



## Franklin Edward Rader

January 7, 1949 - May 18, 2015

Franklin Edward Rader died peacefully at his home in Mooresville on Monday, May 18, 2015. Born in Newton, North Carolina on January 7, 1949, Frank was the eldest son of the late William Woodrow Rader and Lura Abernethy Rader. A loving and supportive husband and father, Frank is survived by his wife, Liz Boyd Rader, and daughter, Lura Elizabeth "Ellie" Rader. Frank is also survived by his brother, Charles Whitener Rader (Becky) of Cornelius, and sisters Susan Rader Poole (Fred) of Greensboro and Frances Rader Lena (Manuel) of Dallas, Texas. Frank was a devoted uncle to his nephews John and David Rader and Charles and Robert Lena and his niece Mary Frances Lena.

A 1967 graduate of Mooresville High School, Frank received his BA degree in history from Davidson College in 1971. He taught history and coached football and wrestling at high schools in Raleigh and Canton for several years before joining Smith Barney as a stockbroker, retiring early to dedicate his time in service to the organizations and institutions he loved most: USA Wrestling, the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the Boy Scouts of America, the Town of Mooresville, the Mooresville Graded School District, and First Presbyterian Church. Always grateful to the people and the community that shaped him, Frank never hesitated to give generously his time, resources, and unique talents. He was a creative visionary who constantly sought to leave the world a little better than he found it. Not only was he at home in the board room, he also enjoyed tutoring elementary school children in arithmetic, serving in the

church nursery, and preparing tailgate suppers before home football games. He loved engaging in debates on many topics, and was famous for answering a question with a question thereby moving the discussion to a deeper level. Frank's character and convictions were a reflection of his Christian faith. He viewed his life and family as a blessing and always tried to live a life honoring his Creator. A state champion wrestler in high school, Frank served in numerous key roles with USA Wrestling both on a national and state level. The organization describes Frank as epitomizing someone who lived with a servant's heart, always willing to pitch in and help others, and helping to build the sport on the local, regional, national and international levels. He was an inductee to the North Carolina Wrestling Hall of Fame, and held leadership positions on the wrestling staff in the 1996 and 1984 Olympic Games. Frank was recipient of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity's highest honor, the Order of the Golden Heart, given by the national board of directors in recognition of his constant, faithful, and distinguished service to his brothers and the fraternity. He enjoyed serving as the alumni advisor for the Davidson College chapter for many years. Frank was unflagging in his efforts to promote the highest academic, moral, and ethical standards within this organization. Frank was elected to one term as town commissioner in 2005. Following his term of office, his interest in local government remained keen, and he often attended town and county board meetings and budget sessions. In addition to his passion for Mooresville, Frank was also a staunch advocate of the public schools, volunteering in the Mooresville Graded School District and helping to lead last year's successful countywide campaign for \$131 million in education bonds.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, May 22, 1:00 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 249 West McLelland Avenue, Mooresville, followed by the burial at Glenwood Cemetery. Pastor David Rockness will officiate. The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 21, 6:00 - 8:00pm, at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, 494 East Plaza Drive, Mooresville. Memorial gifts may be made to the

Mooreville Foundation for Excellence in Education (305 N. Main Street, Mooreville, NC 28115), Camp Grier (PO Box 490, Old Fort, NC 28762

[www.campgrier.org](http://www.campgrier.org)) and to First Presbyterian Church (249 W. McLelland Avenue, Mooreville, NC 28115).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Franklin Edward Rader*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Franklin Edward Rader*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Franklin Edward Rader*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM

KH

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*Keith Higgins,*

*Mooresville, North Carolina*

*Contact Me*

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**Keith Higgins** - January 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ *Condolences to the family. Frank and I found each other through our genealogy hobby and exchanged many e-mails over several years. His grandmother Rader and my great-grandmother Sherrill were sisters. He was an interesting person.*

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**Susan Sherrill Estes** - May 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ My sympathies go to his loved ones. He was such a kind and generous person. He made it possible for me to travel places, meet people, and have experiences I would have never had otherwise. I will always be grateful and hold a special place for him in my heart. Sandy M

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**Sandra Johnston** - May 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Upon meeting Frank Rader, it didn't take long to realize he was a special person. I always found him to be kind and humorous and extremely dedicated. For the longest time, I was sure he had a twin because he was everywhere. Frank worked tirelessly to improve the Mooresville community. I had the pleasure of getting to know Frank when he was a Mooresville commissioner. I very much appreciated his commitment. As busy as he was, he would always take the time to celebrate a job well done with a phone call or a handwritten thank you note. What a tremendous loss. Frank Rader will be missed. With deepest sympathy

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**Lisa Hammond** - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Liz and Ellie, We are so sorry for your loss. We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. Our deepest sympathy. Sincerely, The Wedlock-Telinger Family Jon, Jamie, Matthew, Chris, Rebecca and Jacob

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May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NN

“ My prayers are with all of you.

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**Nina Newton-Wall** - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Liz and Ellie, My thoughts and prayers are with you both and the rest of the family. Frank was a huge part of FPC when I was growing up there. May God's peace comfort you.

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**Jamie Wright Price** - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Frank was a smart and gifted man. He will be missed by many. Always enjoyed the discussions we had.

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**Robb Collier** - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HW

“ Such an honor to call Frank a friend, I will miss him dearly until we are together again. He had such a tireless quality about him and he never ran out of ideas/ Just last Saturday he was talking with those of us from church during the Race City Festival and he was expounding on a whole bunch of ideas for our church to pursue for next year's festival, when he was done I found myself asking "where does he get all those ideas from"? He was a quiet behind the scenes benefactor to many things in our church, he will always be remembered for all he did. Liz & Ellie you are in our prayers, we will continue to love and support you.

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**Harry & Lucinda Weyer** - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

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**Sam Price** - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ As a member of his church family I will remember his quiet and supportive ways. One Sunday he was on the church lawn with a campfire. I did not recognized him in camp clothes and hat and so I invited him to church! He was promoting Camp Grier! That is how he was - almost always into something and doing it in a special way. The best to you, Liz and Ellie. You will be in my prayers long term. May you have courage and peace from our Lord and Savior.

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joyce johnson - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Honored to call Frank a friend and one of the most devoted MSI Chamber Ambassadors we could ever want or ask for. Always there to help and do more than was expected. We miss him terribly and are blessed to have known such a great man. RIP Frank and God Bless Liz, Ellie, family and friends that you leave behind.

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MSI Chamber Staff - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ My condolences to Liz, Ellie and family as well as the NCUSA Wrestling family Frank was a truly Great Man - he was a friend, counselor, confident, innovator, motivator, politician, administrator, and he was also very stubborn. Frank got things done and was an impact person with great passion! His contributions to wrestling - especially North Carolina wrestling were immeasurable and as he would say our mission at North Carolina USA wrestling is to "put people on the mat" and he did it whether you were a competitor, pairer, official, coach or parent. He opened up a whole new world of wrestling to North Carolina through his exposure of NC wrestling to the international styles and his involvement in the Olympics, world championships, and international exchanges. Starting in the very early seventies from his office in the trunk of this car he developed out of season competition and worked to promote and develop wrestling at every level. Frank was not into wrestling for just himself but had a way of many getting others involved from NC. He was many years ahead of his time with the class he added to tournaments and events. He will be missed but we all in wrestling today stand on his shoulders and owe him a great deal of credit for this great sport we love today. Keep Wrestling Frank for I know you would want it no other way-P.J. Smith Former UNC Pembroke Coach Longtime NCUSA member I was there "at his 1st tournament"

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**P.J. Smith** - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Frank was a great man and a loving and warm friend. He treated us all like family and fathered our son Johan during his six months living with the Raders in Moresville. We miss you Frank and look forward to meeting you again in heaven. All our love Marie and Anders Hagsgård with family

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**Marie Hagsgård** - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Frank's sudden passing. For many years we sat next to one another on a business board in which he actively participated with dedication and vision. I shall miss his respectful opinions and wise counsel. My sympathy and prayers are with his family.

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**Robert Ragan** - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Frank made tremendous contributions to both the school system and the Boy Scouts of America. I cannot thank you, Ellie and Liz enough for sharing such an amazing man with our community.

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**Daniel Hardiman** - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Charlie, Suzie and Francis, sending love in this awful time. Hope you remember me. Becky Henderson.

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May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ I am deeply saddened by Frank's death. I am a Davidson graduate and a son of Catawba County, even though born in Lowrance Hospital. He had a passion for community service and inspired me to continue my work for community development and educational excellence in Mooresville. He will be missed.

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**Randy Sherrill** - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ *Mr. Frank was a fine man, of sound mind, and did a lot of good with his caring heart. My prayers are with his family and friends. Frank and I spent time together Saturday before he went to be with the Lord. He is no longer battling this world and is in a better place, we all have the opportunity to see him again in this better place - if we know the answer. God Bless each of you.*

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**Tom Nixon** - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Liz, Ellie, and Family, I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Frank's passing. He was a good friend and trusted advisor for many years. I will always be grateful for his support and encouragement during some very challenging times. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Steve Dobbins** - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM