



Fred J. Brockmann

September 28, 1930 - October 15, 2022

Fred J. Brockmann was born in Ozone Park, Queens, NY, and graduated from Oceanside High School. He received his BA in English and an MS in Education from Wagner College, Staten Island, where he met Lee Schriever, whom he married on June 8, 1952. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1953, he did his basic training and attended Leadership School in Fort Bliss, Texas, and then served in the 749th Anti-Aircraft Battery in Englewood, NJ, (protecting the George Washington Bridge from the North Korean Air Force!). In July, 1955, he was selected Outstanding Soldier of the Month. Upon his discharge, he taught English and Journalism in Pearl River, NY. While teaching, initiating and sponsoring the high school newspaper, and also coaching athletics, he did graduate work at both Columbia and NYU, receiving his Ed.D. in Administration and earning the prestigious NYU Founder's Day Award upon graduation in 1970. He became Superintendent of Schools in Guilford, CT, that same year, and in 1977 was recruited to Farmingdale, Long Island, as Superintendent there. For medical reasons, he took early retirement in 1985 and returned to Guilford, CT, where he became consultant to the Connecticut State Commissioner of Education for several years. In his retirement, he became a watercolor artist, producing many fine pieces. Having visited Florida as "snow birds" since 1989, he and Lee made Sarasota their official residence in 2007, and he taught a class in watercolor painting at their Lakeshore Village clubhouse for several years. Immediately upon becoming residents of Sarasota, they began working with Equality Florida, recruiting other allies to become supporters. In 2018 they were honored to receive EQFL's annual "Voice for Equality" award.

He became a member of the Peace & Justice Network at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Sarasota, upon joining the church, and served as chairman for about six years. He and Lee were also active in SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity), serving on the Restorative Justice committee as advocates for students in the Sarasota school system.

Always an educator, Fred was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, teacher, mentor, and community leader. As a school administrator, his guiding mantra was "Put the children

first.” He was an avid reader and loved beauty in literature, music, art, and nature, especially the sea shore, as well as playing, coaching, and watching sports.

He leaves his wife of 70 years and their two daughters and families: Daughter Carolee and her husband Jay Gravina, their children Jack, his wife Diliانا, and their son Phoenix, and Marlise and her husband Carl Rausa; and Daughter Suzanne and her husband Ed Gaffney, their children Melanie, her husband Michael Schultz, and Melanie’s son Aidan Neuer; and Jason and his husband Matt Gorlick.

Fred’s Celebration of Life will be on Thursday, November 17th, at 4:00pm, at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1031 S. Euclid Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237.

The service will be hybrid (online and in person). Masks and seating separation are requested, and out of an abundance of caution, there will be no reception.

For the link to the service online go to YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqFNA7FeLccKAm-1XedSgYg> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/uccsarasota/>

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in Fred’s name to First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1031 S. Euclid Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237, or to Equality Florida, P.O Box 13184, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-9725.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church
1031 S Euclid Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34237

Tribute Wall

JN

“ MY dear Aunt Lee. We are grieving for you at the the loss of Uncle Freddy to you, Suzy, Carolee, their families and all the friends you have made along the way.

Although great distances didn't allow many visits or holiday get-togethers, you have always been a loving and compassionate Aunt. I believe you have called me on every birthday for the past 76 years. You and Uncle Freddy have proved that love and devotion make a huge difference to all who have benefitted from watching you, learning from you and receiving them from you.

On behalf of my family, we are sorry for your loss and wish you health and peace.

Joanne Schriever Reiner and Rimvydas Dedinas (Ray)

Joanne Reiner, Niece - November 07, 2022 at 11:47 AM

BT

“ What a beautiful tribute to a caring, accomplished and compassionate educator, husband, father and grandfather. We wish you all strength, peace and comfort as you remember his lasting legacy and love. -Bernadette and Chris Tyler

Bernadette G Tyler - October 30, 2022 at 01:06 PM

BG

“ So sorry to hear of Fred's passing. Wishing Lee and family peace during this difficult time.

Beth Gaffney Gorton - October 29, 2022 at 10:37 PM

SH

“ It was such a pleasure to meet Mr. B at many a Sun Brockmann reader events. He was cool. Bless his soul. Condolences to you all. Hugs

Stephanie hyacinth - October 28, 2022 at 10:05 PM

DB

“ Dear Lee-

You and Fred are the wonderful extended family of my adulthood when my own family has always been so far away. You both are all wrapped up in my happy memories of living with Suz and Ed when Mel and Jas were young. I treasure the many quiet conversations I had with Fred about teaching and education back when we would see you so often here or down at Casa Mar. He was such a thoughtful, caring, intelligent listener. I wish I could have been one of his teachers! I was just looking at photos and found one of the two of you from our wedding. I love that he (and you) were so happy at our happiness! I always admired how Fred moved into retirement and discovered new passions with painting and joining with you in LGBTQ advocacy. I love you both and my heart is with you now. I will always remember him as a gentle, calm presence with a great sense of humor and huge ability to love. We prayed for Fred and for all of your family and loved ones at church this past Sunday. Please know you are in my thoughts and care.

Love, Deede



Deirdre A Bergeron - October 28, 2022 at 09:20 PM

JK

“ My deepest condolences on your loss. As you find a new way to be in the world without Fred, know that I'm thinking of you and am sending hugs from afar. Fred leaves a lasting legacy of service and love, of family and community. The entire family, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, are all a blessing in this world.

Jodie Kuhlman - October 28, 2022 at 08:33 PM

BD

I remember being in a small group of teachers who would meet with Fred on an informal basis to share ideas. I was a young teacher at the time and I very much appreciated his commitment to his staff.

Barbara Dworak - October 28, 2022 at 10:30 PM

EG

“ I remember when Fred spoke at his father's memorial service. A sentiment he expressed then has stayed with me, and feels appropriate now, when I think about Fred. I doubt I'm recalling what he said exactly, but it was something like, "He was much better than a great man. He was a good man." He really was.

Ed Gaffney - October 28, 2022 at 06:54 PM

RR

His influence lives on in the children who he raised as well as the children whose education he supervised. Please, God, send more like Mr. Brockmann.

robin rubendunst - October 28, 2022 at 07:20 PM

RW

“ Prayers for peace and comfort during this time of loss . Fred was a wonderful person and will be missed by many who knew him .
RuthAnn Waid

RuthAnn Waid - October 28, 2022 at 12:27 PM

LB

“ Thank you for the many messages of condolence and support from friends and family. They are helping to heal my broken heart. I hope you will read about some of Fred's many accomplishments in his obituary, and also note that, in lieu of flowers, the family would be so grateful for donations to Equality Florida or to our church. Fred and I have been active members of both since our arrival in Florida, and their addresses can be found at the end of the obituary. Much love to you all.
Lee

Lee Brockmann - October 28, 2022 at 11:34 AM

SL

“ Our sincere condolences to the Family of Fred and Lee Brockman, to Carolee and Suzanne and their families. Sara and Barbara

Sara Little - October 25, 2022 at 12:34 PM

BL

“ We will always remember our beloved cookie man at Church. Fred always had a smile for those who greeted him and especially for his Lee. I recall at Jason's and Matt's wedding he watched you dancing with your nephew and said I must go dance with my "beautiful wife". He put down his cane and twirled happily in your arms. Our hearts grew two sizes watching you both dance together. Such a strong love for the 70 years you shared. Sara Little and Barbara Shaver

Barbara Shaver, Sara Little - October 25, 2022 at 12:31 PM

MP

“ Dear Lee & Family, I feel so lucky to have known Fred through my work at Equality Florida and very proud that we recognized him with our highest honor, the Voice for Equality Award, back in 2018. He was an inspiring person, and Equality Florida is grateful for his years of support. Thank you for selecting the organization as a way for folks to remember Fred. I hope you all have love and support from one another, other family members, and friends at this difficult time.

Mark Puskarich - October 24, 2022 at 03:25 PM

DD

I am so very sorry for you and your family, Mrs. Brockman, and I hope you can find peace in the wonderful memories he would graciously wish would lift you up.

Denise Duphily - October 28, 2022 at 08:31 PM

HS

“ Cousin Lee: You married a wonderful gentleman who treated everyone in a kind and thoughtful manner, We cherish the many days we got to share with you and Fred in Sarasota and, years ago, in NY and NJ. Your daughters and their fine families are a living tribute to his (and your) character.

Henry G Schriever - October 24, 2022 at 12:21 PM

RB

“ Dear Lee, I was so sad to hear of Fred's leaving us. His is a voice that is dearly needed at this time. I know you will continue with the lifelong commitment you both shared. His was a life well lived and will be remembered as a true hero. With affection and sincere sympathy. Rhana Bazzini.

Rhana Bazzini - October 23, 2022 at 02:08 PM

D'

“ Dearest Lee, I just knew you in a blink, when both our husbands shared a room, but in that blink I knew what a great man Fred was and even more what a beautiful marriage the two of you shared. Please accept Stan's and my sincere condolences. Dee Wernick

D'Ann - October 23, 2022 at 09:49 AM

PP

“ To Lee and daughters Carolee and Suzanne and your children and grandchildren..., I send my deepest, heartfelt sympathy. Mr. Brockmann was without a doubt one of the most impactful teachers and a truly very important person in my life. I incorporated the wisdom he taught me in English and Journalism class at Pearl River High School and was one of the students that helped create and produce the then new school "newspaper" back in the day (the 50's). Lessons learned from him made me a far better person and a more observant and astute nurse. I am beyond grateful our paths in life crossed. His dedication, discipline, prowess with the written word and sensitivity to all unlocked the best in everyone whose life he touched. May your profound loss and grief be eased by the knowledge he has changed the lives of so many. I am praying daily for your comfort and peace. A life well lived indeed !
Patricia (Martin) Polansky

Patricia A. Polansky - October 22, 2022 at 08:53 PM

SB

“ 7 files added to the album Fred's Watercolor Art



Suzanne Brockmann - October 21, 2022 at 01:36 PM

SB

“ 13 files added to the album Photos from Fred's Family



Suzanne Brockmann - October 21, 2022 at 12:06 PM

JH

Dear Lee and family, so sorry to hear about Fred. He was the sweetest, most gentle person. I know your memories will carry you through the sad times. I wish we were closer. Sometimes it is so hard to be so far away from family. Sending you hugs!

jeanne hahn - October 24, 2022 at 01:51 PM

LB

“ Fred and I would be so honored if, instead of flowers, his friends and family would make a donation in his name to our church or to Equality Florida. Both addresses can be found at the end of his obituary. He was always an active member of our church's Peace and Justice Network and a staunch ally of Equality Florida, which is an advocate for Equality for All, working for Equal Rights, equal respect, and equal treatment for everyone. In our 70 years of marriage, we were always a Team, and I am the luckiest person in the world to have spent most of my life, built a wonderful family, and had a "happily-ever-after" with this magnificent man.

Lee Brockmann - October 21, 2022 at 11:32 AM

BL

*To Lee, I always will remember when one day in church you ended a conversation with several of us and lovingly said you needed to go to be with "your man." And what a man he was to the end. You and he worked tirelessly for Justice and for students to be protected from bullying and accepted as their authentic selves. You were a powerful team and example that love can overcome hate. Our church by having you both as members.
Barbara and Sara, your adopted cousins.*

Barbara Shaver, Sara Little - October 25, 2022 at 12:20 PM