



Charles attended Windsor High School and graduated from Kimball Union Academy in 1942. He received his BA from Middlebury College in 1949 where he was captain of the football team and member of the KDR fraternity. He received a BS degree from MIT in 1950. He was employed by Jones and Lamson of Springfield, Vt. as the Director of Training. He served in the US Air Force during WWII and retired from the AF reserves with the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1983.

Charles Puksta was a dedicated public servant throughout his life. He served the City of Claremont on the City Council for 26 years and Mayor for 16 years. He was Moderator of the school district; Commissioner for the Connecticut River Commission; member of the Chamber of Commerce, where he was named Man of the Year; Director of the Opera House and Incorporator of the Valley Regional Hospital. Charles was a member of the Kiwanis Club, the Elks Club and the American Legion.

Charles Puksta was an advocate for education. He was appointed by two Presidents to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education. He served as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the NH Community Technical College and on the Governor's Committee on New Hampshire's Future. He also served the Vermont Exemplary Programs Advisory Committee for Vocational Technical Education and the Vermont Career Education Advisory Committee.

Charles was a devout Catholic and member of St. Joseph Church. He gave many hours to church functions, called bingo for 50 years at their annual bazaar and hosted the annual Sports Night awards ceremonies for high school athletes. He was Past Faithful Navigator and Commander of the Knights of Columbus.

Charles Puksta believed in a good and honorable political process and volunteered actively in support of many local, state and national political campaigns. He served as Claremont City Chairman for numerous GOP candidates, was the GOP chairman for Sullivan County, attended National Conventions and served on the Platform Committee. He attended the inaugurations of Presidents Nixon, Reagan and George Bush, Sr.