

**CHIP DAY**  
***“HEART AND SOUL”***  
**OF THE**  
**BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP**

James R. “Chip” Day passed away in the evening of June 7 2022. He was born March 14, 1941.

For everyone who knew Chip, he was indeed a special person; devoted to the BCCW, missions, and helping others, and he was a friend to all.

His involvement with BCCW began in 1985 (our 2nd year), a couple of years later (circa 1987) he agreed to be BCCW Chair. Later, in the 1990s, becoming Co-Chair, he began sharing the duties with another, until, several years ago when he became Chair Emeritus. For most, his name is synonymous with the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp.

**He was our spiritual leader and the heart and soul of our group.**

**He will be sorely missed and remembered forever.**



(Seen here is Chip with his Santa-like beard and ever-present ball cap, plaid shirt and suspenders. With that microphone in his hand, he most certainly is recounting one of his humorous or heartfelt stories he so loved, presenting Workcamp lore. More often than not, he brought a smile to our face and/or a tear to our eye as well as to his own.)

Son of the late James Russell Day, Sr., and Elizabeth Hill Day, Chip was a retired disability claims authorizer in the Congressional Inquiries Unit with the Social Security Administration, where he worked for 42 years. He was a dedicated member of the Social Security Chorus for many of the years of his employment. Chip graduated from Catonsville High School in 1959 then attended Catonsville Community College before beginning his career. He was a very active member of Catonsville United Methodist Church – singing in the senior choir; coordinating the

acolyte program; helping with youth programs as a counselor and financial supporter, especially the West River United Methodist Retreat Center; and focusing on mission outreach. Chip was chairman, vice chairman and site coordinator for the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp for over 35 years. He participated in numerous disaster relief projects on locations throughout the South and in Maryland. He especially was dedicated to the church's support of the Methodist camp in Quesada, Costa Rica, where he traveled for 20+ years and sponsored a number of individuals on their trips there as well. Before devoting his life to missions, Chip enjoyed traveling to Europe. He was an avid photographer and a passionate Orioles, Baltimore Colts and Ravens fan. Aside from missions, Chip helped organize a Sunday summer church softball league through Baltimore County Recreation & Parks for more than 15 years. He assured that field permits were secured and there were umpires scheduled to officiate the games. He spent the last few years of his life at Brightview Assisted Living, making new friends and enjoying shopping and restaurant outings. His aim in all his endeavors was to make others feel included and assure they enjoyed themselves.

**Here are some personal reembraces from people who knew Chip well, for as many as three to four decades, and volunteered with him at the BCCW:**

For years he would always wear his Baltimore Colts' cap, which did show its wear and tear, though the Colts were long gone. I remember him often saying:

- My schedule stinks.
- I hate surprises.
- We'll talk about it [said when he did not want to make a decision or discuss something].
- My [cell] phone has been acting up.
- You can't hurt my feelings; I work(ed) for the Federal government

Those who knew Chip quickly discovered that there is Eastern Standard Time, and then there was "Chip Time." He "never" seemed to be on-time. I couldn't fathom his schedule, as he always seemed to be doing something other than being at his day job when he was still working at SSA. In addition, he always seemed to be doing stuff late at night. He was one of the busiest people I knew, with probably the craziest schedule (or lack thereof).

Chip struggled mightily to let go of what was done in the 1980s and 1990s and fought coming into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He always had his little black appointment book which he kept in his shirt pocket. He loved those plaid shirts and suspenders.

He was certainly a unique character and one who seemed "married" and devoted to his church, Catonsville UMC. One time we were bidding up one another at my church's auction, when the donor offered to do two of her baked items (item of our choice every other month). However, then Chip only used one of the bi-monthly goodies . . . and that was to take to a funeral reception.

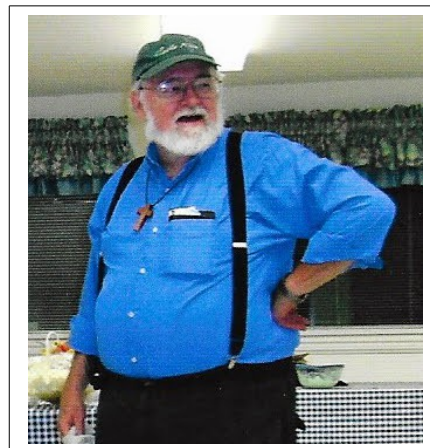
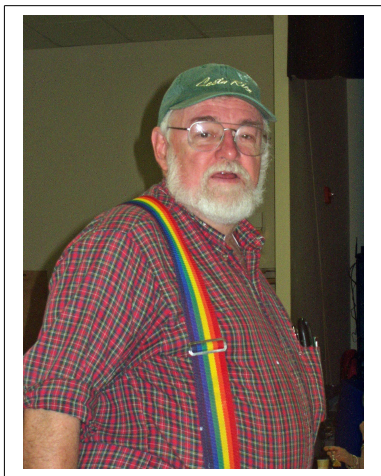
He was not known for his short phone calls or conversations. Many times, he would call me (before the cell phone days) and, after a while on the phone, I would wonder why did he call me. He would admit that my number was one of the few BCCW volunteers' phone numbers which he had memorized.

Even when he was recuperating from his many hospital stays or while at Brightwood, he always wanted to know what was happening with BCCW. He never really complained about his health; he always was ready to talk about something else, e.g., what we did during one of the BCCW's years ago, the Civil War, politics (at times), etc.

Of all who would call me and leave a landline phone message, Chip's would take the record for the longest. While at Brightwood, on his cell, he left the longest phone message of anyone I ever knew.

I know that I am a better person having known Chip for 35+ years. I am going to miss those calls when he would leave one of those excruciating long messages on my answering machine and when he would always start his message or phone conversation with "Hi. This is Chip" and always end with "God Bless."

**Notwithstanding**, without a doubt, Chip was the most mission-oriented person that I had ever known. He was always interested in helping others, whether locally or across the country or in Central America. He lived for his mission trips; I know that he hated having to stop taking them. He was indeed a people person. He was generous with both his time and money. He was a friend to all as he could talk to anyone. I will cherish our friendship. (Steve L.)



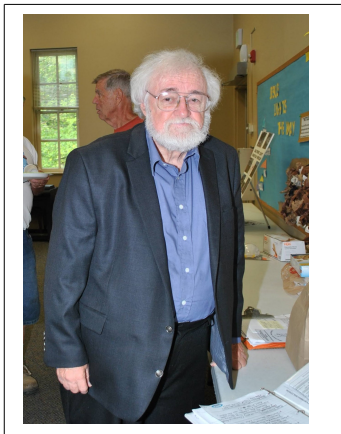
There are two things that I will always remember about Chip. First, he reminded me as somewhat like a homeless person. You know those people who have a grocery cart they keep with them that holds all of their worldly possessions! Well Chip had a minivan where he had, instead of worldly possessions, a huge number of items such as gloves, trash bags, various tools, paint supplies, etc. which were very helpful to the volunteers.

The second thing I will always remember about Chip was his unlimited desire and willingness to help people out with whatever they needed. He would give people rides, he would have conversations, he would deliver needed supplies to volunteers, he would help with projects, etc. during the entire year in addition to the July Workcamp week.

I put Chip in a special category with only two other people in my life. One was my dad who passed away 22 years ago. He also had that same unlimited desire and willingness to help me, the church, his friends and his neighbors out with electrical, mechanical, plumbing, carpentry, etc. -- with whatever they needed! I learned a lot from him.

Second was my friend, John O, who passed away some years ago. He also was a Workcamp volunteer and had that same unlimited desire and willingness to help me, the church, his friends and his neighbors out with computers and other projects.

Because of their unending help and the support that they freely gave to many people, I will always remember Chip, my dad and John as heroes of the people and for the people. Chip, we will all miss you very much. You are a true hero. Peace be with you! (Mike B)



What sad news!! What a fine man Chip was. (George W)

This is indeed sad news but we know he is in Heaven. Chip was a good guy and a joy to be with. (Sal C)

**You may view a video of the Memorial Service for Chip Day conducted on September 10, 2022 at Catonsville United Methodist Church at this link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSUqv4W-liM>