



Howard S. Freedlander

August 31, 1945 - June 25, 2024

Howard S. Freedlander, “Howdy,” beloved husband, father, grandfather died unexpectedly on June 26 of complications from pancreatitis at Luminus Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis. He was 78.

Raised in Baltimore, Freedlander graduated from City College in 1963 and earned a B. A. in journalism and political science in 1967 at the University of Pennsylvania where he played varsity lacrosse. He earned a Master of Science in Military Strategic Intelligence from the Joint Military College.

A life-long passion for writing led Freedlander and his family to move to Easton, Maryland in

1978 where he worked for Chesapeake Publishing Corporation and edited several weekly

newspapers including the Queen Anne’s Record-Observer. For the last 10 years, he enjoyed writing

his weekly column for the Talbot Spy. He was a 44-year resident of Talbot County before

moving to Annapolis in 2020.

Freedlander served in the Maryland National Guard for 22 years. He was the Executive

Officer/Director of Public Affairs and Legislative Liaison when he retired in 2003 with the rank of

Colonel. During his service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the federal Meritorious Service

Medal, and the Maryland Distinguished Service Cross. "My friend COL Howard Freedlander contributed his intelligence and compassion to foster a relationship of trust and understanding between Guard members and its Maryland neighbors," said Major General Janeen L. Birckhead, Adjutant General, Maryland.

After retiring from the National Guard, Freedlander served nearly eight years as the Maryland

Deputy Treasurer to State Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp. "As Deputy Treasurer, he was

"perceptive, understanding and truly wise counsel; leaving an important legacy to Maryland," Kopp said.

Known for his many years of community service to non-profit organizations, Freedlander served

on numerous boards throughout his life including the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum,

Leadership Maryland, National Flag Day Foundation, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy,

Waterfowl Festival, Talbot County School Education Foundation, Maryland Historical Trust,

and the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club. Devoted to his beloved alma mater, Penn, Freedlander served as the President of the Class of '67, connecting classmates through reunions and recently monthly class Zooms.

Freedlander was a generous donor, respected for his ability to invite philanthropy to all the

organizations he served. According to Talbot County friend Dick Bodorff,

"Howard was active for more than 4 decades as a board member of nonprofit organizations on the Eastern Shore. He was not content with mere membership on the boards of these organizations and was determined to make a difference. They are all much the better for Howard's involvement."

In an interview with Spy publisher Dave Wheelan in 2020, he described his career and philosophy of community service: talbotspy.org/remembering-spy-

columnist-howard-freedlander

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Elizabeth Colt Pierson, and their two daughters, Katherine Colt Fisher and Elizabeth Stark Langbein, four grandchildren and brother Barrett Freedlander.

A celebration of his life and friendship will be held on August 28 at the Naval Academy

Fluegel Alumni Center located in Annapolis on 301 King George St. from 5 to 7 P.M.

His family requests that donations in his honor be made to Historic Annapolis, The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, or the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

Photo credit: Dave Harp.

Previous Events

celebration of life

AUG **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Naval Academy Fluegel Alumni Center
301 King George St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ I was saddened to hear about this sudden loss. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with the family. I had the honor and privilege of serving with Col. Freeland in the Maryland Army National Guard, with the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, Laurel, Maryland. He was a great Soldier, leader, and person. I continued to interact with him during his work at the Comptroller's Office. I honor his service to Maryland and his community. David M. Jenkins, CSM (R), Maryland Army National Guard

David Jenkins - July 20, 2024 at 03:14 PM

YF

“ Your Hospice of the Chesapeake Friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard S. Freedlander.

Your Hospice of the Chesapeake Friends - July 16, 2024 at 09:43 AM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Howard S. Freedlander.



July 16, 2024 at 09:43 AM

TF

“ I always enjoyed talking to Howdy about our Alma Mater, the University of Pennsylvania. He was always pushing me to donate more to the University and less to Penn Rowing. I remember him fondly, and I send my regards for this sad news to Liz, who worked tirelessly to develop the HPL Graduate Student Fund which now supports many of our current grad students.

Tom Fisher

Thomas Richard Fisher - July 10, 2024 at 05:01 PM

JW

“ I met Howard in 2005 as new members of the Leadership Maryland class of that year. Little did I know that our time together over those 9 months would develop into a friendship that never ended. Sometimes you meet a person for the first time and you just know they are special. And while I couldn't put my finger on the "why" back in 2005, I knew our friendship would be different than others in my life. It continued on when we got together for a Christmas lunch last December in Annapolis. Our conversations were spirited, deep and grounded in a total respect for each other. I will forever miss my friend. Godspeed Howard!

John Wasilisin - July 10, 2024 at 03:03 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard S. Freedlander.



July 08, 2024 at 05:04 PM

HK

“ In the mid 1990’s COL Howard Freedlander was my boss, mentor and most importantly, my friend. I was a new public affairs officer serving in the Maryland National Guard. Howard patiently taught me how to tell the “great success story of the Maryland National Guard” far and wide. We travelled the world together, from the Sinai to Estonia. Howard was amazing, full of energy and great ideas. He also had a great sense of humor. I remember teasing him about drinking non-alcoholic beer in Estonia and he took it well with a smile.

COL Howard Freedlander was an officer and gentlemen and my dear friend. We all will miss him greatly!

Hunt kerrigan - July 07, 2024 at 02:04 PM

SD

“ Sara Jane Davidson lit a candle in memory of Howard S. Freedlander



sara jane davidson - July 05, 2024 at 08:22 PM

DL

“ Howard was an outstanding colleague and guide during the time I worked in State government. His observations and advice were astute and always pointed me and my team in the right direction. He was a gentleman, and a pleasure to work with. I'm saddened to learn of his passing.

David Lever - July 05, 2024 at 10:31 AM

LM

“ Liz and family, My sincerest condolences to you. I was stunned to hear of Howard's passing. May you hold your memories close and let them be a comfort to you.

Lynn A Mahaffy - July 05, 2024 at 10:02 AM

AN

“ Liz

My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Anne Gustafson

Anne - July 03, 2024 at 07:44 PM

CB

“ Liz, Bess and Kate. John and I are shocked to hear about Howard. John and Howard were so close working with AAMC fundraising. He is going to be greatly missed.

John and Cathy Belcher

Cathy Belcher - July 03, 2024 at 07:36 PM

SG

“ To Liz, family and friends, I extend my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences in the untimely loss of your beloved Howard/"Howdy". May faith give you strength, may prayers bring you comfort. May he rest in eternal peace!

*Shelly M. Gross-Wade, LMD Class of 2007 ("Movers and Shakers")
Hospice of the Chesapeake Foundation Board Member*

Shelly M Gross-Wade - July 03, 2024 at 04:41 PM

TL

Liz, I am so sorry to hear the news about the death of your wonderful husband, Howard(Howdy). I enjoyed meeting him at our recent Hospice of the Chesapeake event.

I send love and prayers to you and your family. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

Tricia Lehmann. Board Member Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Tricia Lehmann - July 03, 2024 at 07:35 PM

BM

“ *I had the distinct honor and pleasure to get to know Howard, when he worked for Treasurer Koop, while I served as the Board of Public Works liaison for the Maryland Department of Transportation. I enjoyed that time immensely. He was just such a nice man to be around. I am sorry we lost touch after we both left State employment. I wish the family peace.*

Brian McAllister - July 03, 2024 at 12:14 PM

SJ

“ *I am keeping Howard's family in my thoughts and prayers.*



Suzanne Jackson - July 03, 2024 at 09:53 AM

RE

“ *In a recent column Howard quoted Winnie the Pooh and it sums up my feelings on Howard's passing. "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Goodbye Howard. Rest in heavenly peace!*

Rob Etgen - July 03, 2024 at 09:08 AM

PF

“ It is a rare thing to meet, much less get to know, someone who delights in making other people or ideas succeed, but such a man was Howard Freedlander. He cautiously examined a situation before deciding where the good resided, but once he decided was able to put aside his own ego to work for the desired objective. He could be the deputy commander of the National Guard or the Deputy Treasurer of Maryland or the assistant anything else because in his mind success of the mission was much more important than who got credit for that success. I always enjoyed our occasional lunches while he lived here and the exchange of emails or phone conversations later. His departure from this earth leaves me very sad, but his presence was a blessing to us all.



Phil Foster - July 03, 2024 at 04:55 AM

RB

Howdy Freedlander was a Penn lacrosse teammate, a Maryland National Guard mentor to me in our service together and an usher in my wedding 54 years ago .His commitment to others was reflected in his work in establishing a scholarship in memory of a Penn teammate who was killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks . His ability to laugh at himself and life compels me to share a story which Howdy and I loved to share.His last lacrosse game was on his graduation weekend from Penn and before the game he told me that he had been out with classmates celebrating very late the night before and was worried about how he would play . Howdy played his best game of the year, scoring two goals in a big win. With his usual wit and humility he said : "Perhaps I should have partied before every game ! " God Speed Howdy ...You always gave of yourself to others and brought joy and laughter along the way . We shall miss you .

Dick Bennett

Richard D. Bennett - July 03, 2024 at 12:09 PM

RD

Howard, was a super person and a great friend. I will surely miss him, he was one of the great ones! Bob Danmyer

Robert Danmyer - July 03, 2024 at 05:19 PM

BC

well done, good and faithful servant. well done.

Brian and Ashley Childs - July 06, 2024 at 04:15 PM

PG

Howard was instrumental in my decision to join the board of Historical Annapolis, I appreciated his candor, his dedication and his enthusiasm for Maryland and all of it's rich history. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, and I will miss his friendship.

Pamela J Gentry - July 06, 2024 at 08:47 PM

DB

I had the honor of meeting Howdy through our Penn connections and the Board of the ACLC. He soon became a good friend - which blossomed into a true lifelong friendship. He was one of the GREAT ONES, and I will surely miss his humor, dedication to people, wit, and positive attitude. I will miss him, as I am sure all who knew him will as well.

David Blatte - July 07, 2024 at 07:08 PM

HH

*With sadness I commend Liz in her efforts to resolve her loss. Howdy was a character, an enthusiastic individual with ideas and the capacity to listen and reflect on what I said. We had great discussions back in the Brook Lane Neighborhood. I will miss him
Hoyt Heinmuller August 21, 2024*

Hoyt Heinmuller - August 21, 2024 at 01:37 PM

JG

Dear Liz, I was fortunate to know Howard through you -my good fortune indeed. His spirit radiated throughout this community and lives on through you.

Jamie Garner, May 5, 2025

Jamie Garner - May 05, 2025 at 12:29 PM

DB

Howard was a classmate -- a homeroom mate -- all 4 years of high school. Such friends are never forgotten.

David Bessman MD BCC'63 - November 05, 2025 at 05:56 PM