



Franklin D. Wright

March 1, 1936 - September 3, 2021

Franklin D. Wright, 85, of Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away on September 3rd, 2021, at his home in Rensselaer. He was born in State Line City, IN, on March 1st, 1936, the son of Hyta and Ina (High) Wright.

Frank graduated from Covington High School, class of 1954, and then attended Purdue University, where he graduated in 1958 with a B.S. in Agricultural Business Administration. While in high school, he met and started dating the love of his life, Patricia Joan Smith. The couple were married September 1st, 1957, and recently celebrated 64 wonderful years of marriage.

Growing up in a farming family, Frank's lifetime work was in the farm credit and banking industry. He attended and graduated from the University of Wisconsin Banking School in 1979. He finished his career as President and Chief Executive Officer at Bank One of Rensselaer (now First Merchants Bank) retiring January 1st, 1997. He also previously served in the Illinois National Guard and the United States Army.

Frank was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church of Rensselaer, where he sang in the Chancel Choir and served as chairman of the Church Administrative Committee and various other committees. For years, at the Christmas Eve service, he could be heard singing "Oh Holy Night," accompanied by Pat on piano. Those who heard them often say there wasn't

a dry eye in the sanctuary when he was finished. The couple also sang and played for numerous weddings and funerals through the years.

Other organizations and groups he served on include Rotary Club of Rensselaer, Jasper County Library Board, Jasper/Newton Foundation Board, Bombers for Academic Excellence, and the Rensselaer Central High School Building Trades Board.

Frank also served on the Curtis Creek Country Club Board of Directors. An avid golfer, he loved to spend Thursday afternoons out at the course with his friends during men's league. In retirement, he found great joy golfing with his friends and family. He also became an avid woodworker during his retirement years, making furniture for his kids, grandkids and for members of the community in need.

While attending Purdue Frank was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and he sang in the Purdue Glee Club, where he appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show with the group. He was a Master Mason at Mound Lodge in State Line City, Indiana, and later transferred to Rensselaer Prairie Lodge #125 F&AM.

Frank is survived by his loving wife, Patricia; son Michael Wright of Naperville, IL; son Scott (Sharron) Wright of Carmel, IN; daughter Juliann (Fidel) Mercado of Carmel, IN; sister-in-law Sharon Wright of State Line City, IN; eight grandchildren (who affectionally called him "Poppy"); and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and four brothers.

A celebration of life and memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church 107 E. Angelica Street Rensselaer, Indiana 47978.

Tribute Wall

BK

“ My sympathy to Pat and family. Not sure I ever knew Frank much or if Mrs. Wright (my 5th grade teacher) ever talked about him; I sure don't remember much. However, she will always be one of my favorite teachers. Maybe in eternity, I will get to know him. Always have served the Rensselaer community well.
---Brad Kohlhagen

Brad Kohlhagen - September 09, 2021 at 01:37 PM

JL

“ Jeremy Liss lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright



Jeremy Liss - September 09, 2021 at 09:57 AM

BP

“ Our love and prayers are with the Wright family at this time. George really enjoyed playing golf with Frank at CCC who was a very kind and caring individual. Our sincere sympathy to the Wright family!
George and Bernice Post

Bernice Post - September 09, 2021 at 08:42 AM

LP

“ Wonderful memories working at Bank One for Frank.
Linda (Cochran) Pugh

Linda (Cochran) Pugh - September 08, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Franklin D. Wright.*



September 07, 2021 at 09:51 AM



“ *Our hearts are so saddened in the news of Frank's passing . Heaven has certainly gained a sweet & gentle soul who was loved by many & will be so missed. Sincere sympathy is being sent to the entire Wright family from ours.*



Janice Odom - September 06, 2021 at 11:09 PM



“ *To all the Wright family. You have my deepest sympathy in your great loss. My first thoughts of Frank were of his beautiful voice that we enjoyed for so many Sundays and his wonderful sense of humor and ready smile. My sons were so sorry to hear about him. Our prayers are with you.*

Ruth Paulsen - September 06, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Don & Gloria Waymousth lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Don & Gloria Waymousth - September 06, 2021 at 11:39 AM

LK

“ *Larry And Judy Koebcke lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Larry and Judy Koebcke - September 05, 2021 at 09:49 PM

CS

“ *My condolences to Pat and the family. I have wonderful memories of Frank when I was the library director. Frank made a wonderful boss. He had such a wonderful disposition and a warm smile. Cathy Salyers*

Cathy Salyers - September 05, 2021 at 08:25 PM

KC

“ *Dear Pat & Family: Love surrounds you in your community. Frank was a very special person giving freely of his talents. He will be greatly missed. Kenny & Sandra Culp*



Kenny & Sandra Culp - September 05, 2021 at 07:19 PM

RN

“ *Sympathy to the Wright family from the Marvin Nesius family, so sorry for your loss. These two gentlemen worked many years together in the Farm Credit system as well as Bank One for the betterment of our farming community. Rest in Peace, Rose Nesius*



Rose Nesius - September 05, 2021 at 06:53 PM

AS

“ *Angie Arihood Sleeman lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Angie Arihood Sleeman - September 05, 2021 at 01:40 PM

ED

“ *I'm sorry to hear this.
Frank was a good man who will be missed.
My condolences to the Wright family.*

Ed Davisson - September 05, 2021 at 12:56 PM

GW

“ *Glen And Linda Wood lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Glen and Linda Wood - September 05, 2021 at 12:49 PM

JS

“ *Judy Siegrist lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Judy Siegrist - September 05, 2021 at 12:43 PM

TG

“ Juli- I am so sorry to hear of your dad’s passing. I will always remember his easy smile that reached up past his eyes. I know he will be very missed by your family and his community. Hugs and Prayers for comfort, Tracey (Putt) Gudeman

tracey gudeman - September 05, 2021 at 11:48 AM

SB

“ Thinking of and praying for you all. I so enjoyed having your dad as a neighbor. When we built our house though, I think we took his golf range. Lol! He was a good sport about it. He shared cherries from his trees with us. Chad’s grandma made some pies with those. Yummm. And I will never forget his singing on Christmas eve. We looked forward to that. Will keep you all in my prayers.

sheila broussard - September 05, 2021 at 11:36 AM

JS

“ Hello Wright’s
Know that the Steiner’s are thinking of you all.
We have fond memories of being neighbors,
twice!



Jim Steiner - September 05, 2021 at 09:59 AM

GK

“ George & Joan Kanne lit a candle in memory
of Franklin D. Wright



George & Joan Kanne - September 05, 2021 at 09:13 AM

TK

“ *Tammy Kellner-putt lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



tammy kellner-putt - September 04, 2021 at 09:11 PM

SU

“ *Susie lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Susie - September 04, 2021 at 07:30 PM

CP

“ *Cathy Prohosky lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Cathy Prohosky - September 04, 2021 at 06:44 PM

DS

“ *Frank was a caring, thoughtful man, and a true gentleman. He was a friend and buddy to many, and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, whom he loved dearly. I wish Frank many casinos and birdies in his next life! Dave Staddon*

Dave Staddon - September 04, 2021 at 06:38 PM

GB

“ *Deepest Sympathy to Pat and the family of Frank and Pat. Prayers in the coming weeks.*

Gloria Baier - September 04, 2021 at 06:04 PM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Judy Burvan - September 04, 2021 at 05:50 PM



“ *I have special memories of Frank, singing "O Holy Night" at Christmas Eve services, seeing a billboard when the bank changed names that said "Frank Wright is still Frank Wright, and being with my Dad the week before Frank retired joking that he (Dad) needed to get a loan before Frank left.*

On behalf the the whole Stath family, our deepest sympathies to the whole Wright family.

Cindy Stath - September 04, 2021 at 05:39 PM

ML

“ *Martha Langley lit a candle in memory of Franklin D. Wright*



Martha Langley - September 04, 2021 at 05:05 PM