



Frank Oliver Howard

AUG 8, 1936 - OCT 30, 2023



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FUNERAL CHAPEL & CREMATORY
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

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Frank Oliver Howard

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It is with heavy hearts that we say farewell to Frank Oliver Howard, 87, who died on Monday, October 30, 2023, in Aldie, Virginia. Described as a loving son, devoted husband, generous father, fun-loving grandfather and great-grandfather, loyal friend, hard-working man, fierce competitor, patient and knowledgeable mentor, enthusiastic cheerleader, optimist, gifted and charismatic storyteller, humble role model, and gentle giant, Frank will be deeply missed by his family and many friends.

Born Saturday, August 8, 1936, in Columbus, Ohio, Frank was one of six children born to John F. Howard, a machinist for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, and Erma (Denny) Howard, a homemaker and volunteer. Frank's passion for athletics was evident from an early age. He excelled as a two-sport athlete at South High School in Columbus, and went on to attend Ohio State University, where he played baseball and basketball, for which he was better known in college. He led the OSU team in both scoring and rebounding in 1957 and 1958, received All-American honors in 1957, and set a school record 32 rebounds in one game. The Philadelphia Warriors selected Frank in the 1958 NBA draft, but instead he chose to pursue a career in professional baseball. He was inducted into the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1982.

During his professional baseball career, which lasted 16 years, Frank played for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Washington Senators, Texas Rangers and Detroit Tigers. Due to his large stature, he was given several nicknames, the most popular of which were "Capital Punisher" and "Hondo". His size and extraordinary power at the plate made him a fan favorite, and his numerous accolades include Rookie of the Year in 1960, a World Series win with the Dodgers in 1963, four All-Star selections, American league home run titles in 1968 and 1970. The painted white seats in the upper deck at RFK Stadium marked some of his longest home runs.

Following his playing career, Frank opened and managed a small bar in Green Bay, Wisconsin in the late 70s and early 80s. He also went on to coach in the major leagues for more than two decades, including one-year stints as manager of the San Diego Padres in 1981 and New York Mets



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in 1983. He loved working with younger players and always tried to make time to instruct and encourage them, and to share his own experiences and lessons with them. He finished his career working as a scout and advisor to the New York Yankees and retired in 2008.

More important to Frank than his athletic accomplishments were the qualities he wanted to better define him as a person, things like basic kindness towards everyone, a strong work ethic, humility, generosity, and devotion to family. Despite all his time on the road, Frank spent much of his spare time with his six children during both the off-season in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and during summers spent in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was truly a giant child at heart. His children treasure their memories of card games, backgammon tournaments, sledding, swimming at the Allouez Pool, playing baseball in the streets and basketball in the driveway along with many friends from the neighborhood. He often said he didn't mind them tearing up his yard because he knew a day would come when he was going to miss the sound of kids out on the front lawn. He had no problem being the parent who hauled his children and their friends around in the station wagon, cigar in hand, always interested in those friends and their families. Best of all were the days when Frank was in charge of making breakfast. Sometimes it was a BLT sandwich assembly line in the kitchen (there could never be too much bacon), other times it was pancakes as big as the bottom of the frying pan, and then there were his runs out to the bakery to pick up several dozen pastries, long-johns and brownies, telling the children to limit themselves to no more than 6-8 each. To describe him as "larger than life" was putting it mildly. His children have more than enough stories about his antics to fill an entire series of books.

In his later years, Frank dedicated his time to the following charitable organizations: St. Jude Children's hospital, Operation Renewed Hope, MVLE, and Veterans Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Erma Howard; his second wife, Donna (Scott) Howard; daughter-in-law, Terri Howard; grandson, Trent Howard; his brother, Bill Howard; his sisters, Christine Deibel, Martha Lincoln, and Elizabeth Williams; as well as other family members and several close former teammates and dear friends.

Frank leaves behind his wife, Carol Howard; sons, Tim Howard, Dan Howard, Mitch (Noreen) Howard; daughters, Catherine (Chuck) Braun, Mary Beth Howard, and Rebecca Thomas, as well as ten grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Grace (Tony) Rocci, several nieces and nephews, and many dear friends.



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The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, November 8, at Loudoun Funeral Chapel, 158 Catoctin Circle, SE, Leesburg, Virginia.

A funeral mass will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 9, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church located at 41685 Corpus Christi Dr., Aldie, Virginia.

A reception will follow the Mass on Thursday, November 9, from 11:30AM to 2:30PM at Hilton Washington Dulles, 13869 Park Center Rd. Herndon, VA 20171

Internment will be held privately on a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, one of Frank's favorite charities.

Frank's family would like to acknowledge and thank the doctors, nurses and staff at Stone Springs Hospital in Aldie, Virginia, for their compassion and excellent care.

Online condolences may be made to the family at <http://www.loudounfuneralchapel.com>






Events

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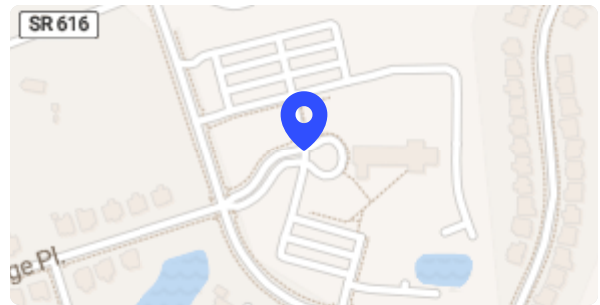
Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, November 8, 2023
-  6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET
-  **Loudoun Funeral Chapel**
158 Catoctin Circle, S.E., Leesburg VA 20175






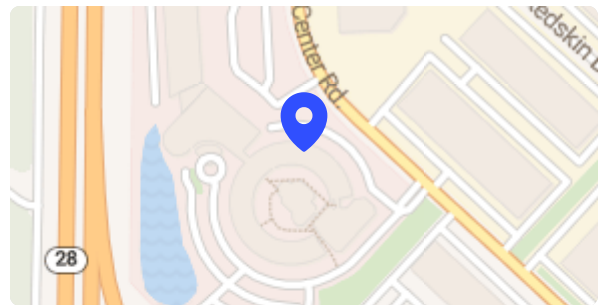
Catholic Mass

-  **Thursday**, November 9, 2023
-  10:00 AM ET
-  **Corpus Christi Catholic Church**
41685 Corpus Christi Drive, , Aldie VA 20105



Reception

-  **Thursday**, November 9, 2023
-  11:30 AM - 2:30 PM ET
-  **Hilton Washington Dulles Airport**
13869 Park Center Rd. , Herndon VA 20171





Tribute Wall

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MP

Maggie Patterson posted:

2 years without you, and time is passing so fast... I wish you had the chance to meet my son. He will always take after you with his middle name Oliver ❤️ We love you and miss you!

November 1 at 4:43 PM

MA

Maggie posted:

1 year of this world losing the kindest soul. I miss you so much, and I know you would have loved meeting my son. ❤️ I love you Geeps, see you on the other side.

November 1 at 4:17 AM

MH

Mary Howard posted:

I couldn't have asked for a more exceptional Dad. I was honored to be your daughter. You are and will always be "the apple of my eye" RIPMary Beth

November 16 at 3:43 PM

JB

John Brown posted:

We've had the pleasure of being Frank's neighbor for the past 20 years and it didn't take long for us to realize that Frank was an even better human being than all his accolades and accomplishments he had earned during his baseball career. He was like an extended member of our family, and he will be dearly missed! The Browns

November 8 at 5:31 AM

MP

Maggie Patterson lit a candle in honor of Frank.

Oh Geeps... you're heavy on my mind and my heart right now. I feel like our time on this earth together was way too short. I'm so glad I made the decision to start my life over and move to Virginia to be close to you. I would have never known how fun and kind our relationship would ever be if I hadn't moved here. I will never forget our laughs. I always came over to the house and wanted to just say anything to make you laugh, because I know how much you loved laughing. I wish I could have held your hand a little longer, told you one more funny story, and given you a glass of water. I love you so much, and you will forever be in my heart. ❤️



November 6 at 4:51 PM



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PH

Pat Hogan posted:

Though I haven't seen Mr. Howard in many years, I could write a ton of funny stories from growing up with the Howard family in Green Bay. Larger than life for sure and always amazed when he'd be out shoveling snow in his shorts and sandals. Sitting in the back seat when he was driving was challenging for a gangly teen because his seat went so far back there wasn't any room for my legs-- and at the same time chocking on the smoke from his huge cigar while the windows were rolled up!. Taking us home once from basketball practice he dropped us off 6 blocks from home in -10 below weather and told us to have a nice brisk walk home resulting in frozen hair on our heads (that story has been recounted MANY times). Every once in awhile he'd come out in the driveway to shoot hoops for a little bit with us and he still had a very soft touch. In grade school you always knew when he came home after the baseball season ended because his sons all came to school the next day with much shorter hair. As a youngster, I saw him hit a one handed game winning home run for the Tigers and marveled at the strength he possessed. I also found it startling that he would be sitting in the stands for our high school basketball games with fellow major leaguer Tony Kubek who's son played for our opponent and there were maybe a couple of hundred people in the stands. I'll stop there but would like to send my condolences to the whole Howard family and wish Frank Godspeed on his new journey and thank him for all the great memories. Pat Hogan

November 6 at 1:04 PM

MH

Mitch Howard posted:

I will remember you most as a child looking up at his giant dad, a force of nature, a funny, charismatic man, and role model. You taught me to be kind, generous, and to strive toward excellence. As much as I may try, I'll never match your story-telling ability. Yes, you were a baseball star, but to me you were a larger than life dad. We will all miss you. Your son, Mitch

November 6 at 1:38 AM

RC

Richard Christiansen November 6 at 3:47 PM

That was a beautiful, touching tribute to your father, Mitch.

GD

Glenn M. Dawson posted:

Frank Howard was my childhood hero in baseball. I had the pleasure to meet him in person as a Dulles Little League Coach at our opening day event years ago in Ashburn. He was more than happy to sign my hat, and insisted that it was at NO CHARGE. I still felt like a 12 year old kid in his presence. It meant the world to me, as he did himself. RIP HONDO Glenn M. Dawson

November 4 at 2:42 PM



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Anthony Broxton posted:

Me and my wife Angela met Mr. Frank and Catherine at a autograph show in Virginia and he gave us a autographed picture and took pictures with us we casually have kept in touch over the years and it's been a pleasure to have met them both. Always in our prayers love Anthony and Angela Broxton. R.I.P. Mr. Frank

November 3 at 7:24 AM



Phil Bohne posted:

I had the great pleasure of meeting my boyhood idol, Frank several times. The gentle giant couldn't have been kinder and more welcoming. The man made such an impact on me, I named my only son after him. His spirit will live on in all of the people that he touched...

November 3 at 4:48 AM



Ray Hitchell November 3 at 7:17 AM

Very, very sorry for your loss. I met Frank several years ago at the Sandestin Hilton, where I was house pianist. Five seconds in, I felt like I was his best friend. Absolutely the nicest person I have ever met. Rest in peace, Frank, heaven will be even better now. See you there.



Michael Marmer posted:

Catherine,Linda and I are thinking of you.Mike Marmer Germantown Maryland

November 2 at 2:31 PM



Jay Horwitz posted:

Had many a great meal with Frank. A terrific guy, one of my favorite Mets!

November 2 at 2:00 PM



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QW

Quintus Williams posted:

I never met the man but worked with his daughter Catherine. She was quiet and unassuming and never really talked about her famous Dad very often. It took me a few years of conversation to know who her Dad was. We talked sports, especially football and occasionally about her Dad. All I can say is that the Dad had to be a special person to have created the tremendous daughter that I know. I know she is missing her Dad from the discussions we had about him. Condolences and prayers for the entire family.

November 2 at 4:46 AM

WB

Wade Boggs posted:

We would like to send our condolences to all of Frank's family he was a treasure to all who had the pleasure of being his friend. A great man,RIP. My friend we will miss youWade & Debbie Boggs

November 1 at 2:33 PM

SK

Shelly Kapinus posted:

I remember when I met Mr. Howard at a game I attended with Catherine when we were in college together. I couldn't believe how tall he was! I remember him being outgoing and funny! Rest in Peace to a man who was undoubtedly admired by many, and missed emmensly by those who loved him....Shelly Kapinus.

November 1 at 2:10 PM

RC

Richard Christiansen posted:

RIP, Frank Howard. A great man of warmth, class, character and integrity. You are beloved by thousands.

November 1 at 12:46 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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