



Franklin D. French

NOV 6, 1937 - DEC 17, 2010



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Decatur-Franklin D. French, 73, of Decatur, died December 17, 2010, in his sleep at his home.

A 'Celebration of Frank's Life' will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, January 22, 2011, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUFD), 3773 North MacArthur Road, Decatur, IL 62526. Online memories and condolences may be shared with Frank's family at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.

Frank was born November 6, 1937, in Fort Wayne, IN the son of Ralph and Ilah (Madison) French. He graduated from Payne High School, Payne, OH in 1955. He placed seventh in Biology and fifth in History of Ohio seniors. He was a boxer in the Golden Gloves. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Seabees in the Philippines and Alaska.

He graduated from the American Institute of Baking in Chicago. He earned master's certificates from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Frank and Barbara Davis married in May 1960 in Ohio and moved to Chicago.

Frank was in the baking industry over 50 years. He was an active member of the American Association of Cereal Chemists, American Society of Baking, Institute of Scientific Education, and Food Technologists International. He served on the Education Board of AIB.

Frank accepted a position offer from Archer Daniels Midland and he, Barbara, Christine and Ralph moved from Chicago to Decatur, IL in 1975. He was introduced to canoeing by neighbors and he and Barbara canoed many rivers in the U.S. In 1983 he was transferred back to Chicago and then to Overland Park, KS in the Milling Division. He retired as the Director of Technical Services for ADM Milling in Kansas in 2004. Frank traveled internationally and in the U.S. for his work. He and Barbara traveled to several countries. Frank's favorite city was Pompeii, Italy.

Frank was always reading three books: a paperback for ease to take on the plane, a



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hardback book at home, and the Book Club selection. Frank was in some Book Club for over 30 years. He loved the Chicago Bears and him and his son, Ralph, would do an analysis of the games over the phone.

His hobby and enjoyment was cooking and grilling out and hosting the many pool parties in his backyard in Overland, KS. One summer numbered 17 parties. He also walked the neighborhood and invited all of the kids mowing yards to come on over and swim after they were done. He said, 'What a great thing that would have been for me when I was mowing lawns.' He felt fortunate and always wanted to share with others. His very favorite times, however, were the weeks his daughter's and son's families visited in Kansas.

Frank and Barbara moved back east to Decatur to be near to family in September 2009. During the summer and fall of 2010, Frank was Captain and he and Barbara spent many enjoyable hours on their pontoon boat on Lake Decatur.

Frank will be missed and remembered by his family: Wife of 50 years, Barbara Rose (Davis) French. Children: Daughter, Christine (husband ' Steve) Neisslie; grandsons Ryan and Jeff Neisslie of Oreana, IL; son, Ralph (wife ' Carol (Snyder)); granddaughter Madison French of Appleton, WI and extended family and friends. Donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or UUFD, 3773 N. MacArthur Rd., Decatur, IL 62526, in Frank's memory will be appreciated by his family.



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MF

Mark Floerke posted:

The thoughts and prayers of many a friend are with you as we hear of Frank's passing. Highly respected in the industry he so lovingly served for many years. I will always remember Frank's kindness and generosity, and what a great story teller he was too. You are dearly missed my friend – may you rest in peace.

January 15 at 12:27 PM

FS

Fredrick Shealy posted:

There certainly are many memories of being with frank and his parents as I worked in the bakery with them when just a kid in the 1950's. Payne was a wonderful place to grow up and their friendship meant alot, even though 50 years has passed since I moved on. Probably one of the stories that i am sure you all have heard, and this came from Frenchie.....when Frank was playing basketball he got himself turned around and ran toward the other teams basket to score a goal. And there was Frenchie standing up and yelling.....We want French on the bench!!!my sincerest condolences go to you barbara, and to your children and family. my prayers go with all ofyou and there will be a special place in our hearts for Frank.Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.fred shealy

January 7 at 5:18 PM

KS

Kenneth& Sandy Cox posted:

Barb & Family We are sorry to hear about Frank.We will miss him and hope all of you are o'okay. Our prayers are with all of you Ken & Sandy Cox

January 7 at 10:23 AM

PF

Patty Fletcher posted:

I am sorry to hear about the loss of Frank. I worked with him at ADM in Olathe KS

January 7 at 8:06 AM

KF

Kitty Feivor posted:

Dear Ralph, Carol, and Maddie,I'm so sorry for the loss of your father/grandpa. May the wonderful memories that you have of him sustain you during this time of grief. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.Kitty Feivor

January 6 at 12:37 PM



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RR

Randy And Shelly Reichardt posted:

Ralph (and Carol), we are so sorry to hear about the passing of your father Frank. While we never met him, he certainly was an accomplished man who seemed to have touched many lives. You have our condolences, and our thoughts are with you.

January 5 at 10:45 AM

DH

Dennis Hilderbrand posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Let us know if there is anything you need.

January 3 at 8:52 AM

PB

Pat Brewood posted:

So sorry to learn of Frank's death. I will always remember his willingness to host and be "king of the grill" at our pool parties then quietly disappearing at just the right time when it became a "hen fest." You two were a great pair and I know your loss will be difficult. I pray you will feel God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.

January 2 at 1:24 PM

CS

Charlene And Max Skidmore posted:

Barb, We were so sorry to hear of Frank's death. He was a special person, as are you, and we will always remember our book club days with fondness. You are in our thoughts. Charlene and Max

December 21 at 2:41 PM

KB

Kettie Brownwill posted:

It was such a pleasure to meet you, Frank, and enjoy your company and commentary at our delightful Book Club Dinners. You were always the Cooking Star. My love to you, on your journey, and to Barbara as her path changes. Kettie

December 21 at 10:31 AM

SF

Scott Jones & Family posted:

Sorry to hear of Frank's passing. Please let us know when the Memorial will be. Scott, Carol & Jacob

December 19 at 3:57 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Franklin by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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