



Susan M. Frey

November 23, 1953 - May 12, 2013

Susan (Sue) Mae Frey peacefully passed away in her sleep on Sunday, May 12, 2013, at her home in Corvallis, after a decade-long battle with cancer.

Sue was born on Nov. 23, 1953, in Gary, Ind., the daughter of Richard John Frey and Elizabeth Jean Rose Frey, and she grew up in Hobart, Ind. She grew up helping her parents run their family business, Frey's Dairy Queen, which three of her brothers still run today.

She grew up playing softball, playing the drums, reading mystery novels, and participating in 4-H, where she developed a love of baking, sewing and cross-stitch. Her mother taught her to draw and paint, and she then taught her own daughter everything she knew about arts and crafts.

Sue graduated as valedictorian of Hobart Senior High School in 1972. When she discovered in college that she had an aptitude for engineering, and especially after learning that, at the time, engineering was something women didn't do, she decided that was what she would pursue. She graduated from Purdue University in 1977 with a master's degree in civil engineering.

Later that year, she was hired as a structural engineer at CH2M Hill in Corvallis, where she spent her entire career designing everything from concrete water storage reservoirs and wastewater treatment plants to

performing arts centers. She was one of the first women engineers at the company. She absolutely loved being an engineer; she loved her work and her colleagues.

She was known as a tremendous mentor, both for junior staff and for advanced technical excellence, across the firm, through her role as structural engineering global technology leader. Purdue University honored her with the Civil Engineering Alumni Achievement Award in 2005. In 2010, she won the CH2M Hill CEO Excellence Award in the category of respect.

She also contributed her time to many national and international professional societies, helping to advance the improvement and refinement of building codes and design practices through the Masonry Society, the Structural Engineers Association of Oregon, the American Concrete Association and the National Council of Structural Engineers Association.

She was an adjunct professor for design of masonry structures at Oregon State University, and was a masonry seminar and webinar instructor for the Northwest Concrete Masonry Association. She recently was appointed by the governor as a member of the Oregon State Board of Examiners of Engineering and Land Surveying.

Sue met Richard Charles Frankenfield, originally of Lawrence, Kan., and currently of Corvallis, on a school bus taking the CH2M Hill staff on a ski trip in 1978. Although it took Rich nearly two years to convince Sue that he was in love with her and wanted to marry her, she eventually got the message, and they were married in 1980 by Sue's cousin and priest, Richard Frey.

They were happily married for nearly 33 years. Two years after they were married, Sue and Rich lived and worked in Alexandria, Egypt for 15 months.

Sue and Rich have two children, Jamie Katherine Frey-Frankenfield of Sherwood, who is a high school Spanish, English language development and choir teacher, and Patrick Richard Frey-Frankenfield of Lawrence, who is studying sports management and accounting. Sue raised her children to be loving, strong, passionate and independent, and was very proud of all their accomplishments.

Sue had many hobbies and interests. She loved gardening, reading, arts and crafts, softball, aerobic dancing, watching OSU Beavers gymnastics and television with her family, and listening to jazz music. She was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Parish. She also loved cats and dogs, and had many over her lifetime. Sue had a large circle of family and friends who cared about her deeply. She passed away knowing that she was truly loved.

In addition to her husband and children, Sue is survived by her four younger brothers, William Henry Frey of Crown Point, Ind., and his wife, Merrilee, Clayton John Frey of Merrillville, Ind., and his wife, Carol, Scott Allen Frey of Hobart and his wife, Penny, and Patrick Richard Frey of Valparaiso, Ind., and his wife, Lisa; along with 15 nieces and nephews, and five great-nieces and -nephews.

A celebration of life is tentatively scheduled for July 12 at CH2M Hill. A funeral Mass is tentatively set for July 13 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made either to the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation Survivorship Fund, 3600 N.W. Samaritan Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330, phone 541-768-4256; or to the Susan M. Frey Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund, Purdue University, 403 W. Wood St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007.

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *My condolences to the Frey-Frankenfield family. Sue was a great teacher and an inspiration to many engineers.*

*Sincerely,
Adrian K.*

Adrian - August 18, 2013 at 01:17 PM

SM

“ *Our profession brought Sue into our lives. Her energy and leadership inspired us to be better engineers. Her kind and thoughtful personality touched my heart. Please accept my deepest respect and sympathy.*

*Sincerely,
Sergio Mazul - SDU6*

Sergio Mazul - June 05, 2013 at 08:49 PM

DO

“ *I was very shocked and saddened at Sue's passing. Although I only knew her a short time, she had a rare combination of intelligence and affability that is seldom found in one individual. I will miss her insight and her strength. To her family, whom I unfortunately never met, my deepest condolences.*

Dan Olabuenaga - SDU6

Dan Olabuenaga - June 04, 2013 at 12:48 PM

CT

“ I only met Sue once or twice over the years. I was a college classmate of her sister-in-law, Diane and knew Rich through that connection. Diane often talked about her wonderful sister-in-law. I know her family will miss her earthly presence but she will always be in your heart and soul.

Cathy Thrasher - May 31, 2013 at 07:17 AM

TB

“ I just received news of Sue's passing. I knew her through the engineering community, and looked to her for advice and mentoring as a female engineering role model. I took a masonry class from Sue, and she was an incredible, enthusiastic, patient teacher, and an impressively knowledgeable engineer.

Sue did not know me well, but three years ago I contacted her to see if she would be willing to meet with me to help me consider my career path options. As a female with a bachelors in structural engineering, and a masters in architecture, there are few female role models for me to seek guidance from. Sue took time out of her busy day to not only meet with me, but bought me lunch at the Mexican restaurant near CH2M Hill. I admired her incredible enthusiasm for her profession, and even more so her mastery of the subject matter and her continual pursuit of competence in a challenging, continually progressive, and very male dominated field.

I am deeply saddened to hear of her passing. I am sure I am but one of many who will miss her here on earth. Wishing peace for her family and friends.

Sincerely,
Tracy Bacon

Tracy Bacon - May 20, 2013 at 12:14 PM

JT

“ *Our deep sympathy to the Frey-Frankenfield family.*

David McIntyre & Janet Tate, and Sean & Colin McIntyre.

Janet Tate - May 18, 2013 at 09:24 PM

JR

“ *Rich, Jamie and Patrick, We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Sue was a wonderful person, always upbeat and was an inspiring person. We will miss her. Jeanne & Alan Reinke*

Jeanne Reinke - May 17, 2013 at 05:00 PM

CG

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Chuck and Gail Goetzinger - May 17, 2013 at 11:24 AM

SR

“ *Rich, Patrick and Jamie, We were deeply saddened to hear of Sue's passing. She will always be remembered in our hearts. Sue was the light of Wisteria Place. Even while battling her illness she was optimistic, upbeat and a light for all of us. She was so proud of her family, loved her work and loved being a great neighbor and friend to all. We will miss her. Sharon and Bruce Reid*

sharon reid - May 17, 2013 at 07:08 AM