



Daniel Lawrence Premo

October 1, 1934 - July 4, 2023

Daniel Lawrence Premo of Chestertown, MD, passed away on July 4, 2023, at the age of 88. He was a well-respected professor at Washington College, international diplomat, and beloved husband and father.

A memorial service will be held on July 22, 2023, at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home at 130 Speer Road in Chestertown. The gathering begins at 11 a.m., with a service at noon, followed by a lunch reception at the funeral home.

Dan was the youngest of three children, born on October 1, 1934, in Muskegon, MI, to Owen Daniel Premo, a civil engineer and inventor, and Alice May Morton, an elementary school teacher. Growing up, Dan played three years of high school varsity baseball and was an avid fisherman. He had a passion for classical music, and while in college played the cello in the Kalamazoo Symphony.

After graduating summa cum laude from Western Michigan University in 1956, he spent a year in Bogota, Colombia on a fellowship from the Organization of American States, teaching at the University of the Andes. From 1958 to 1963, he worked for the U.S. Information Agency, serving as Assistant Director of the Binational Center in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and Director of the Binational Center in Barranquilla, Colombia.

Dan returned to the United States in 1965 completing his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Texas. It was there he met his wife, Rita Rienstra. They married in 1967.

In 1970, they moved to Chestertown where he began the Latin American Studies Program at Washington College. During his career, he served as Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Studies, was appointed the first Louis L. Goldstein Professor and Curator of the Goldstein Program in Public Affairs. In 1987, Dan was selected as the sixth Charles H. Hackley Distinguished Lecturer, delivering the keynote address at the Muskegon Museum of Art. He received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching at Washington College.

He and Rita spent six months in South Africa in 1998 as the college's first exchange professor at Rhodes University. Dan took immense pleasure in teaching and working with students. Dan was recognized as an expert in the field of United States Latin American Relations, publishing dozens of articles on the region's military and insurgency movements. He traveled frequently to Latin America and was active in several professional associations.

After retiring in 2003, Dan continued to play duplicate bridge, earning the rank of Master. He shared his expertise as a guest lecturer on cruise ships traveling through Latin America. He loyally followed several sports teams, including the Baltimore Orioles and Detroit Lions, Redwings, Pistons, and Tigers.

Dan was committed to his family and the greater Chestertown community. Over the years, he coached sports teams for both Kent County and Chestertown Little League Baseball and the Church Youth Basketball League. In his retirement, he taught several courses for the Washington College

Academy of Lifelong Learning and served a term as Special Events Committee Chair.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rita Rienstra Premo; son, Christopher, and grandsons, Jacob and Jason Premo; daughter, Alison Premo Black (James) and grandchildren Owen, Johannah, Evelyn, and Conrad Black; and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Douglas Premo (Ilknur) and Nancy Wallington (David).

Friends, former students, and others are welcome to leave photos or a note for the family at <https://www.mykeeper.com/profile/DanielPremo/>.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Doctors Without Borders.

Previous Events

Gathering

JUL 22. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows Helfenbien & Newnam
130 Speer Rd
Chestertown , MD 21620

Memorial Service

JUL 22. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows Helfenbien & Newnam
130 Speer Rd
Chestertown , MD 21620

Open Reception

JUL 22. 1:00 PM (ET)

Dogwood Reception Center at FHN
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 22, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 22, 2023 at 08:47 AM



“ *Daniel Lawrence Premo*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM

LK

“ 3 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Lynn N Knopf - July 23, 2023 at 01:10 AM

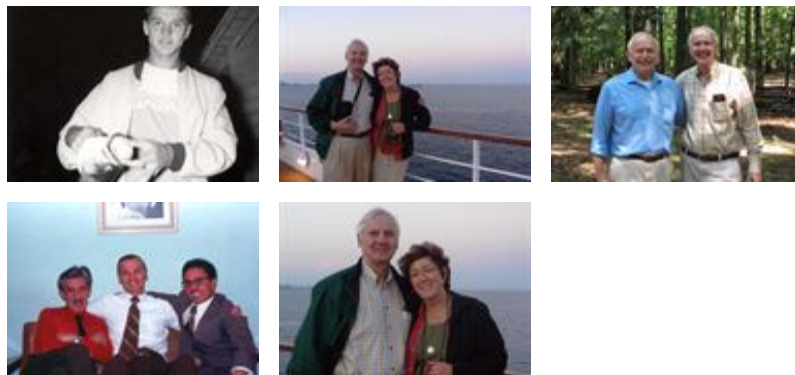
GS

“ Dan was one of my best friends and most respected colleagues at Washington College. We shared common interests in Spanish and Latin America. It so happened that I was in the hospital at the time of his passing. Thank you, Rita for your friendship over the years. My heartfelt condolences to the whole family.

George Shivers - July 22, 2023 at 11:19 AM



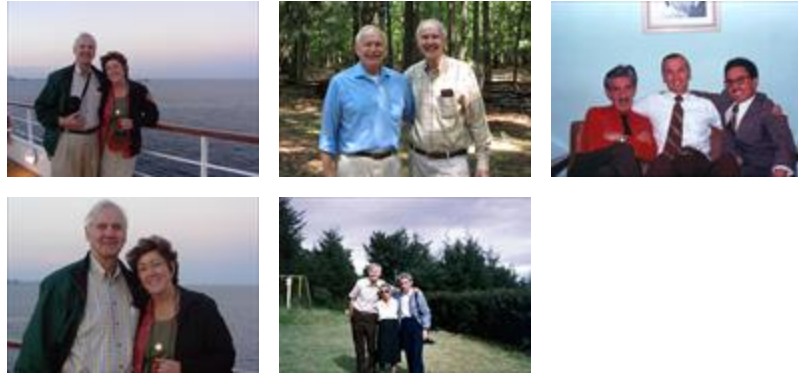
“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 22, 2023 at 08:46 AM



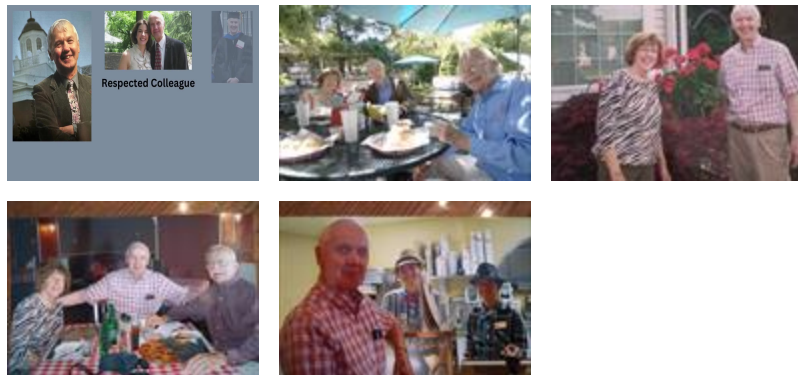
“ 38 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 22, 2023 at 08:38 AM



“ 7 files added to the album *Slideshow*



Alison Black - July 21, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *I feel privileged to have worked at Washington College when Dan Premo was still on the faculty. His was always a wise and gentle voice of reason. After his retirement it was always a pleasure to run into Dan and Rita as I walked to and from campus, and it is hard to imagine Chestertown without him. He will be missed by all who knew him.*

Clayton Black - July 21, 2023 at 02:34 PM

LK

“ Dan was my father's best friend back from his time in Muskegon, Michigan. He was a very kind man and a very good friend. I really enjoyed Dan and Rita's visits when they came back to Michigan.



Lynn N Knopf - July 21, 2023 at 01:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel Lawrence Premo.

July 21, 2023 at 09:22 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Lawrence Premo.



July 21, 2023 at 09:22 AM

SQ

“ Sara And David Quinn lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo



Sara and David Quinn - July 19, 2023 at 04:27 PM

SC

“ Susan, Kelly, Sandra, and children purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Daniel Lawrence Premo.



Susan, Kelly, Sandra, and children - July 18, 2023 at 05:28 PM

CO

“ Dear Rita and family,
Please accept my condolences and all the condolences from the Dover Duplicate Bridge Club.
Dan was not only a good bridge player, but also a wonderful bridge director. He faithfully directed bridge in Dover until recent years. At our annual holiday/Christmas party, he would photograph all the players and generously deliver them their pictures.
Dan will always be remembered for his kindness, thoughtfulness, and gentlemanly way. May he rest in peace and let perpetual light shine upon him.
Clare O'Brien

Clare O'Brien - July 13, 2023 at 11:20 AM

DG

“ Donna Gibbons=Neff lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo



Donna Gibbons=Neff - July 13, 2023 at 11:12 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Daniel Lawrence Premo.*



July 09, 2023 at 08:02 PM



“ *Barb Ford lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Barb Ford - July 09, 2023 at 02:37 PM



“ *Dan was a smart, curious, kind gentleman who contributed greatly to Washington College's Academy of Lifelong Learning through his service on the Council and as the Chair of the Special Events Committee. He will be missed by so many.*

Anna Wolgast - July 08, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ *I had the privilege to know Dan as a friend and a colleague. He mentored me and so many other young professors who were still wet behind the ears and unsure how to succeed. After he retired, we would run into each other in town and he always was a delight to be with. He made a difference in so many lives; student, faculty and staff.*

George J Spilich - July 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM

DD

“ Dan was a gentle soul and a true gentleman. Sending love and prayers to Rita and her family at this most difficult time.

Darla Downer - July 08, 2023 at 01:58 PM

PB

“ Dan and my father, Monroe Hudson, were great bridge players together. But more than that he and Rita were terrific friends. His smile and laugh will be missed by all who knew him. God speed. With Love, Phyllis Hudson Brown



Phyllis Hudson Brown - July 08, 2023 at 01:31 PM

JH

“ Joan Horsey lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo



Joan Horsey - July 07, 2023 at 11:21 PM

VR

“ Valerie Reihl lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo



Valerie Reihl - July 07, 2023 at 10:38 PM

DH

“ *One of the kindest people I ever knew..*



Dianne Hill - July 07, 2023 at 10:29 PM

KO

“ *Kathleen O'Connor lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Kathleen O'Connor - July 07, 2023 at 03:13 PM

DJ

“ *Denise Joyal lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Denise Joyal - July 07, 2023 at 02:33 PM

LP

“ *Lee Phillips lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Lee Phillips - July 07, 2023 at 01:52 PM

DK

“ *Debbie Kemp lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Debbie Kemp - July 07, 2023 at 11:09 AM

JE

“ *John Eigenbrot lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



John Eigenbrot - July 06, 2023 at 07:06 PM

MK

“ *So very sorry for your loss and Washington College's loss. May God protect Dr. Premo's soul forever and ever. Prayers for his family too.*



Margot A Kenzie - July 06, 2023 at 06:31 PM

RC

“ *So sorry to hear about Professor Premo. As an unremarkable student at Washington College, I took his course in Latin American politics in either 1970 or 1971. What is remarkable is that I remember so much from his class all these years later. Very interesting teacher!*

Rosemary Callahan - July 06, 2023 at 06:06 PM

KB

“ *Kaye Barnes lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Kaye Barnes - July 06, 2023 at 05:31 PM

JS

“ *Jeanette Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Jeanette Stubbs - July 06, 2023 at 05:10 PM

LR

“ *Dan was the most kind and thoughtful 'gentleman,' in every sense of that word. I enjoyed the years with him in Cardiac Rehab, and I am so sorry for your loss, Rita.
May he rest in peace,
Libby Rice*

Libby Rice - July 06, 2023 at 05:01 PM

BW

“ *Barb Wyman lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Barb Wyman - July 06, 2023 at 08:42 AM

TF

“ *The Mumford Family lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



The Mumford Family - July 05, 2023 at 07:32 PM

JH

“ *Joan Hatcherson lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Joan Hatcherson - July 05, 2023 at 07:11 PM

LM

“ *This is hard to take in. In addition to simply being a lovely and delightful family man, friend, and community member, Dan was a dedicated and inspiring professor, much loved by his students and his colleagues. He will be much missed but carried in many hearts.*

Lynn McLain - July 05, 2023 at 07:00 PM

LS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.*

Ken and Louise Stonesifer



Louise H Stonesifer - July 05, 2023 at 06:49 PM

KC

“ Going to miss his quiet kindness & good humor. Know there will be a lot of support for you, Rita, from all your family & friends



Karin Cowperthwait - July 05, 2023 at 04:30 PM

TB

“ *Thelma Bright lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Thelma Bright - July 05, 2023 at 04:19 PM

TB

Rita and family, so sorry for your loss. Dan was a devoted family man and father. May he rest in peace as he watches over you from heaven.
Thelma & Bill Bright

Thelma Bright - July 05, 2023 at 04:22 PM

PS

“ *Patricia & Billy Sutton lit a candle in memory of Daniel Lawrence Premo*



Patricia & Billy Sutton - July 05, 2023 at 03:56 PM