



## Frank Crowne

September 5, 1946 - October 24, 2021

Francis Joseph Crowne, Jr. (aka Frank Crowne), 75, of Centreville, Maryland, passed away in his sleep on October 24th after a brave battle with Alzheimer's Dementia.

Born to Frank and Alice Crowne in Pleasantville, New Jersey, he spent much of his youth moving around the world. Frank graduated from Catholic University and went on to receive his PhD in Physics from Brown University. He enlisted in the military soon after, but was never deployed to Vietnam. After a post-doc in Paris, he worked as a theoretician for the Army Research Lab in Adelphi, Maryland and Lockheed Martin in Baltimore. In addition to his work in physics, Frank also worked as a translator of Russian, Chinese and Japanese scientific journals. He was also a wonderful classical guitarist and tenor.

While these talents earned him the respect of his peers, it was his huge and loving heart that will be most remembered. The oldest of six children, he was loved and admired by his siblings. After marrying the love of his life, Sharon (Burgett), he went on to raise two children who adored him. He never hesitated to sacrifice anything for the sake of his family. From being there every step of the way during his daughter's battle with cancer to making sure his son never felt neglected or less important, he was the dream dad. He got his family through all the ups and downs that came their way. Even as his Alzheimer's Dementia took hold, he continued to crack his silly jokes and

loved to play with and love on his four grandchildren.

Frank is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Sharon (Burgett); his daughter Theresa (Durnbaugh), her husband Bill of Broomes Island, MD and their children Liam and Sarah; son Scott and his wife Leah (Schenck) of York, PA and their daughters Aivleen and Veronica; his brother Jim and wife Jamie and their children Adrian and Justin and three grandchildren; his sister Shari (Corley) and her husband Bob; his sister Kathy (Kuhn) and her husband Jack and their children John, Joe, Laura, Kari and Alison and five grandchildren; his brother Greg and wife Becky and their children Evan and Kyle; his sister in law Jennifer and her children Liz and Michael; and a very large, wonderful extended family. He is predeceased by his father Frank J. Crowne Sr. and mother Alice (Marshall) Crowne; and his beloved brother Jeff, husband to Jennifer.

He will never be forgotten....

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, from 6-8 pm at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Centreville, MD. A mass will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 11 am at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Centreville, MD. Burial will follow in St. Peter's Cemetery in Queenstown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave, FL. 17, Chicago, IL 60601

# Cemetery Details

## St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery

5319 Ocean Gateway  
Queenstown, MD 21658

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Centreville Location  
408 South Liberty Street  
Centreville, MD 21617  
(410) 758-1151  
[info@fhfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhfuneralhome.com)

## Mass

NOV 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church  
301 Homewood Avenue  
Centreville, MD 21617

# Tribute Wall



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



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - November 03, 2021 at 09:43 AM

KK

*Along with all the other many wonderful things I and others have said about my truly remarkable brother, Frank, I forgot to mention that he served as a cryptologist (I think that was it) in the Army during Vietnam and we learned from his co-workers (fellow scientists) that not only was he highly regarded among his peers, his work was submitted for the Nobel Prize in Physics - twice. He was so humble that none of knew. My sister said it best, "who knows what else we will learn about this beloved brother of ours?"*

**Kathy Kuhn** - November 06, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ *Frank Crowne*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Frank Crowne*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Frank Crowne*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.*



November 02, 2021 at 10:47 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.*



November 02, 2021 at 07:21 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.*



November 02, 2021 at 09:31 AM

DM

“ Dawson Marshall purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Frank Crowne.



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Dawson Marshall - November 02, 2021 at 02:30 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.



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November 01, 2021 at 11:28 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.



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November 01, 2021 at 05:26 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.



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November 01, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.*



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November 01, 2021 at 09:19 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.*



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October 31, 2021 at 10:26 PM

JC

“ In keeping with the times, the many tributes to Frank, from family and friends, have been posted to Facebook. A selection is presented below:

*Justin Crowne*

*When you are a kid at Christmas, there are inevitably people you know will give gifts that you dread and some whose gifts you can't wait to unwrap. When I was a kid, my uncle and godfather Frank always fell into the latter category. He always gave books, and ones that perfectly matched my own tastes.*

*It was not just the Christmas gifts that made him dear to me. A brilliant man who worked as both a physicist and a translator from Russian, Chinese, and Japanese, he was one of the few I have met who elegantly merged scholarship and wit so that he could tell a layman about a physics problem and have him/her laughing at the inside jokes.*

*Yesterday this brilliant man died at his home, and I can't help but reflect on the gifts he bestowed upon me: the care that bestowed in each conversation, the inspiration he offered me, the love that made me FEEL his role as a godfather beyond just the title.*

*His death was not unexpected. Alzheimers began to affect him three years ago, and it seemed especially cruel to someone with my uncle's mind. Still, his passing has hit me hard. I will deeply miss him, but I hope he finds the peace and joy that eluded him as his disease took hold.*

*Bill Durnbaugh*

*I have spent the last day thinking about my Father in Law that passed yesterday. There are so many adjectives that describe him. All are so positive! Brilliant, Funny, Caring, Loving, Honorable, Dedicated and so many more!!! He became a second father to me, teaching me many things. Unconditional Love and Devotion for his*

*family was one that always sticks out. He always put himself second, to make sure those around him were provided for. His ability to show his vulnerabilities is another trait that I have learned from. He helped show me that it was okay to show off your more sensitive side. His brilliance was something that I so endeared. Teaching anyone that needed help was something he was so willing to do and did so often. Dad also had an incredible sense of humor and could be so timely with his jokes. Well, some were quite corny, but even those had a little wit with them... When someone brings up the idea of what a hero is, Frank Crowne was definitely one of mine! I will absolutely miss him! I thank you everyday for letting me become a part of your family! It is my honor! Until we see each other again... May you rest in peace and play your guitar for the angels.*

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**Jim Crowne** - October 30, 2021 at 01:51 AM

“ In keeping with the times, the many tributes to Frank, from family and friends, have been posted to Facebook. A selection is presented below:

Scott Crowne

*I don't really want to write this because it means that it's real, but seeing all of the other tributes come in, I realize that I need to at least try to put down a few words about you, Dad.*

*You are my hero and inspiration. You always have been and always will be. You never tired of working to better us as a family. After a long day at work you would come home, make dinner, and help us with our homework. You helped get me through Calculus and Physics with patience and clear explanation (although you did always get the simple arithmetic wrong). You came to virtually every performance or public function that we had. You were with Theresa every step of the way with her cancer treatments while never neglecting your latch-key son at home. You worked your whole life towards the goal of making sure your family was comfortable then and in the future. You fought so bravely against that damned dementia, remaining patient and loving until the very end. You are my hero and inspiration.*

*You are the greatest father and grandfather possible. In addition to everything noted above, you have always been there for your grandkids as well. From your wonderful special time with Liam and Sarah to the precious five years with Aivy and Ronni. I will always feel regret for how little my girls knew of the real Frank Crowne, but one thing I will always know if they felt your LOVE. That is a treasured gift that they will miss but always remember. You are the greatest father and grandfather possible.*

*You are my best friend. From trips almost every weekend to either the museums in DC or the Science Center in Baltimore, to playing guitar for me to help me sleep as a young boy, to passing on your*

*impeccable taste in music on to me, to singing songs with me at the piano, to our brave “camping” expedition at the Little Round Top trailer park, to your whirlwind introduction of Europe to me after college, to our endless conversations about anything or nothing, to your jokes...ohhhh the jokes...Everything I am, Dad, is because of you. You are my best friend.*

*I will not speak of you in the past tense. You may not be here in person, but I now have the best possible advocate watching over me and my family. I am sure you were able to run and see Grandma and Grandpa, Uncle Jeff, and all of your family and friends when you arrived – and they handed you your guitar and your Physics of Microwaves text book that you are now able to enjoy again. I expect a full concert once I arrive so get practicing. I love you so much, Dad. I hope I keep making you proud.*

*Kathy Crowne Kuhn*

*I have struggled today to find the words to describe my beloved brother, Frank, who slipped away from us in the early hours Sunday morning. (Oct. 24, 2021) He was actually taken some time ago by the cruelest of diseases, Alzheimer's.*

*But I want to tell you a little about him before that. Frank was the oldest of the 6 Crowne siblings, born Sept 5, 1946. He was a unique individual - knowledgeable in 14 languages, PhD in nuclear physics, several patents (I have no idea what they are 😊) and an advanced classical guitarist. He was incredibly funny, sweet and devoted to his family.*

*My sister, Shari & I absolutely adored him and we are both heartbroken at this loss. Our other brothers are also grieving. I know his wife, son & daughter are devastated. Please keep our family in your hearts. It has really been a difficult time.*

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**Jim Crowne** - October 30, 2021 at 01:45 AM

“ In keeping with the times, the many tributes to Frank, from family and friends, have been posted to Facebook. A selection is presented below:

*Shari Crowne Corley*

*My brother Frank J. Crowne, died on Sunday...How can this be? That is the thought that continues to go through my mind over and over. That, and the realization that there are now only 4 of us. 😞*

*I have been trying to work up the courage/strength to say something lovely and wonderful about my brother, Frank. There have been so many beautiful tributes that have left me in puddles and at a loss for words. But I will try...*

*He had this beautiful, brilliant mind that no one could deny and everyone made a point to comment on here in their tributes. He was, quite literally a genius. He had a PHD in nuclear physics, spoke multiple languages, served in the army and translated Chinese physics for a little extra money. He was an educator but never allowed anyone to feel intimidated as he enthusiastically shared whatever knowledge he had about any subject brought into question.*

*For me, when I was little, he was like my second dad. He was 13 years my senior and was incredibly sweet, loving, protective and always there to make me (and anyone nearby) laugh. Music always filled our home. Frank loved classical music, specifically the guitar, but never hesitated to sing and play songs like Leaving on a Jet Plane and Alice's Restaurant to keep his little sisters and brother entertained. His humor and love of family were boundless. Back in the day my grandmother loved to play the lottery in hopes of winning a Cadillac. She was a God fearing Catholic woman and Frank would chase her around the house, hands raised and screaming for the Lord to forgive her evil ways. She would be beside herself with laughter swatting him away.*

*As a little girl we would climb out of the bedroom window (Kathy & I shared a room) sit on the roof of our house and he would teach me about the the stars and the constellations. On a clear night I still always look for Orion and think of Frank with love. The evening I heard of his death I looked to the skies through my tears but the clouds were thick and there was no Orion.*

*I was blessed to be able spend a little bit of time with him recently. His body had been ravaged by the evil that is Alzheimer's. I had been warned. But when I went to his side and kissed his head I saw a light in his eyes that I wasn't expecting. I told him I was there and reminded him how much I loved him. He held my hand and told me loved me. A greater gift I could not have asked for.*

*I don't quite know how we move forward as a family without this incredible life force we all love so deeply. Our comfort comes from knowing he's once again playing his guitar for the loved ones who greeted him in a world without pain and disease. My greatest hope is that he is surrounded by the angels who are my parents, my brother, Jeff and of course my dear Uncle Jim whose life we celebrated today.*

*I will love you and miss you forever, Frank, my beautiful, loving brother. ❤️💜❤️*

*Bob Corley*

*My brother-in-law Frank passed away on Sunday. An incredibly sweet man, devoted family man, and, without question, the most brilliant individual I have ever met. Not surprisingly, it was his sense of humor and joyful goofiness that drew me in. I always pictured him as being in this cartoon. RIP Brother.*

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**Jim Crowne** - October 30, 2021 at 01:31 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Crowne.



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October 29, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Frank. My condolences to your and your family  
Peace,  
Mary Brickerd

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**Mary Brickerd** - October 29, 2021 at 11:51 AM



“ My mind is flooded with memories of my beloved brother, since I have never known a moment of life without him. He played with me, taught me, encouraged me, celebrated with me and he consoled me throughout my life. His brilliance competed with his humor for most notable characteristic. While I have many childhood memories, I also love to remember watching him tutor my children when they struggled in the subjects he loved. He was so good with them - patient, explaining in a variety of ways. They learned more than math & physics from him. The world has lost an amazing person and I feel sorry for anyone who never knew him.

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**Kathy Kuhn** - October 29, 2021 at 08:34 AM

LC

“ I remember he would tell Scott and I over and over again that the sum of us together is greater than our individual parts. He encouraged us to embrace music and to allow it to be one of the building blocks of our marriage. We were in operas together, he took voice lessons from me. He made us laugh and laugh and laugh. He complained about work but LOVED it so much. We will remember his laugh and his wonderful face every day forever.

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**Leah Crowne** - October 28, 2021 at 08:45 PM

DM

“ Dee Matthews lit a candle in memory of Frank Crowne



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**Dee Matthews** - October 28, 2021 at 07:57 PM