



## Franklin Delano O'Meara

October 22, 1940 - May 9, 2022

The staff at Heishman Funeral Home Inc. sends condolences to the family of Franklin Delano O'Meara.

Franklin Delano O'Meara, 81, of Conicville, VA, passed away on May 9, 2022, with lifelong friends, Robbie and Gail Cloyd, by his side. Frank was born on October 22, 1940, in Arlington, VA, and graduated from Washington-Lee High School in 1958. In 1963, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served honorably as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Benning, GA.

Frank is fondly remembered for his fascinating stories about his Alaskan adventures. He discovered the majestic beauty of Alaska during a hunting trip, which led him to relocate to the Anchorage area in 1968. He spent 35 years in Alaska and made the most of his time up north. In addition to working as a master mechanic at Fort Richardson, he competed in snowmobile races, hunted Grizzly bears and moose, guided big game hunting trips, and panned for gold. In fact, he once panned enough gold to pay for a summer vacation in Hawaii. His sister Joan, who he lovingly called "Sis", still wears a necklace with a gold nugget panned by her brother. Frank also had work adventures - he was involved in the construction of the Alaska Pipeline, which at the time was the largest private construction project in American history. He led crews during seismic surveys of the North Slope and construction of the pipeline

itself. Frank also worked for five years for the Alaska Railroad as a heavy engine mechanic. Upon retiring from the Alaska Railroad in 2003, he returned to Virginia and settled in the Shenandoah Valley.

Frank had many hobbies, including collecting antique engines and tractors. He served as the president of an antique tractor/engine club in Alaska. He also was a member of the Massanutten, VA Antique Tractor and Gas Engine Club. He was a mechanical genius, who, with his wealth of knowledge and experience, could repair or overhaul any gas/diesel engine or tractor, or at least tell you how to do it.

Frank was independent and lived his life as he wanted. He was a gentleman, a skilled storyteller, a thoughtful brother, and the best uncle ever. Above all, he was a loyal friend to everyone that knew him.

Frank is predeceased by his parents Rudolph Curtis and Alyce O'Meara and brother Rudolph Curtis O'Meara, Jr. He is survived by his sister Joan O. Fern (Dennis) of Falls Church, VA, niece Alyce Kelley (Dana), great-niece Kate Kelley, and great-nephew John Waters.

A celebration of Frank's life will be held on May 18, 2022, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at Valley Funeral Service in Edinburg, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Conicville Volunteer Fire Department are suggested. Donations may be sent to the VFD at 763 Conicville Road, Mount Jackson, VA 22842.

Online condolences can be left at [www.valleyfs.com](http://www.valleyfs.com)

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Valley Funeral Service  
14116 South Middle Road  
Edinburg, VA 22824  
(540) 984-3700  
secretary.valleyfs@yahoo.com  
<https://www.valleyfs.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Franklin Delano O'Meara*

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ *Franklin Delano O'Meara*

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM



“ *On behalf of Frank's classmates at Washington-Lee High School, please accept our heartfelt condolences. He was on the "front line" of the varsity football and wrestling teams and is remembered fondly. His obituary is a fascinating account of his remarkable life after graduation. May he rest in peace.*

**AI & Kitty Sherwood Richmond** - July 06, 2022 at 02:18 PM



“ *We have been friends with Frank since 1973 when we moved to Alaska. We shared many good times with him and always enjoyed having him in our home. Our condolences to the family.  
Larry, Linda & Joy-Lyn Gulley*

**Linda & Larry Gulley** - May 20, 2022 at 09:22 PM

MI

“ To the family of Frank:

*We are very sorry to hearing the sad news about your uncle Frank.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you!*

*We will never forget when we met in 2007 together with my parents.  
We all, especially my mother were very impressed by him and his  
stories for example about the snakes' skin we saw in his shed as  
well as about his collection of antique tractors.*

*Whenever we talked about you she will also ask how's Frank doing!*

*All the warmest condolences from*

*Michi, Andreas, Alexander, Heinz and Erika from Germany*

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**Michi** - May 18, 2022 at 07:38 AM

JS

“ I have many loving childhood memories of my cousin, Franky. We lived across the street from each other and even though he was three years older, we often found ourselves playing the same summer neighborhood games. Franky loved working in wood as a young teenager and he taught me how to operate his electric table top jigsaw machine. He would create characters on wood and have me slowly cut them out as he stood there giving me minute by minute instructions.

Franky and Uncle Pete often invited me to join them when they went fishing in Leesburg, Virginia. We fished on the lower side of the Goose Creek Dam and it was always quite a hike from the car to the fishing location. It was during those day trips that I learned how bait a fishing line and cast a fishing rod. I also remember the numerous trips we made to Izaak Walton League Park in Centreville, Va. where we swam, fished and ended the day by enjoying grilled fish we just caught and cleaned.

Those are just a few examples of my memories that I would like to share about Franky and I will always cherish the closeness and loving family relationship we had for one another as cousin's.

Joe Smith

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Joe Smith - May 16, 2022 at 04:12 PM