



## Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavely

May 28, 1939 - October 13, 2019

Joseph Rennie Stavely of Silver Spring, MD died Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019 in Georgetown University Hospital. He was 80.

J. Rennie Stavely was born May 28, 1939 in Wilmington, DE the son of the late Joseph Glover Stavely and Susan Frances Stavely. After graduating in 1957 from Newark High School, Mr. Stavely did his undergraduate program at the University of Delaware and then did his graduate program at the University of Wisconsin where he received his PHD in Plant Pathology in 1965. In August of the same year he married Nancy Carol Gall. In 1966 he started working for the USDA and worked 34 years before retiring in 2000. He was a member of the Toast Masters Club in Beltsville, MD, a lifelong member of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Laurel, MD where he also served on the vestry for 2 terms. He was also a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City, Sons of American Revolution, and the American Phytopathological Society where he had over 400 publications. He was president of the Potomac division of the A.P.S. and president of I.U. Families Association. Over the years he received a number of awards including the George M. Worrilow Award, the American Phytopathological Society Distinguished Service Award for his research services by the National Dry Bean Council and the B.I.C. Meeting Service Award. His interests included genealogy and family research. He enjoyed traveling and gardening as well as many other interests.

He is survived by his wife Nancy Carol Gall Stavely and his son Joseph Carl Stavely and daughter in law Sandi as well as nieces, nephews and cousins.

A visitation will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019 from 2-4pm at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home 130 Speer Rd Chestertown, MD. A memorial Eucharist will be held on Sat. Oct 19, 2019 at 11am at Christ Church I U in Worton, MD. Interment will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers contributions can be sent to the American Diabetes Association of MD 3120 Tianus Lane, Suite 106 Baltimore, MD 21244 or the American Cancer Society 92 Read's Way, Suite 205 New Castle, DE 19720. Online condolences can be sent to the family at [www.fhnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **18.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

OCT **19.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ I.U. Episcopal Church  
25328 Lambs Meadow Rd  
Worton, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavelly*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavelly*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavelly*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

HS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Howard Schwartz** - November 01, 2019 at 09:46 AM

MD

“ *Ah Nancy! Lisa and I remember you and Rennie well! I remember his counsel and caution on the vestry when we served together. He was always the voice of reason. We remember too little Joey--now not so little. Wishing you and him the best. Rest in peace, good and faithful servant.*

*Mick and Lisa Dressler  
Bay City Oregon  
(St Alban's, Tillamook)*

**Michael Dressler** - October 28, 2019 at 03:54 PM

PB

“ I will remember Rennie's enthusiasm for life. Even as his health was deteriorating over the past few years, he always greeted me with a smile and often, a hug. He loved the church music and each time we sang, "The Church is One Foundation" he came up to the choir loft smiling and saying, "That is my favorite hymn. I want that sung at my funeral." But in spite of it all, he never appeared discouraged and always looked to the future. He loved to reminisce about his Eastern Shore roots and could recite family history going all the way back to the 1700s!

Nancy was a devoted wife, companion, and caregiver to Rennie. She worried when he was ailing, and flew into action when he had an emergency. She could let the

EMTs know exactly what he needed when they came and even knew some of them by name. Rennie knew what a loving and caring wife he had!

My husband and I so enjoyed the times when we got together with Rennie and Nancy for dinner, for a trip to the Nat'l. Cathedral, or the movies. We will miss him.

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**Peggy Bagwell** - October 22, 2019 at 05:55 PM

NB

“ Though we did not know Rennie as closely as many did at Saint John's, we always loved seeing his smiling face at services in the historic Church. He was always so cheerful and kind and I always looked forward to seeing him and sharing God's peace. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers are with you and your family Nancy. Our sincere condolences and love go out to you all.

God's peace with love from,  
The Betz family

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**nathan betz** - October 21, 2019 at 11:27 AM

JJ

“ Dear Nancy, when I heard about Rennie, all I could think of as special memories were when Elmer and I spent some time with both you and Rennie in Ocean City. We had a lot of fun, great laughs and a lot of special time together. Elmer always loved talking to Rennie about planting fruit trees and vegetable gardens. Rennie will be greatly missed and please know we are here for you. Love, Joanne

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**Joanne3/ Jess** - October 18, 2019 at 01:43 PM

TB

“ Nancy,

*We are very sorry to learn of Rennie's passing. His warm smile on Sunday was a wonderful complement to the beautiful music at St. John's for many years. Our prayers are with you and we wish you peace. -- Tom and Nancy Brandt*

Tom Brandt - October 18, 2019 at 11:02 AM

BP

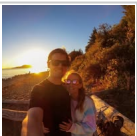
“ All of you have been in my thoughts and prayers. I'm deeply sorry for your loss. I know your loved one will be missed. God cares deeply about you, and He will comfort and strengthen you in the difficult days ahead. Sincerely, Bonnie Peterson

Bonnie Peterson - October 17, 2019 at 02:43 PM

JK

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Rennie Stavely on his death. Rennie was a dear friend and colleague. He worked long and hard on controlling bean diseases like rust and as a bean breeder we worked together to incorporate that resistance into new bean varieties. He will be dearly missed by members of the bean scientific community but his scientific works will outlive him in the many bean varieties and lines that he developed with resistance to rust that have been shared and grown around the world. Again, my condolences, Jim Kelly

Jim Kelly - October 17, 2019 at 02:39 PM



“ Nancy,

*I wanted to let you know I have been thinking of Rennie, you, and the family particularly through the last few weeks. I am very sorry I cannot be there to celebrate Rennie's amazing life and give you a tight hug. I always loved our trips to visit you guys in Ocean City, spotting dolphins, trying crab, and seeing the Assateague Island ponies - I think that's where my love for the ocean began and I will never forget those amazing memories! This last time you and Rennie were in Madison, it was so lovely to be able to FaceTime to see and talk to you both. I always learned so much family history from Rennie, something a lot of people aren't fortunate to learn. And I am particularly grateful and appreciative to have seen you both in Madison this past December celebrating my graduation from our shared alma mater. That was extremely special and meaningful to have you there as we grow our family of Badger alums. Sending lots of hugs and love.*

*Love,  
Lindsay*

Lindsay Gall - October 17, 2019 at 01:10 PM

RG

“ Nancy's brother Richard and I were married in 1962 and my recollection is that Nancy met Rennie shortly after that. We were able to observe their relationship develop and those were fun years as we were all students. Specifically, I remember the party after Rennie and others had passed their prelims. The Limbo Dance was performed with gusto and the beverage of choice seemed to be beer and more beer. It was difficult for us Wisconsin people to accept that Nancy would be moving east with Rennie, but Rennie willingly made sure that Nancy and later with Joe got back to Wisconsin at least once a year and frequently more than that. In later years when Rennie was doing "beans", they would come to Wisconsin and then Rennie and Nancy's Dad would head to the bean fields in the Dakotas. Rennie was as kind as he was intelligent. We are saddened by his passing. Rosemary E. Gall.

Rosemary Gall - October 17, 2019 at 09:33 AM



“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavelly.



October 17, 2019 at 08:01 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavelly.



October 16, 2019 at 09:04 PM

JS

“ Jane Sims sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavelly



Jane Sims - October 16, 2019 at 08:34 PM

SR

“ Dear Nancy, Joe and Sandi,  
You are all in Don's and my prayers during this difficult time. God will be with you through this and in time you will find peace and renewed joy in living. Be kind to yourselves above all. You are loved by many people you have touched and we all have fond memories of Rennie to hold on to.  
Don and Sandy (Ryan) Brady

sandra ryan - October 16, 2019 at 07:22 PM

MB

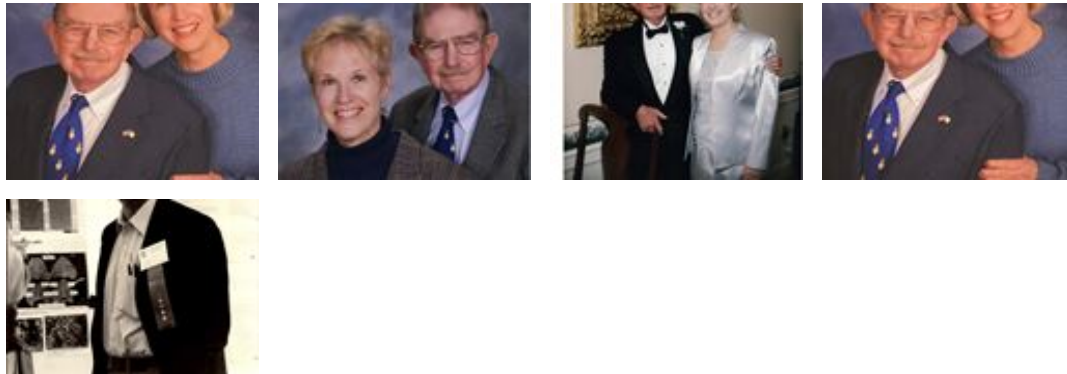
“ 3 files added to the album Choir Friends



Mimi Burch - October 16, 2019 at 03:02 PM



“ 16 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - October 16, 2019 at 10:29 AM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavelly.



October 16, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ *Sandi Bentley Stavely lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavely*



**Sandi Bentley Stavely** - October 15, 2019 at 08:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavely.*



October 15, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavely.*



October 15, 2019 at 03:22 PM



“ *Nancy, Joe and Family,  
It was an honor to be neighbors with Rennie. Five years seems short but Phil and I were lucky to share some good stories and laughs with you before Phil passed and now - Rennie. I will always be grateful for your support and hope I can return that in some small measure. My deepest sympathy  
John Dabrowski*

**John Dabrowski** - October 15, 2019 at 03:12 PM



“ *Dear Nancy, Joe and Sandi, May fond memories of Rennie bring you comfort during this difficult time. Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family. In sympathy and with love, Mimi and Charlie Burch*

**Mimi Burch** - October 15, 2019 at 02:41 PM

MB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Mimi Burch - October 15, 2019 at 02:25 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Rennie Stavely.



October 15, 2019 at 12:25 PM