



Howard Winfield Franklin

August 17, 1944 - January 1, 2025

Howard Winfield Franklin was a loving father and devoted husband. He died peacefully at age 80 at home in Manassas, VA, on January 1, 2025. He was born in Arlington, VA, in 1944 to Charles H. Franklin and Beatrice B. Franklin and raised there with his four brothers, Charles N. Franklin (deceased), James H. Franklin, John C. Franklin, and Donald P. Franklin.

He worked at a local bank as a teller and paid his own way through college, earning a bachelor's degree from Benjamin Franklin University, now part of George Washington University. During the Vietnam War, he served in the Navy, including serving on honorary funeral detail, and was honorably discharged in 1973. He used the G.I. Bill to earn his master's degree in Financial Management, also from Benjamin Franklin University.

He married his neighborhood sweetheart, Jacqueline B. Sowers, in Arlington in 1967, and soon moved to Orlando, FL, to fulfill his military assignment. They moved back to Arlington, VA, once he was discharged from the Navy and raised their three children, Wade W. Franklin (Jim M. Downs), Elaine R. Franklin, and Nathan D. Franklin (Dana L. DiMarzio), surrounded by a large and loving extended family. He had two grandchildren, Jayden A. Jagers and Alexander D. Franklin. After 51 years in Arlington, he and Jacki moved to Manassas, VA, near their children and grandchildren where he lived his remaining days. They celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in 2024.

Howard was a dependable employee of the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority, serving as a financial analyst for construction of the subway system, and worked hard to retire comfortably at age 55 in 1999. In his free time, he was a Cub Scout leader, a member of the Wakefield High School Reunion Committee (his alma mater), Chair of the Reading is Fundamental Program's Parent Advisory Committee, and Friends of the Arlington Library.

Howard was curious and inquisitive. He kept his mind active through avid reading and his body active through ballroom dancing, bowling, bicycling in the neighborhood, mowing lawns, and other active hobbies. He and Jacki enjoyed many years of ballroom dance together, continually taking classes to learn new steps, and made many lifelong friends. He loved tinkering on antique cars and engines by himself as well as with his brothers, sons, and friends. Neighbors brought their mowers for repairs and enjoyed swapping stories about life.

In retirement, he volunteered at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, and the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA, where he entertained many an elementary school student, asking about their Halloween costumes and stashes of candy. Fellow volunteers knew him fondly as "Taz." He joined the Masons, Elks, Moose, and actively supported the philanthropy work of Shriners International.

A celebration will be held to honor Howard's remarkable life. The date and location are to be determined. Because of Howard's love of reading and recognition of the power of literacy, donations can be made in his name to an organization he supported for many years, the Dictionary Project, P.O. Box 180159, Coronado, CA 92178, or the Manassas City Public Schools Education Foundation, P.O. Box 520, Manassas, VA 20108.

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Please accept the condolences of the Manassas City Public Schools Education Foundation on the passing of Mr. Franklin. We appreciate the generosity of him and his family in naming the MCPS Ed Foundation as recipients of donations in his memory. We have already received some donations so please accept our sincere thanks! Reading the other posts on this page, the thing that stands out most about Mr. Franklin is his kindness, and we at the MCPS Ed Foundation will honor that kindness in our support of the students and teachers of Manassas City Public Schools. We wish the Franklin family all the best.

Sincerely,
Carol Hartt
Exec. Director
MCPS Education Foundation

Carol Hartt - January 27, 2025 at 12:57 PM

BW

“ Howard was the best Uncle you could ask for. He was kind, caring, and supportive. It's impossible to find the words to say how much he meant to me and how much I'll miss him. He was the best and I have many memories of so many things from our time spent together. A true treasure we will all miss dearly.

Bill W - January 14, 2025 at 11:05 PM

RO

“ So sorry to hear about his passing. I'll be donating to the Dictionary Project in his memory. Hope all of you are together and supporting each other. wishing you peace in the coming weeks and months.
Robin Rinearson

Robin - January 14, 2025 at 07:48 PM

YS

“ Yvonne S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Winfield Franklin.

Yvonne S. - January 14, 2025 at 06:13 PM

KW

“ What a Great Guy! He was the best! So sweet and kind.

Kathy P Wallace - January 14, 2025 at 05:54 PM

KD

“ I have known Howard since I was 13. I will always remember his kindness and his love for family and friends
I remember Howard taking myself and Jill tricker treating, it was so much fun. I am honored knowing him most of my life and being able to see him and the family since they are my 2nd family.

Kathy Davis - January 14, 2025 at 05:05 PM

YE

Howard was the best brother-in-law I could have ever wished for. He always had my back through two divorces and he told me he admired me for moving on and doing so well with my life. That meant a lot to me. He liked to hear me laugh, so he always had a silly joke to tell me when we would talk. I loved him for his goodness and his ability to connect with children of all ages so that they respnded to him. He will be missed by many and never forgotten.

Yvonne S. Elgnawey - January 14, 2025 at 06:33 PM