

Charlie Gray passed away Oct. 11, 2025, at the age of 97.

From 1965 to 1993, Charlie held numerous roles at the college, coaching basketball, track, and cross country, and later serving as athletic director. He played a pivotal role in transforming the physical education program into what became the Exercise and Health Science Department, where he also served as chair.

Under his leadership, Alma's track and cross-country teams achieved remarkable success, capturing eight conference titles, two regional championships, and producing six All-American athletes. Beyond campus, Charlie's influence extended nationally — he served two years as president of the NAIA Coaches Association and founded the Alma College Athletics Hall of Fame in 1971, the first of its kind among Michigan colleges.

Charlie was also a champion for progress. He guided Alma through the rise of women's athletics following the passage of Title IX in 1972 and later oversaw the creation of the Exercise and Health Science Department in 1985, which he regarded as the crowning achievement of his career.

His many contributions were recognized in 1994 when he was inducted into the Alma Athletics Hall of Fame for meritorious service, and again in 2011 when he proudly served as grand marshal of the Homecoming parade.

Even in retirement, Charlie remained a cherished member of the Alma community. He stayed connected to the Scots, mentoring coaches and returning often to campus when returning from his winter home in Florida to lend his support and share stories from Alma's proud athletic past.

He is survived by two children; Cheryl and David; five grandchildren and two great-grandsons. A memorial service will likely be held in spring 2026 at Alma College. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Charles A. Gray Scholarship fund.