



## David M. Frees Jr.

May 19, 1941 - October 6, 2020

David M. Frees, Jr., age 79, husband of the late Mary Jane (Faddis) Frees, of Phoenixville, PA, passed away on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 in the Paoli Hospital. Born on May 19, 1941 in West Chester, PA, he was a son of the late David M. Sr. and Margaret (McElfatrick) Frees.

Born and raised in the Phoenixville area, Mr. Frees attended Phoenixville Schools, and would graduate from Owen J. Roberts High School, class of 1959. While there, he lettered in basketball and track, served as the Junior and Senior class President, and received many awards for service to his community. Upon graduation, he attended Pierce School of Business and the Philadelphia Insurance Society, achieving the Highest Scholastic Average Award. During his schooling, he was employed by Frees Insurance, Inc. of Phoenixville as an independent insurance broker, a company he would run until his retirement.

He was a member of the St. John's Lutheran Church in Phoenixville, where he served in several capacities including Church council member and President, Sunday school teacher for 30 years, and on the Social Ministry and Stewardship committees.

Mr. Frees has always been a supporter of the Phoenixville community, and his love of the community had showed through his continual work to make it a

place in which people are proud to live. One of his proudest projects was the co-founding of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area in 1977, working to preserve the rich history of this area for future generations to study and enjoy. He would also serve on the board Chester County Historical Society from 1984 through 2002.

Throughout the years, Mr. Frees could be found heavily involved with many civic organizations throughout the Phoenixville area and surrounding communities. He served as a Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the Phoenixville Jaycees. He also served for the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, the Chester County Community Foundation, the Chester County Redevelopment Committee Secretary, and as a committee member and trustee of the Phoenixville Hospital.

Mr. Frees served as a member of the Planning Commission, as the Borough Auditor, and as the President of the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a trustee and Endowment Committee member of the YMCA, a committee member of the Phoenixville Library Expansion Fund Drive, and was the campaign chairman and President for the Chester County United Way.

Mr. Frees has been recognized countless times with a multitude of community awards including the Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1979, the Chester County Community Foundation Jordan Award for Philanthropy, the Schuylkill River Heritage Award, the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award, the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, and many awards through his work with the Jaycees, the Phoenixville Inter-Service Club, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Frees is survived by two sons, David M. III, husband of Robin Frees of Phoenixville, PA and Robb S., husband of Lisa Frees of Phoenixville, PA; five

grandchildren, Joshua Frees, partner of Sarah Duyer, Jamie, wife of Craig Miller, Alex, husband of Laura Frees, Morgan, husband of Calle Frees, and Tyler Frees, fiancé of Mackenzie Welsh; one great-grandson, Bodhi Miller; and two siblings, J. Barrie Frees of Pottstown, PA and Carol J., wife of Don Crew of Tioga County, PA. Mr. Frees was preceded in death by one daughter, Valeri F. Frees.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his visitation at the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc, 610 South Main Street, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Funeral services and burial will take place privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, 204 Church Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460. Condolences may be made by visiting [www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com). Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **14**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc  
610 South Main Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ We are sad to hear of the passing of our Brother Davis M. Frees jr. Indeed he and our Sister Mary Jane have been a very welcome couple to our Congregation. We always looked forward to having them among us and certainly appreciated their participation. They are both now, no longer with us. We at the Cane Garden Bay, Virgin Islands, Methodist Church, extend sincere condolences to the entire Family Circle. Thinking of you with prayers and warm remembrance of them both. May they Rest in Eternal Peace.

-----  
**Didy George** - October 17, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss. He was a true gentlemen and a pillar of the community!

-----  
**Joseph McArdle** - October 15, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ Dear Dave, Rob and Family. I am very sorry to hear about your dad passing. What a wonderful family and many years of taking care of my parents. Much love and hugs to all of you. Sending Love, hugs and prayers to all of you.



-----  
**Carole Setzler** - October 15, 2020 at 05:18 AM

SH

Dave, you will be sadly missed. He graduated with my sister ( Shirley Hess)

-----  
**Sherman Hess** - October 17, 2020 at 12:37 PM

TP

“ Dear David and Robin, Robb and Lisa and all the kids and family,  
We are so very sorry about your Dad. Each and every time our  
paths crossed, he was interested in us, entertaining and  
gentlemanly. We will miss his laughs.

*Tom and Ellen Piskai*

---

**Tom & Ellen Piskai** - October 14, 2020 at 04:44 PM

DI

*Thank you so much. I hope that all is well with you. Dave*

---

**David Frees III** - October 17, 2020 at 12:28 AM

DG

*We are sad to hear of the passing of our Brother Davis M. Frees jr.  
Indeed he and our Sister Mary Jane have been a very welcome couple  
to our Congregation. We always looked forward to having them among  
us and certainly appreciated their participation.*

*They are both now, no longer with us. We at the Cane Garden Bay,  
Virgin Islands, Methodist Church, extend sincere condolences to the  
entire Family Circle. Thinking of you with prayers and warm  
remembrance of them both. May they Rest in Eternal Peace.*

---

**Didy George** - October 17, 2020 at 11:13 AM

DG

*\*David*

---

**Didy George** - October 17, 2020 at 11:15 AM

CZ

“ Dear Robb, Dave and Families,

*We are so sad to hear of Dave's passing but are celebrating his reunion with Mary Jane in heaven. Although we can't be with you in person, we will be raising a toast tonight to celebrate his life, love for family, friends and community. Thinking of you with prayers and warm remembrances of them both.*

*Cathy and Bill Zielinski*

---

**Cathy & Bill Zielinski** - October 12, 2020 at 06:43 PM

AC

“ Robb, Lisa and Tyler,

*I am so very sorry to hear of the passing of your father/grandfather. He certainly left his mark and made quite a difference - in family, the church, the community, and the world of insurance. I will hold you in my prayers. I pray that memories of good times bring you peace.*

*Both personally, and on behalf of the Travelers, our deepest condolences -*

*Annette Canceran and your Travelers family*

---

**Annette Canceran** - October 12, 2020 at 05:37 PM

ST

“ Dave and Rob:

*Our deepest condolences to you and your extended families.*

*Steve and Carol Tullman*

---

**steve tullman** - October 12, 2020 at 03:22 PM

DI

*Thank you. Robin, Robb And I all hope you're well.*

---

**David Frees III** - October 17, 2020 at 12:30 AM

JR

“ *We were sad to hear of Dave's passing. He and Mary Jane made us feel so welcomed when we moved to this wonderful community more than 25 years ago. We watched our first Dogwood Parade from the front porch of the their home.*

*You could not be around Dave for long before realizing he had a quick mind and an often mischievous wit.*

*You also soon realized how much he loved Phoenixville. Working to make it a better place was a labor of love for him.*

*He is missed. Our condolences to his family.*

*John & Helen Rawlins*

---

**John Rawlins** - October 12, 2020 at 12:50 PM

SC

“ *Robb, David, and family, Are heartfelt condolences go out to you all. I have so many great memories of Dave from the community and from Rotary. I especially loved seeing him walking to the post office and around town!*

---

**Scott Cowan** - October 12, 2020 at 08:49 AM

CR

“ David, Robb and family please accept my deepest sympathy over the death of David Jr. I was so saddened to learn of his death. I was always so proud to receive his support in my political elections. He truly epitomized the title of “pillar of the community “. Phoenixville truly benefitted from his support and many talents He will be missed.

---

**Carole Rubley** - October 12, 2020 at 08:06 AM

KT

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Robb and your family at your Dad 's passing. I always have cherished my memories of the early days of Dogwood and Dave was my "bodyguard" to me and the court and the festival was their proud day. Many laughs and genuine friendships were formed then and I will always cherish those memories and photos. A friend to all and the loss will be felt in Phoenixville. May he rest in Peace. Kathleen Labik Tarlecki and family

---

**Kathleen Tarlecki** - October 10, 2020 at 09:24 AM

AM

“ Heartfelt condolences to David and Robb and families on their Dad's passing. May memories of better days be of comfort in the days ahead. Sincerely, Arlene Martin and Scott and Wayne Martin.



---

**Arlene Martin** - October 09, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Tribute Wall



---

**Karen Simmons** - October 09, 2020 at 08:02 PM



“ Mr Frees and my (late) Grandpa, Major Pavlick. One of my most cherished photos given to me by Dave Frees III. He has left such a legacy, I'm honored to have known him even if for a brief time. Our love and condolences to you all. 🙏❤️



---

**Katie Pavlick Harper** - October 09, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ Dave, I am very sorry for the loss of your father. Thinking of you and your family.

---

**Kristen Ladd** - October 09, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ I remember working for David M. Frees, Sr. and David M. Frees, Jr. The days of shorthand and trained doing the claims . Phoenixville, Pa. They were both very friendly. I remember David M. Frees, Jr. and very active in the Jaycees. I send my condolences to the family. I believe the year was around 1970.



Debbie Pierce - October 08, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ David Frees was a hero to me, a mentor, a trusted confidant. We are all richer in spirit here in Phoenixville because of his example and legacy. I thank God every day that I had the pleasure of knowing him all of these years. Sincere love and prayers and deepest sympathy to the Frees family ... Jan Swarr

Janice M Swarr - October 08, 2020 at 12:45 PM



“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - October 08, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ Your dad leaves this world and, most especially, our Phoenixville community, a much better place. A million times over. A champion. God must be so pleased. Love to all of you. And thank you for sharing him with all of us.

Marie Louise Ludwig - October 08, 2020 at 09:15 AM

DW

“ *David, Robb, and Families,*  
*i am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. Your father was such an inspiration as well as a vital part of the Phoenixville community and will be sorely missed. His tremendous accomplishments along with the legacy he leaves behind indicate the extraordinary man that he was. May you be comforted in the coming weeks, knowing how he impacted so many lives in the Phoenixville community. May loving memories bring you a sense of peace along with many smiles and laughs during this sad time.*

*Denise Wisneski*

---

**Denise Wisneski** - October 08, 2020 at 09:02 AM

JS

“ *Dear David and Robb,*

*My condolences to you on the passing of your father. Your dad handled our family's insurance needs for years and now it continues with Robb. Such a nice man - kind, honest, friendly, sincere. He even took the time to come to our father's viewing when he passed away. I always remember that. He's left a wonderful legacy in both of you and your continued dedication to our town.*

*Take care.*

*Jaroslava Struk*

---

**Jaroslava Struk** - October 07, 2020 at 08:54 PM

SP

“ *Syl and I join so many in sharing the finest of condolences on the passing of this good man. We were fortunate to have Dave handle sensitive insurance matters for our family over the year, and recall his graciousness and aplomb.*



---

**Sal and Sylvia Katz of Phoenixville, PA** - October 07, 2020 at 08:43 PM

MH

*My deepest sympathy to the Frees Family. Dave was a fellow Rotarian with me and I always enjoyed his company and his jokes at our Rotary functions. God Bless him and your family.  
Mariann Horan*

---

**mariann horan** - October 08, 2020 at 02:29 PM

JF

*Dear David and Robb.... Phonexville has lost a kind gentle servant this day. Amil, Lucy. And I were so very proud to call you a dear friend.. What a blessed legacy you have left behind in our hamlet... Rest Peacefully.. Joe Fazzini*

---

**joseph Fazzini** - October 08, 2020 at 02:56 PM

KK

“ *Robb, Dave and families...  
So sorry to hear of your Dad's passing, he was a kind, sweet man. God bless and peace to you all. In deep sympathy, Kris Beckum Kronmuller*

---

**Kris Kronmuller** - October 07, 2020 at 08:28 PM

VJ

“ Vicki And Mark St. John lit a candle in memory of David M. Frees Jr.



Vicki and Mark St. John - October 07, 2020 at 08:25 PM

MO

“ Mary Osisek lit a candle in memory of David M. Frees Jr.



mary osisek - October 07, 2020 at 08:14 PM

BF

“ Bernat Family lit a candle in memory of David M. Frees Jr.



Bernat Family - October 07, 2020 at 07:46 PM

MK

“ Mabel Kelly lit a candle in memory of David M. Frees Jr.



Mabel Kelly - October 07, 2020 at 07:23 PM

MK

*To the Frees family I am so sorry for your loss, Dave was a great man in all he did. David Frees JR RIP*

**Mabel Kelly** - October 07, 2020 at 07:25 PM

TS

“ *My deepest condolences to the Frees family at the loss of a great man. Tracy Shantz*

**Tracy Shantz** - October 07, 2020 at 07:05 PM

GF

“ *Decades of friendship were shared by the Frees and Verish families. I'm sure our parents have carried that friendship into the afterlife. Deepest condolences and many prayers to the Frees family. May your memories sustain you at this difficult time.*

**Ginny Verish Filipovic** - October 07, 2020 at 05:15 PM

MF

“ *Such a great man, he has done so much for his family and community. Mr. David M. Frees Jr. you will be missed.*

**Matt Fink** - October 07, 2020 at 04:11 PM

JK

*Great man and friend to all, Remember him walking around Washington field every day and helping with trash control.*

**Joe Kovach** - October 07, 2020 at 07:00 PM

DS

*So sorry to hear about Dave. My association with the Frees family began years ago on Rossiter Avenue when the McElfatricks lived next to my aunt. I had the privilege of working with both Dave and his father at the former Central Lutheran Church. He was an inspiration to all.*

**Doris Selwitz** - October 08, 2020 at 11:46 AM

PC

*I've had the pleasure of knowing Dave since the inception of the Historical Society. His wit and leadership will be sorely missed in Phoenixville. RIP my friend*

pat curren - October 08, 2020 at 07:09 PM



*Dearest David, Robb and each member of the Frees family: So many things we learn from your Dad/Grandpa. His deep commitment to family; community; hard work. And especially, his sense of humor. The last time we spoke, he told me a joke. Despite everything he was going through he once again reminded me of the importance of good cheer. When life gives you lemons, laugh and drink lemonade. With friends. Stay healthy, dear Frees friends. The community needs you more than ever these days. For good. Forever.*

Karen Simmons - October 09, 2020 at 08:07 PM

JY

*I have known Dave since I was in High School; we taught Sunday school together, took part in Historical Society events, hiked and cleared brush on Tortola (yes some rum was involved). and enjoyed life. We discussed politics and was a guiding force for me in developing my political vision and love for the community. He will be missed by many and his effects on lives will be enjoyed by many more including those that never had the pleasure of knowing him. Rest in peace Dave.*

Jonathan Yuengling - October 11, 2020 at 02:37 PM

RA

*Dave, Robb and entire Frees Family: Michaleen and I would like to express our sincere condolences on the death of your patriarch, David M. Frees Jr. I only met him once a couple years ago and we had a brief discussion. I know that he was a great leader. In Phoenixville and was truly loved and will certainly be missed.*

Ron Allen

Ronald G Allen - October 14, 2020 at 11:19 AM

MK

*To David M Frees, Jr: David, I thought I was going to say that I would miss that mischievous smirk of yours. But in reality, it is seared into my mind for retrieval every time I think of you. Each time it makes me smile in return a little bit, and that is something that you have given me to carry all the rest of my days. God bless and God speed, my friend. And to the entire clan of Frees friends and family, my deepest condolences for your loss. And, at the same time, my deepest gratitude for sharing with me a man with such wit, character and caring. Not to mention that smirk I mentioned above that always left me wondering if he was up to something he shouldn't be. I would guess he usually was.*

---

**Michael Karwic** - October 15, 2020 at 09:58 AM