



Edward Flanagan

July 27, 1955 - August 19, 2021

Edward James Flanagan of St. Michaels, Maryland passed away peacefully on August 19, 2021, at the age of 66.

He was born to Mary Brophy and Thomas E. Flanagan, who predeceased him. Ed grew up in Newark, Delaware. He was a talented archeologist and a natural athlete. As an artist, he used ancient methodologies to recreate Neolithic art forms.

Ed had an early interest in archeology from digging in the local woods and creeks, which led to a degree in archeology from Clarion University in Pennsylvania. He worked in the Middle Atlantic region for many years, specializing in Native American archeology.

He was a gifted flintknapper, who accurately replicated stone tools from many periods. He conducted experimental archeology to better understand how Native Americans prepared raw materials for stone toolmaking. Ed's research included the successful application of a method to identify the uses of stone tools and ceramic vessels from organic residues found on them. These techniques became widely used. Each of his research interests promoted a clearer understanding of the manufacture and use of the artifacts he found.

Ed is survived by his daughter Dr. Sarah Flanagan Wesley, grandchildren

Emmett and Abigail, sisters Debora Flanagan Massouda, Mary Flanagan Jaffe, Barbara Flanagan, and Ellen Flanagan. He is loved and missed by all, including his many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunt and uncle.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving a tribute gift in Ed's honor to Easton Memorial Hospital, Easton, MD. <https://ummhfoundation.org/ways-to-give/make-a-memorialhonor-gift/>

Burial will be private.

Tribute Wall



“ *Edward Flanagan*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Edward Flanagan*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Edward Flanagan*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Ed and I first worked together on the Providence Covelands Phase II and later Phase III archaeological projects. Going in to that project, I had conducted archaeology in a city, but Ed (and Bill Sandy) taught me the finer points of archaeology on deeply buried urban sites. On that project, I discovered that Ed had an innate talent as a field archaeologist and was an expert in Native American lithic technology. Ed's knowledge of Native American material culture was encyclopedic. He also was a gifted flint knapper. As well as being a professional colleague, he was also a good friend. He was kind, loyal, and witty. I worked with him for many years. After he left Parsons, I lost track of him for quite a long time. Early in 2021, he found me and reached out. When I spoke to him, it was as if the years melted away. We were two long term friends trying to catch up. I only wish that we had had more chances to reminisce. Farewell, dear friend. You will be missed.*

Liz Crowell - August 29, 2021 at 03:10 PM

JC

“ 08/28/21

My wife Carolyn and I were deeply saddened to hear of Ed's passing.

Ed and I were archaeological colleagues and co-researchers in lithic technology. We first worked together at MAAR in the 1970's, where we shared many archeological projects, "stone chasing" events, and carried out even more research experiments to compare and contrast prehistoric toolstones that were used throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Region. Our last important lithic research project was a hornfels quarry site in Fairfax Co. Va. in the early 90's. At that time, we worked out of Ed's place in Deal, Md.

After that episode I lost track of Ed until late last year when a friend and colleague made contact with Ed's sister on Facebook and alerted me to a possible re connection with Ed. I had been waiting to hear from him since the beginning of the year to no avail. Apparently this reunion was not to be.

Ed will forever be missed. As long as our memories hold the tales of stone chasing, archaeology and friendship will prevail.

With deepest sympathies to Ed's family,

Jack and Carolyn Cresson

Jack Cresson - August 28, 2021 at 02:46 PM

BS

“ Edward J. Flanagan, a great archaeologist, flintknapper and friend to all has slipped this mortal coil.

Born in NJ, he spent much of his early life in DE. He discovered and excavated countless Precontact and historic sites in DE, NJ, PA, DC, MD, CT, RI, VA and elsewhere beginning in the 1970s. One employer was Middle Atlantic Archaeological Research (MAAR) led by Ron Thomas. His discovery of Precontact and free Black historic sites in Providence, Rhode Island in 1981 to 1983 was remarkable, to say the least. He spent many years working sites on the Northeast Corridor Project for DeLeuw Cather/ Parsons and Engineering Sciences. An expert in lithic quarry sites, Ed was a graduate of Clarion College, PA, where he hung with now NPS archaeologist Judd Kratzer. In retirement he chose the life of a bayman in coastal MD.

Bill Sandy - August 28, 2021 at 10:56 AM

BS

“ Ed was truly one of a kind. He was understanding and accepting of all kinds of people. He is the one most responsible for great discoveries in Providence RI (1981 - 1983), Virginia and elsewhere. He was truly a friend indeed. Together we laughed at the absurdities of the world around us.



Bill Sandy - August 28, 2021 at 09:28 AM

JR

“ I knew Ed from archaeology when we both worked for Engineering Science, Inc. In the 1980s and 1990s. He was truly gifted, as both a field archaeologist and researcher. His replication of ancient stone tools was an incredible influence on me and with his help allowed me to learn to flintknape to a very proficient ability. Rest in peace, Ed. May your brilliant light continue to burn forever.

*John Rutherford
Manassas, VA*



John Rutherford - August 26, 2021 at 04:44 PM