



Fred M. Frayser

August 22, 1952 - April 22, 2026

FRED M. FRAYSER
NEW HARMONY, INDIANA

Fred M. Frayser, age 73, of New Harmony, Indiana, lived a life devoted to faith, community, and an unwavering belief in the power of education.

Born August 22, 1952, to Madge (Hall) and Walter Frayser, Fred was named by his proud older brother, Ted. He grew up in New Harmony and remained deeply connected to the town that shaped him throughout his life.

Fred attended Indiana State University Evansville (now USI), where he earned his bachelor's degree in education. While there, he joined the Mid-America Singers, where he met the love of his life, Janey. He furthered his education at the University of Evansville where he received his Master's Degree in Education in 1978. With Janey, he shared 51 years of marriage, two daughters, and a life centered on faith, family, and a deep love for serving others.

A lifelong educator, Fred dedicated his entire teaching and administrative career to the New Harmony school system, proudly carrying forward the Rappite identity of the school he once attended. He believed deeply in education and in the lasting difference it makes in a community.

Fred was a lifelong member of Johnson's United Methodist Church, where he sang in the choir and faithfully served on many committees throughout his life, both within the church and across the broader community. He began

volunteering with the Working Men's Institute in 2001 and served as President of the Board of Trustees from 2007 to the present. One of his proudest accomplishments was helping establish the William Maclure Room for the Dissemination of Useful Knowledge, and he especially treasured the friendships formed there, particularly with Ryan Rokicki (Taylor). He was a 52-year member of Masonic Arctic Lodge No. 394. Fred was also active in DeMolay for eight years and later served as Chapter Dad from 1977 to 1980. Fred had a creative and curious spirit. He enjoyed cake decorating, stained glass, gardening, and floral arranging. For many years, he worked at William Wilson's Auction Center, where he developed a love for antiques, cake stands, and holiday décor that became part of his cherished Christmas collection. His joy for the Christmas season was unmistakable and generously shared with all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife: Janey (Welden) Frayser; daughters: Darla Chapman (Michael) and Tessa Lechner (Gene); grandchildren: Maxwell, Tyler, Landrie, AJ, Maddison, and Elaina; brother and sister-in-law: Tom and Julie; niece: Shella; great-nieces: Samantha and LaShay; great-great-niece: Serenity; great-great-nephews: Jaxon, Kadin, and Liam; and many extended family members, former students, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Madge (Hall) and Walter Frayser; his brother: Ted Frayser; his sister-in-law: Roberta (Roby) Frayser; his parents-in-law: George and Bettye (Davenport) Welden and his nephew: Brian Weldon.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the Janik family for their friendship, and to Ashley, Casey, and Jaressha with AseraCare Hospice for their compassionate care and support.

Friends and family are invited to gather in remembrance and celebration on Sunday, May 3, 2026, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Working Men's Institute in New Harmony, with a Masonic service at 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Working Men's Institute, P.O. Box 368, 407 Tavern Street, New Harmony, IN 47631.

Previous Events

Celebration Gathering

MAY 3. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Working Men's Institute
407 Tavern Street
New Harmony, IN 47631

Masonic Service

MAY 3. 4:00 PM (CT)

Working Men's Institute
407 Tavern Street
New Harmony, IN 47631

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Janey/Darla/Tessa/Tom -

Our deepest sympathies to you and your families on Fred's passing. He was such a kind, faithful, sweet and supportive soul to his family and community.

I remember warm and cheerful Christmas visits to your home as a kid. The transformation of your home and the magic your family brought to it each holiday was a sight to behold!

A life so well lived - rest in peace, Mr. New Harmony. The town will never be the same without you.

- Dan/Cara and the Marriott Family

Dan Marriott - May 01 at 02:29 PM

SH

“ *Was very lucky to get to know Fred and Janie through our fraternity Aloha Omega Psi. Fred was President of our pledge class in the Fall of 1972. Our fraternity would help with the Madrigals at ISUE/USI of which some of our brothers performed in. Got the pleasure of seeing Fred and Janie a few years ago when they came to the EVSC soccer fields to watch grandkids play. Janie to you and your family you have my deepest condolences and I'm sending prayers your way. Fred may you look over us all and fly high brother. RIP my friend till we meet again.*

Steve Henderson - May 01 at 08:29 AM

MP

“ I was very lucky to have Mr Frayser as my mentor throughout Grade school. He was an exceptional teacher and a magnificent guide. I would not be the man I am today without him. My deepest condolences to his family.

- Michael Pagano.

Michael Pagano - April 24 at 10:28 PM

JK

“ James K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fred M. Frayser.

James K. - April 24 at 01:06 PM

RG

“ Both Nikki and Courtney LOVED Fred as principal. They also loved Fred dressing up for Halloween! My thoughts and prayers go out to the family, Janie and the girls. Rosie (Price) Ghormley

Rosie Ghormley - April 23 at 07:50 PM

PJ

“ It was an honor and pleasure working alongside Fred in Alpha Omega Psi Fraternity at ISUE (now USI). Fred joined the organization in 1972 and became its President in 1973-74. Many fond memories of Fred and his positive personality. - Paul “PJ” Jourdan

Paul Jourdan - April 23 at 07:42 PM