

## Albert Briggs

May 1, 1937 - October 9, 2021

Prof. Albert William Briggs, Jr. of Chestertown, MD died of Parkinson's disease on October 9, 2021, surrounded by family. He was 84.

He was born May 1, 1937, in Wichita, KS, son of Albert William Briggs Sr. and Pearlanna Beloof Briggs. He grew up in Wichita. He entered Harvard in 1955 and graduated in 1959 with a major in mathematics. While at Harvard, he met Emily Anne Forsythe, whom he married on June 18, 1961.

After gaining his master's degree in mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley, he joined the Peace Corps along with his wife. They served together in Malaysia from 1964 to the end of 1966, where he was an upper secondary and calculus teacher. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1973.

He began teaching mathematics at Washington College in 1967. He served as chair of the Mathematics department and oversaw its transition to the Mathematics and Computer Science department. After his retirement in 2002, he and his wife made visits to Malaysia, India, China, and South Korea.

He played the violin in high school and at Harvard. He was a member of the Newark Symphony Orchestra until 2015 and in the Washington College String Orchestra from 2016 to 2018.

He was among the founding members of the Chester River Friends' Meeting and the Pepper Steppers Square Dance Club. He loved mathematics and classical music. He used his retirement as an opportunity to explore new subjects, read more books, and learn new things for as long as he could.

Albert is survived by his wife of 60 years, Anne Forsythe Briggs; two sons, Anthony Lawrence Briggs of Jersey City, NJ and Paul Gordon Briggs of Easton, MD; a daughter-in-law, Jiwon Jun Briggs; and two grandsons, Evan Jun Briggs and Jonah Jun Briggs. He is also survived by a sister, Margaret Gale Briggs Knecht, and her husband, Robert Knecht; a niece, Anna Marie Knecht; and a nephew, John William Knecht. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Earl Briggs, in 1947.

Services will be held on Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 10:00am at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home in Chestertown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Newark Symphony Orchestra at P.O. Box 7775, Newark, DE 19714 or to Compass Regional Hospice at 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617.

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Albert Briggs*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - November 04, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *Albert Briggs*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Albert Briggs*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Albert Briggs*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

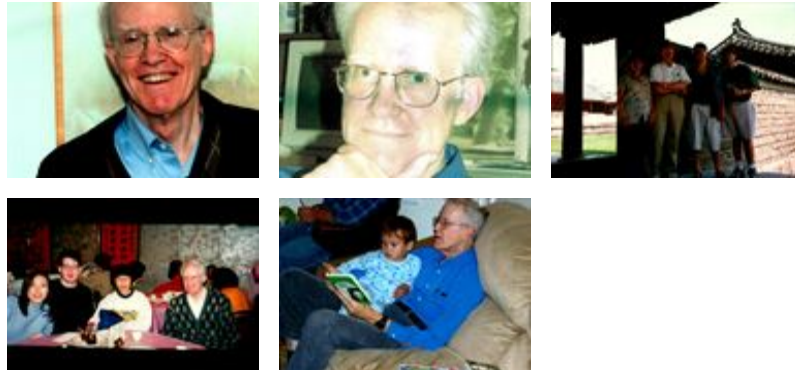
SB

“ I remember Al from the Newark Symphony Orchestra, I joined a few years after him, so we made beautiful music together for over 30 years. Well, Al did at least! I wish I had known him better - as I read his obituary and learned he was in the Peace Corps, I would have loved to talk to him about that. My father was in the Peace Corps and as children we were with him in Nigeria. I imagine Al had great stories about his times in Malaysia! My father also died of Parkinson's Disease, so I know it's a tough thing to go through. I'm sure Al kept his ever-present smile throughout his life! That's probably my strongest memory of Al - that smile. Condolences to the family and may his memory ease your loss.

Susan Bartley - November 06, 2021 at 07:55 AM



“ 36 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - November 04, 2021 at 11:32 AM

SP

“ Al was often my stand partner in Newark Symphony Orchestra. He was a wonderful and funny person. It was impressive how much he practiced.

Shirley Peters - October 21, 2021 at 09:37 AM

JO

“ A sweet memory is my visit with Al and Anne at their home. Al's sense of humor made the conversation lively as he shared family updates, memories and news of mutual Peace Corps friends, and more - but not sharing the Sunday Crossword Puzzle. Al's smile was big as he firmly defended his boundaries. I am so glad to have known him.

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**Judy Oliver** - October 14, 2021 at 03:38 AM

RP

“ We were in the Peace Corps together in Malaysia in 1964-66. I was able to visit them once in Penang. Al was a joy to know, always upbeat and well informed, with a great sense of humor and a good conversationalist. The last I saw him was at our 50th year reunion at the Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. He was taking his condition in stride and was as sharp as ever. I will remember his smile and his intelligent yet humble manner. A very sweet soul. He will be missed.

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**Rosemarie Palmer** - October 13, 2021 at 09:50 PM

SB

“ A very special man who was an inspiration for my husband as they both dealt with their journey with Parkinson's Disease.

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**sheila barry** - October 13, 2021 at 08:43 PM

CB

“ Al was a kind, clever, and sometimes very funny man. I feel fortunate to have had the chance to be his colleague and to know him. His death is a real loss for Washington College.

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**Clayton Black** - October 13, 2021 at 11:33 AM

DP

“ As a faculty member in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department at Washington College, I was always impressed by Al's continued engagement and curiosity with mathematics and many other disciplines in his retirement. He would often visit our mathematics seminar to hear students present their work on problems, and to ask them insightful questions.

Dylan Poulsen - October 13, 2021 at 11:27 AM

SQ

“ Sara Beth & David Quinn lit a candle in memory of Albert Briggs



Sara Beth & David Quinn - October 11, 2021 at 10:55 AM

JB

“ Joyce Bradley lit a candle in memory of Albert Briggs



Joyce Bradley - October 10, 2021 at 08:37 PM

BL

“ Brenda K Lyons lit a candle in memory of Albert Briggs



Brenda K Lyons - October 10, 2021 at 11:38 AM

PT

“ *Pamela Teat lit a candle in memory of Albert Briggs*



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**Pamela Teat** - October 10, 2021 at 01:13 AM

JG

“ *Jeanne Geibel lit a candle in memory of Albert Briggs*



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**Jeanne Geibel** - October 09, 2021 at 10:04 PM