) Biathlon Team in 1995. Chuck was selected as a member of the U.S. Olympic Biathlon Team coaching staff after putting four of his athletes on the 1998 Olympic Biathlon Team. Chuck coached through the 2002 Salt Lake Games.



Chuck lived, worked, trained and raced in the Truckee Tahoe area for thirty years. In 1989 Chuck was named the first Nordic Director for the Auburn Ski Club Training Center. Bill Clark, Executive Director of the ASC Training Center said, "The biggest thing Chuck brought to the ASC was instant credibility with the nordic community. Chuck helped dramatically raise the level of grooming aimed toward the athletes we were hoping to attract to our developing programs. The biathlon program at ASC was also started by Chuck and continues today at Northstar, as well as as the long running 10th Mountain Division Race. The ASC 1-2-3 Program was started by Chuck with the help of Doug Brown and Ross Galia. That program continues today and has introduced something like 20,000 kids to X-C skiing over the years.

This is a huge legacy. The ASC Nordic Program owes a great deal to Chuck for his hard work in jump starting the Training Center program. He was the perfect person to get the program started in the right direction."

Chuck was a dedicated member of the US Army for 27 years. He had a lifelong commitment to excellence. Chuck Lyda excelled in many sports and entered many lives. He is survived by his wife Carol Schick-Lyda, his mother Charmian, sister Laramée, and his brother Grady.

A memorial service will be held on July 10th at 7 p.m.  
at the California State University Sacramento  
Aquatic Center on Lake Natoma.

A 'Paddle Out' will be held at 5 pm  
at Lake Natoma Flats State Park.

He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery  
with full honors on October 8, 2010.

