



## Richard Melvin Fry

February 28, 1937 - August 26, 2019

Richard Melvin “Mel” Fry passed away August 26, 2019 at the Hosparus unit of Norton Medical Pavilion in Louisville after a brief illness. He was 82. He was born on Feb. 28, 1937 to Waverly and Mildred Frances Rex Fry (known as “Monk” and “Sister” to many) in Portsmouth, Virginia. He was a 1954 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School; a 1958 cum laude graduate of Asbury College with a B.A. in chemistry; and a UNC Chapel Hill graduate, earning a Masters in Public Health in 1963. He began working with the Kentucky Health Department as a chemist shortly afterward, eventually rising to lead the state Radiation Control Program. After retirement he was offered a position with North Carolina state government, and held a similar position in their Radiation Control Program.

Mel was born into the Friends Church (Quaker), met and married a Methodist, and raised his children as Nazarenes. He met the love of his life, Judy Summers, at Asbury and they married in 1959. Along their journey together, they were members of or attended Frankfort’s Thornhill Baptist, Immanuel Baptist, and First Church of the Nazarene; he was a charter member of Capital Church of the Nazarene (now Cornerstone), which first met at the Old YMCA on Bridge Street in Frankfort. After moving to Raleigh, NC he helped start several Nazarene churches there, and was a long-time member of Penny Road Church of the Nazarene.

In his retirement, Mel enjoyed traveling and seeing the world, first with Judy and more recently with his family or his “travel buddy” Pat Smith. He instilled

in his family a love of travel and encouraged us all to see the world, to understand how beautiful it is and to approach our differences with love, joy, and acceptance.

He is predeceased by his wife Julia Charlotte Summers Fry (“Judy”) and daughter Shari Fry Newman. He is survived by his brother Dr. Robert Fry; son Steve (Diana); son-in-law Harry Newman; grandchildren Charli (Jordan) Hensley, Drew Fry, and Ian Newman; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family is grateful for the care provided by Norton Hospital and Hosparus. A memorial service is being planned for the fall at Penny Road Church; donations in Mel’s memory may be made to Penny Road Church of the Nazarene, 8509 Penny Road, Raleigh, NC 27606.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Melvin Fry*

---

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I worked with Mel for many years in the Kentucky Radiation Control Program. Mel was one of the most brilliant and talented individuals I have ever known. During his tenure in the Kentucky program he provided superb leadership through many trying times associated with the Maxey Flats radioactive disposal site. I learned many things from Mel and will miss him.*

*Chuck Hardin, October 5, 2019*

---

**Chuck Hardin** - October 05, 2019 at 11:44 AM



“ *Mel could always "cut to the chase" in the kindest way. He was an honest Christian man and well liked throughout the Radiation Protection community. He and Judy knew my kids at a very young age and always showed interest in their whereabouts and well being. It was a pleasure to know and work with Mel for so many years. He will be missed. Thoughts and prayers to all of you during this difficult time. David Lee*

---

**David Lee** - September 09, 2019 at 11:30 AM

DL

“ I worked with your father for many years as a lawyer assigned to the NC Division of Radiation Protection. He was a kind, decent, brilliant gentleman with a genuine witness by the life he led. I am fortunate to have known him. My sincere sympathy to all his family, and to all his church family at various Nazarene churches.

-----  
**Donald Laton** - September 01, 2019 at 03:20 PM

JH

“ I had the privilege of working with your father for several years. The wonderful photo you have posted here really captures the Mel I remember. He was a witty and compassionate man. Look forward to seeing him and Judy again after this life is done. Jennie Wilhelm (Mau) Hauser

-----  
**Jennie Hauser** - August 31, 2019 at 04:23 PM

BH

“ I am so sorry to read of Mel's passing. It sounds like he really enjoyed his retirement. Now he is reunited with Judy and Shari, what a great reunion! You all are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Beverly Hall

-----  
**Beverly Hall** - August 30, 2019 at 09:08 AM

SF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



-----  
**Steve Fry** - August 29, 2019 at 08:58 AM

GV

“ *Prayers of strength and comfort. Love to you all.* ”



---

**Gayle Vice** - August 28, 2019 at 11:53 PM