



## Frank J. Creegan

December 16, 1939 - May 4, 2024

Frank J. Creegan, 84, of Chestertown, MD, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at The Barnett Hospice Center in Centreville, MD. Frank was born December 16, 1939, in Lowell, MA, the second child of the late Mary Cecilia McDonald Creegan and Thomas Alexander Creegan. He attended Keith Academy, in Lowell, and graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from Merrimack College in North Andover, MA in 1961, and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Fordham University in 1966. He held an NSF-funded Post-Doctoral Fellowship with James A. Moore at the University of Delaware, where he went on to hold a one-year appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

Frank joined the faculty of Washington College in 1967 as Assistant Professor of Chemistry. He swiftly moved through the academic ranks and was promoted to Full Professor in 1974, and appointed W. Alton Jones Professor of Chemistry in 1982. He retired from Washington College in 2007, after 40 years of service, which included many years as Chair of the Department of Chemistry. During his four-decades of tenure at Washington College, Frank was awarded three sabbatical leaves, at what he jokingly called three foreign universities (1979 at the University of Konstanz, Germany; 1992 at the University of St. Andrews in the Kingdom of Fife, Scotland; and 2003-2004 at the University of California, Berkeley) to advance his research, in bio-organic chemistry, and new student-centered classroom and laboratory approaches to learning.

In 1992, he joined with chemistry colleagues from thirteen regional undergraduate colleges to found the Middle Atlantic Discovery Chemistry Project, MADCP, which sought to change the undergraduate chemistry laboratory experience from a set of verification activities to true experiments in which results were unknown to the student. Initial funding of MADCP came from the U.S. Department of Education through its Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE).

In 2002, with a \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, MADCP expanded into POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning), a student-centered, learning cycle-based, team-learning approach to both classroom and laboratory instruction that is based on research on how students learn best. Frank was a Co-Project Investigator for the initial NSF grant. Today, POGIL is implemented in a wide range of subjects in more than 1,000 high school and college courses worldwide.

Frank earned a number of teaching awards including the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching (1970) and the American Chemical Society, Northeastern Section, James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Teaching of Chemistry (2015).

In 2011, with a \$2 million gift from an anonymous donor, Washington College established the Frank J. Creegan Chair in Green Chemistry, in recognition of Frank's "40-year service to the college and his longstanding development and oversight of the chemistry program."

In retirement, Frank continued to be involved in POGIL and in the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society as chair of the Regional Meetings Committee.

Throughout retirement, he and Barbara traveled extensively, first to Russia, then Egypt, then Turkey, Hungary, Austria, Ireland, France, England, Spain, and Portugal. He remained active throughout his life in Chestertown with Sacred Heart Church, where over the course of 57 years he served in a host of ministries. For many years he was a member of All Seasons Garden Club, serving as Treasurer and as President.

Along with his parents, Frank was preceded in death by his brother Paul G. Creegan and sister Patricia A. Creegan Kelley. Frank is survived by his wife of 57 years, Barbara Markert Creegan; his children Frank Joseph Creegan of Easton, MD and Thomas Alexander Creegan II of Baltimore , MD and his spouse Felicia Shakman; nieces Leann Kelley Weibel (David), Coleen Kelly Thurber (Craig), and Stacey (Cristain) Martins all of Colorado; nephews Paul G. Creegan (Suzanne) and Joseph Creegan of Lowell, MA, as well as five grand nephews, and five cousins and their offspring..

The family will receive friends and relatives on Friday evening, May 10, 2024 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD 21620. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 508 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620 to be followed by a Reception in Emmanuel Episcopal Church Hall, 101 North Cross Street, Chestertown, MD.

In lieu of flowers The Creegan Family ask anyone who is able to give, to please make a donation to The Compass Regional Hospice Barnett Center, 255 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD 21617 or to the Washington College, Memo: Frank and Barbara Creegan Foundation, 300 Washington Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620. Interment will be in St. Paul's Cemetery at a later date.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road  
Chestertown, MD

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 10. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

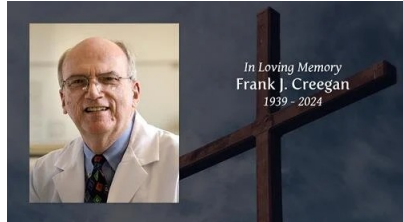
MAY 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church  
508 High Street  
Chestertown, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Frank J. Creegan*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - May 10, 2024 at 10:36 AM

BB

“ *Frank and Barbara were wonderful neighbors to my mom and dad, who had pulled up stakes and moved to Chestertown not knowing a soul. Frank's sense of humor made them feel welcome, and his beautiful garden and holiday decorations gave Mom the drive to work in her own garden—even into her nineties. After my dad passed, Frank called Mom every morning just to check in with her—his kindness will always be remembered by me and by our family — Barbara Brereton*

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**Barbara Brereton** - May 09, 2024 at 04:52 PM

BB

“ *Barbara B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank J. Creegan.*

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**Barbara B.** - May 09, 2024 at 04:21 PM

RL

“ Sharing another December birthday with Frank and the chemistry faculty and students.



Rick Locker - May 09, 2024 at 02:32 PM

DG

“ Deborah G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank J. Creegan.

Deborah G. - May 09, 2024 at 06:58 AM

LL

“ Frank will be remembered by us as a tireless contributor to Washington College, the Natural Science and Mathematics division, and the Chemistry Department. Even in his retirement, he continued to support the College and its mission. Rest in peace, Frank. ----Lauren & Tony Littlefield



Lauren M Littlefield - May 08, 2024 at 08:28 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Frank J. Creegan.



May 07, 2024 at 07:37 PM

MF

“ Michael Buchanan and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank J. Creegan.

Michael Buchanan and Family - May 07, 2024 at 07:37 PM

MB

“ Dr. Creegan was always there for me and my son, Tyler. Frank and Barbara guided us through our years at Washington College. Whenever I would fly into the area, my first thought would be to have dinner with the Creegans in Chestertown or on the water at Rock Hall. Everybody knew them and would greet them fondly. People respected Frank and he was a giant in his advocacy of WC. He lived a good life and we will all miss him.

Michael Buchanan - May 07, 2024 at 07:20 PM

MC

“ I worked with for 20 years. He was a rock for the sciences at Washington College. He always had a smile on his face and was always willing to help out anyone, faculty, staff or student. He was a pillar of institutional knowledge that many of the faculty in the sciences leaned on quite heavily. A wonderful man who will be sorely missed by all who knew and worked with him.

Martin Connaughton - May 07, 2024 at 02:54 PM

MC

Apologies, I left Frank's name out of the first sentence.

Martin Connaughton - May 07, 2024 at 02:55 PM

AR

It was a joy to have Frank as part of All Seasons Garden Club. I was able to enjoy him for about 10 years. He set a great example for all of us in the club. I will miss him. Amos Rudderow

Amos Rudderow - May 07, 2024 at 03:22 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Frank J. Creegan.* ”



May 07, 2024 at 09:35 AM



“ *Jennifer & Marty Holden lit a candle in memory of Frank J. Creegan* ”



**Jennifer & Marty Holden** - May 06, 2024 at 09:28 PM



“ *Tom Knox lit a candle in memory of Frank J. Creegan* ”



**Tom Knox** - May 06, 2024 at 06:25 PM



“ *Marie Spray lit a candle in memory of Frank J. Creegan* ”



**Marie Spray** - May 06, 2024 at 04:16 PM

MS

*To all of the Creegan family sending my Prayers and thoughts in this sad time. He was a great friend and leader in all that he did.*

**Marie Spray** - May 06, 2024 at 04:19 PM

TP

“ *The POGIL Project - Lancaster, PA purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Frank J. Creegan.*



**The POGIL Project - Lancaster, PA** - May 06, 2024 at 03:36 PM

TP

“ *The POGIL Project - Lancaster, PA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank J. Creegan.*

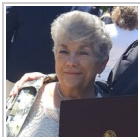
**The POGIL Project - Lancaster, PA** - May 06, 2024 at 03:36 PM

SQ

“ *Sara & David Quinn lit a candle in memory of Frank J. Creegan*



**Sara & David Quinn** - May 06, 2024 at 03:19 PM



“ Nancy Toy lit a candle in memory of Frank J. Creegan



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**Nancy Toy** - May 06, 2024 at 03:13 PM



*Dr. Creegan was one of my favorite professors at WC. Always with a smile and a kind word, He will be sorely missed.*

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**Nancy Toy** - May 06, 2024 at 03:16 PM

LM

*There simply is nobody like Frank Creegan. Brilliant, modest, funny, kind -- with complete integrity. Washington College and Chestertown have been greatly enriched by his and Barbara's coming here in 1967 and raising Frank, Jr. and Tommy here, and Frank never stopped giving of himself to the College and his students -- his most recent enterprise being a fabulous Chemistry department alumni newsletter, *Chemica Acta*. He will be much missed and long remembered.*

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**Lynn McLain** - May 06, 2024 at 08:49 PM

JV

*Dr. Creegan inspired my love for Organic Chemistry and ultimately (along with Dr. Conkling) led me to major in Chemistry. He will be missed.*

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**Josee Voorstad** - May 07, 2024 at 07:56 AM

AM

*My deepest condolences to the family. I majored in chemistry because of Dr. Creegan. He was one of my best chemistry processors and the reason for my great experience in Washington College. He will always be remembered.*

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**Anna Msella** - May 07, 2024 at 08:36 AM

IM

*My condolences to the family. Dr. Creegan was my advisor and the reason I majored in chemistry. To this day, when asked why chemistry, my first thoughts are the memories of him. I am grateful for his advice, and he will always be remembered.*

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**Irene F Msella** - May 07, 2024 at 09:21 AM

DB

*Ellen and I want to express my condolences and my own sense of loss at Frank's passing. By the way he said he couldn't get the rest of you to call him Frank--only the "business" guys. I will miss him.*

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**Del Boardman** - May 07, 2024 at 12:38 PM