



## Francis Bernard Bonass

July 3, 1948 - November 27, 2017

Francis “Frank” Bernard Bonass of Chestertown, MD, passed quietly on Monday evening, November 27, 2017, after a brave battle with cancer.

He was born in Dublin, Ireland, on July 3, 1948, to John and Margaret Bonass. The youngest of three boys. he attended Castleknock N.S. in Dublin and later, Lucan Technical School.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Elizabeth “Betty” (nee O’Connor); his sons, Darren (Carolyn), John (Deirdre), Frankie (Jessie) and daughter Jennifer Weiner (Joseph); his grandchildren Christina, Aidan, Maeve, Ramey, Marley, Conal, Gillian, Aisling, Kieran, Maggie, Fiona, Nora, Anna and Baby Weiner who is due on December 25.

Frank was a successful retail shop owner and clothing manufacturer in Dublin, Ireland, in the 1970’s and 1980’s. In the late 80’s, he applied for visas for the family to try their luck in the United States. In June 1990, the Bonass family left their home in Ashbourne and landed in New York, as Frank said, “with the woman, four kids, and twelve suitcases” heading for the Philadelphia area.

Frank’s career in the restaurant business began at McCloskey’s Pub in Ardmore, PA. It was apparent from the start that he had a natural way with the business and decided he’d like to own his own restaurant one day. He and

Betty established their first restaurant & pub in Betterton, MD, in 1997. They named it the Dublin Dock. Not only was it a great success, Frank and Betty made many friends there. In 2001, they opened O'Connor's Pub, their second restaurant, in Chestertown, MD, where Frank honed his chef skills, earning awards and widespread praise for his recipes.

Frank, a fan of all sports, especially Gaelic Football, was a faithful supporter of the "Boys in Blue" even making it onto the front page of the Dublin newspaper with the 1995 All-Ireland championship team after their win at Croke Park.

He touched many lives and was beloved by his family and a wide circle of friends around the world.

A Viewing will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in Chestertown. Services will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. at Shrewsbury Church in Kennedyville.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Co., P.O. Box 296, Chestertown, MD 21620 or the American Cancer Society, Lung Cancer Research, 8400 Silver Crossing Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

DEC 2. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
info@fhnfuneralhome.com

### Service

DEC 2. 2:30 PM (ET)

Shrewsbury Parish Church  
12828 Shrewsbury Church Road  
Kennedyville, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Francis Bernard Bonass* ”



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - November 30, 2017 at 04:59 PM



“ *Francis Bernard Bonass* ”

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Francis Bernard Bonass* ”

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Francis Bernard Bonass* ”

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

DG

“ Dear Betty and Family,

*Frank's service was a great tribute to the incredible family man and member of the community that Frank was. He will be missed by many and yet fond memories of evenings at the Dublin Dock and O'Connors will keep Frank's spirit close at heart. Thinking of you all, as you deal with your loss.*

*Debbie Grigsby & Ben*

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**Debbie Grigsby** - December 13, 2017 at 11:52 AM

TM

“ Frankie and Betty, so sorry for your loss. I was known and addressed by Frank as that "guy in the fooking hat". Always enjoyed our visits to the Pub.

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**Ted & Susan Mercer** - December 06, 2017 at 07:18 PM

KC

“ Dear Betty and Family,

*We were so sad to hear of your loss. We have such wonderful memories of you, Frank, the boys (now men) and Jennifer. We had such fun coming down to the Dublin Dock and Chestertown. You and Frank were very dear friends to us. Our love, thoughts and prayers to all of you. May Frank rest in peace. Joe and Kathy Cunnane*

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**Kathy Cunnane** - December 03, 2017 at 08:38 AM

LH

“ Dear Betty and family, It was such a shock to hear of Frank passing away. I thought he had beaten this curse several years ago. He was a very special man and I know he was so proud of his family as well as being a great chef. The world grows a little dimmer with your loss. You are in my prayers. Love, Linda Hall

Linda hall - December 02, 2017 at 04:57 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Francis Bernard Bonass.



December 01, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Francis Bernard Bonass.



December 01, 2017 at 07:50 AM

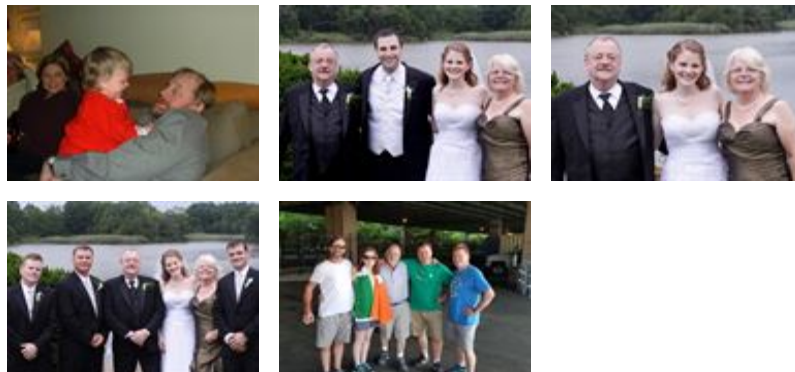
DB

“ Those whom we have loved leave an echo in our thoughts, our words and our hearts. We are thinking of you at this difficult time, but hope you find peace knowing that Frank will always be around in the hearts of the people who know him.

Daryl & Bob - November 30, 2017 at 06:27 PM



“ 71 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - November 30, 2017 at 03:43 PM

JD

“ *Mr Frank was one of a kind. I have so many fond memories of him and the Pub. He will be missed by many.*



JoAnne Donovan - November 30, 2017 at 03:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Francis Bernard Bonass.*



November 30, 2017 at 11:52 AM

DS

“ Please accept our deepest, most sincere sympathy. We are so very sad to hear of Frank's passing. Our love to all of you.  
Todd and Diane Smith



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**Diane Smith** - November 30, 2017 at 08:05 AM

PC

“ To Betty and the entire family. It is with deep regret that I learn of Frank's passing. We share many memories. The next time I return to Chestertown, a beer at the Dublin Dock in Franks memory is in order. Together we beat the establishment and got you started. With love , Pat

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**Pat Mc Clary** - November 29, 2017 at 04:54 PM

AB

“ We are very sad to hear of Frank's passing, he was a great neighbour to us in Ashbourne. At dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.  
From all the Buggie family xoxo

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**Alison Buggie** - November 29, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Francis Bernard Bonass.



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November 29, 2017 at 03:33 PM

CM

“ *All of Chestertown should be in mourning. Dave and I always had the best time when passing through or popping in. Love from Binghamton, NY*

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**Carol McCarthy** - November 29, 2017 at 02:43 PM



“ *Betty, our hearts and thoughts are with you and your family. Sending you love and hugs from Peter, Penny, Katie, Lieke and your Echo Hill "family."*

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**Echo Hill Camp** - November 29, 2017 at 11:31 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Francis Bernard Bonass.*



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November 29, 2017 at 11:04 AM

MR

“ *Betty and Family-my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I look back at our many nights of O Connor's both for work and play with a smile and a full heart. Thinking of you.  
Much Love, Missy (Tine) Reynolds*

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**Missy Reynolds** - November 29, 2017 at 08:03 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Francis Bernard Bonass.*



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November 28, 2017 at 08:39 PM



“ *I have too many to pick one. I know he convinced me to go to culinary school and in that affect to leave town. it was always nice to come home and see him.*



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**Michael wyman** - November 28, 2017 at 08:26 PM



“ *This is such sad news. We have enjoyed O’Connors for years. The Irish step dancers on St. Pat’s Day is always a treat. The food and Irish cider are fabulous. Our hearts are with you at this sad time.*

*Walt & Holly Geddes*

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**walt & Holly Geddes** - November 28, 2017 at 08:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Francis Bernard Bonass.*



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November 28, 2017 at 08:06 PM

LO

“ So very sorry. Only met him once when we stopped in the pub for dinner. Seemed like a wonderful man. Thoughts to the family.

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**lisa and Paul osborn** - November 28, 2017 at 08:06 PM

DS

“ A friend always with a light up a room smile. Sad to lose the great ones too soon.

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**Don Sutton** - November 28, 2017 at 08:06 PM

TC

“ Our hearts go out to you. He was a wonderful man, much beloved, and he will be missed. Tamara and David

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**tamara clements** - November 28, 2017 at 07:59 PM

CM

“ Feeling very sad to hear this....prayers are being sent to Chestertown MD from Broomall PA.

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**Catherine McCann** - November 28, 2017 at 07:51 PM

BP

“ So many wonderful memories



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**Brandy Pyfer** - November 28, 2017 at 07:08 PM

PK

“ *Patti And Kim. KAWC lit a candle in memory of Francis Bernard Bonass*



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**Patti and Kim. KAWC** - November 28, 2017 at 06:42 PM

CK

“ *So very sorry he was an icon and will be missed by many.*



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**Cindy King** - November 28, 2017 at 06:26 PM

TI

“ *Trish & Dave Dormer, Ashbourne, Ireland sent a virtual gift in memory of Francis Bernard Bonass*

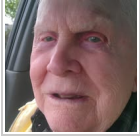


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**Trish & Dave Dormer, Ashbourne, Ireland** - November 28, 2017 at 06:08 PM

TI

*We are so very sad to lose a great friend, we will miss your visits back home and our pints in the Den, May you rest in peace Frank , a true gentleman and friend, Trish & Dave Ashbourne*

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**Trish & Dave Dormer, Ashbourne, Ireland** - November 29, 2017 at 03:24 AM

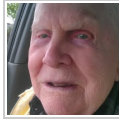


“ *Shirley Lozar lit a candle in memory of Francis Bernard Bonass*



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**Shirley Lozar** - November 28, 2017 at 06:06 PM



*So sorry for your loss. We are from Johnstown, PA. (Steves mom). Feel comfort in knowing he is with out pain now and in a much better place.*

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**Shirley Lozar** - November 28, 2017 at 06:09 PM

MR

“ *Max & Maryann Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of Francis Bernard Bonass*



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**Max & Maryann Ruehrmund** - November 28, 2017 at 03:38 PM

SD

“ *Sheila Dwyer lit a candle in memory of Francis Bernard Bonass*



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**Sheila Dwyer** - November 28, 2017 at 02:21 PM

SD

*I am sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all*

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**Sheila Dwyer** - November 28, 2017 at 02:21 PM