

O'KEEFE, Francis M. "Frank", 50, died October 12, 2003 in the loving arms of his wife, Beth, surrounded by his family and friends in Williamsburg, Virginia, after a long and courageous battle with Multiple Myeloma.

Frank grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona, the son of Francis and Julia O'Keefe. He attended Gerard High School and served in the United States Army in Turkey, before returning to attend college. After his discharge from the Army, Frank attended the University of Arizona where he earned degrees in Education and Russian.

While at the University of Arizona, Frank devoted considerable time and energy to Camp Wildcat, a volunteer organization that took disadvantaged children into the outdoor environment. It was at Camp Wildcat that Frank met many of his lifelong friends, but most especially, it was where he met Beth. For Frank, once he met Beth, there was only Beth. He chased her, won her, and married her and never looked at another woman again, unless it was his beautiful daughters, Emily and Amanda. Their love and companionship is treasured by all who know them.

Frank taught school before taking a job with the United States Government. His love was teaching and he became a teacher of many things to many people throughout his life.

Frank's facility for language led him to a career in the State Department where he served his country both here and abroad with great distinction. He served ans was accompanied by his family in Cameroon, South Africa, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Cote D'Ivoire, and Germany. His family was always the most important thing in his life and together they had many journeys and adventures around the world and touched many lives in many ways.

Frank was greatly respected and honored by his colleagues. He was always known for his wit and sharp sense of humor, which carried all of us through many challenging days.

He loved baseball, he loved politics, he loved his friends, his country, his community and his life, but most of all he loved Beth, Amanda and Emily.

When Frank left this world, he left it with all of the grace, dignity, and love which he lived his life. All of us who knew him hold a great piece of him inside us; his humor, his knowledge, and his quiet strength of character. We are so very thankful to have known him and he is greatly missed.

Frank leaves behind his wife of 21 years, Beth and his daughters, Amanda and Emily. He is survived by his parents, Francis and Julia O'Keefe; his sister, Eileen Richardson, and his nephews, Steve, Sean, and Ryan Richardson, all of Jacksonville, Florida. He also leaves behind his community of friends and colleagues throughout the world who have been extremely loving and helpful during his long illness and death.

A Mass of Resurrection will be held at St. Bede Catholic Church, Thursday morning, at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be in Williamsburg Memorial Park. Donations in Frank's honor can be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, 3 Forest Street, New Canaan, CT 06840. Arrangements by **Nelson Funeral Home.**