

the official newsletter of the  
**Kiwanis Club of Frederick, MD**

[FrederickKiwanis.org](http://FrederickKiwanis.org) | [info@frederickkiwanis.org](mailto:info@frederickkiwanis.org)

Chartered May 23, 1922



Editor: Dave Maloney  
[dave@maloney.com](mailto:dave@maloney.com)  
301-712-5855



### John Allen Byrne (1944–2025)

Frederick, Maryland and Portrush, Northern Ireland

#### 2025-2026 OFFICERS

President: Sue Vona  
301-898-9032

Pres. Elect: Clara Thompson  
240-397-3749

Treasurer: Bob Failor  
301-698-9425

Secretary: Lauri Cutting  
518-593-3164

Past President: Richard Cutting  
518-593-9672

#### DIRECTORS

Timothy Dinterman ('25-'26)  
301-401-0434

Ray Ediger ('24-'27)  
301-788-2250

Diane Reba ('24-'27)  
301-371-4796

Colette Baker ('25-'28)  
301-514-9144

Dex Ryberg ('25-'28)  
301-668-1228  
(Vacancy)

#### Meetings

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the Garden Room, Elks Lodge, 289 Willowdale Dr., Frederick, MD 21702

John Allen Byrne, 81, of Frederick, Maryland, passed away peacefully in the company of family in Connecticut on December 28, 2025.

Allen was born in 1944 in Coleraine, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, one week after D-Day, to Terence Arthur Byrne and Anne Bridget Byrne (née Murphy). He was raised in the seaside town of Portrush. Growing up near the Giant's Causeway and learning the game of golf at Royal Portrush Golf Club, Allen spent his youth on Northern Ireland's Atlantic shore, a natural setting that forged a fierce independence and inspired him to see the world.

After attending St. Patrick's College in Armagh, Allen joined the British Royal Air Force (RAF) where he served on NATO missions and alongside the United States armed forces. His postings spanned 23 countries around the globe, including Singapore, Hong Kong, and NATO Communications Headquarters in Northwood, England. He was honorably discharged on June 26, 1974.

Following his military service, Allen furthered his studies at Havant and South Downs College in Hampshire, England and then began an international civilian career in power systems engineering. While working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, he met his wife, Maura, a nurse at King Faisal Hospital. In 1979, the couple moved to the United States, ultimately settling in Frederick, Maryland.



*(Continued from page 1)*

In the U.S., Allen became recognized around the world as an expert in battery-backed power systems. He rose to the role of President at System Engineering International (SEI), co-founded PowerConsult, Inc., and served as Senior Staff Engineer for American Power Conversion (APC). In 2012, he was inducted into the International Battery Hall of Fame. He retired in 2016 as a manager for Interstate Batteries' Power-Care Division, though he continued to consult through his firm, Brass Tacks Power System Advisors LLC, and in one of his most enjoyable roles, with Eagle Eye Power Solutions. Allen was a Senior Member of the IEEE and was one of the founders of Battcon, the premier annual U.S. conference for stationary battery professionals.

Allen was deeply committed to the Frederick community. He was a longtime member of St. John's Catholic Church and served on the Frederick County Economic and Community Development Commission. His spirit of service was evident in his work with the Kiwanis Club of Frederick, including a term as chapter president, Mission of Mercy, and his years spent "ringing the bell" for the Salvation Army. Passionate about rugby, he was a past president of the Frederick Rugby Football Club. He also belonged to the Marine Corps League Shangri-La Detachment 118 and the Frederick Elks Lodge 684.

Over the years, Allen remained a proud and devoted son of Ireland, serving as State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Maryland. For over a decade, he also shared his encyclopedic knowledge of Irish history and music with the community as a special guest host of a St. Patrick's Day program on WFMD radio.

Allen maintained a dizzying array of interests and hobbies, from coins and stamps, to making incredible chili for local competitions, to driving Route 66 end-to-end on his own in 2017. He was a man of intelligence, wit, candor, and quiet resolve, who deeply loved his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

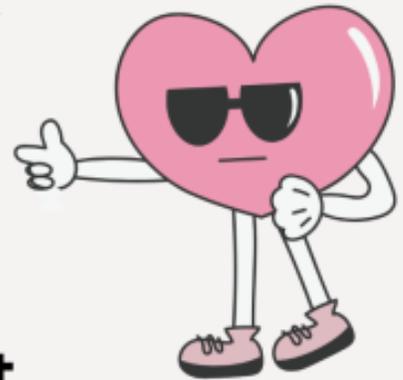
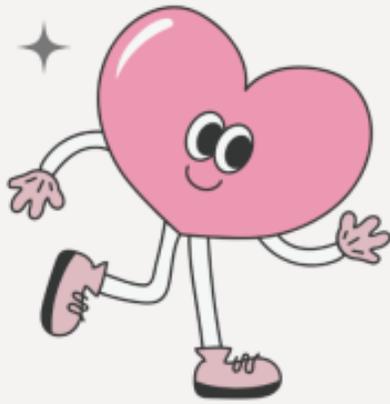
Allen is survived by his devoted wife of 46 years, Maura Byrne; his five children and six grandchildren, who were his greatest source of pride: Oona O'Flaherty (Don Murray) and children Aidan and Kate; Deirdre O'Flaherty (Luke McBride); Conor MacAllen O'Byrne (Hanna) and sons William, Ian Tadhg, and Tomás; Liam Martin O'Byrne; and Aunia O'Byrne (Liam Briody) and daughter Fiadh. He is also survived by his brother, Arthur Byrne, and family of Ballymena, County Antrim. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Martin Byrne.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, January 24th at 11:00a.m. in St. John The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, 118 East Second Street, Frederick, MD

Following the Mass, there will be a Gathering in Remembrance from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Frederick Elks Lodge No. 684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD

Plans for North Ireland will be announced.

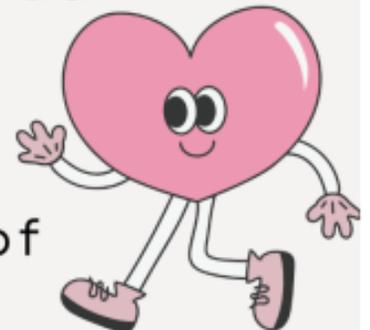
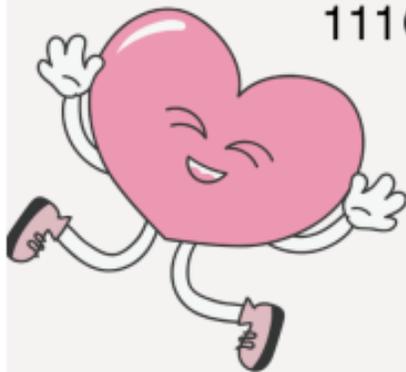
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kiwanis Club of Frederick in his memory at:  
[www.frederickkiwanis.org](http://www.frederickkiwanis.org)



**Shangri-La  
Detachment**

*Valentine Dinner  
and Dance*

Lewistown Fire Hall  
11101 Hessong Bridge Road  
Frederick, MD 21701



Dance to the music of  
**FULL EFFECT**

*February 14, 2026*

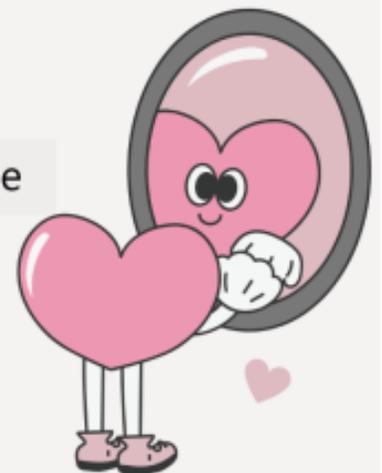
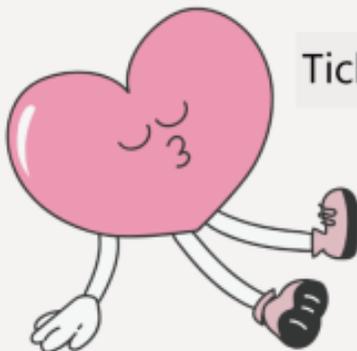
*6 PM to 12 AM*

Tickets: \$25 per person, \$45 per couple

RSVP (240) 674-5407

by February 01, 2026

**BYOB**



## Jeremy Poling Supports MD Special Olympics



Tis' Plunge season! Jeremy recently ramped up for his annual fundraising efforts for Special Olympics Maryland.

This year, he supported Coffee & Cocktails Connections' TEAM DAVID HAWKINS in the 2026 Maryland Plunge which was held on January 31, 2026, at Sandy Point State Park.

"I am supporting our team through my pledge to jump into the Chesapeake Bay to support the 19,000 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland! ", he said.

Jeremy says that you can still help his team reach their goal by donating today! The Special Olympics Maryland Polar Bear

Plunge is a fundraising event in which individuals raise money for the chance to Plunge into the Chesapeake Bay in support of over 19,000 athletes and Unified® teammates who train and compete year-round free of charge. Your contribution will make an impact, whether you donate \$5.00 or \$500.00. Every little bit helps! You can donate on his page here: [Fundraising for Special Olympics](#)



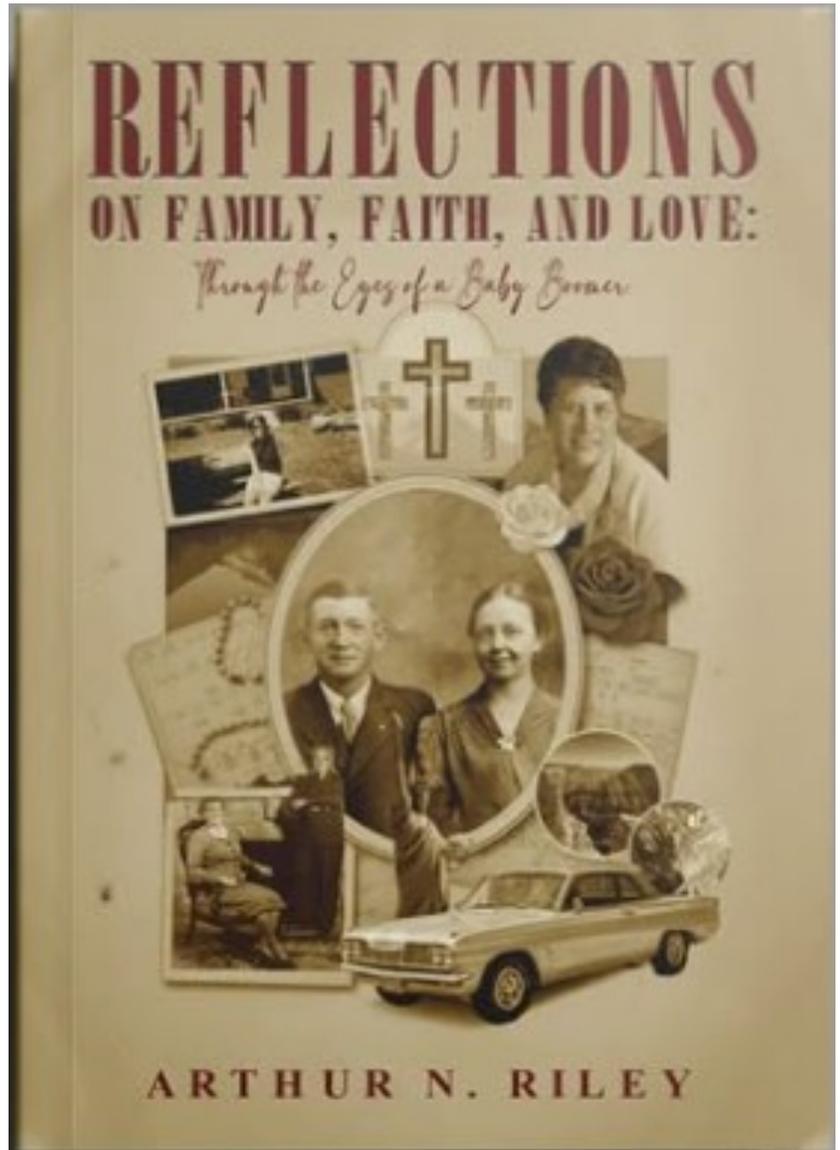
---

## Art Riley's New Book!

---

Westminster Club member and Past-President of Kiwanis International, Art Riley, recently published this book!

Arthur Riley has experienced the profound impact of a community rooted in an agrarian economy, characterized by strong interpersonal relationships, solid religious institutions, and community-oriented citizens. His education in public schools, at the University of Maryland, and at The Johns Hopkins Hospital laid the foundation for a successful professional career spanning over 50 years. As a citizen, Kiwanis member, and church lay-leader, he has witnessed significant changes since his earliest memories in the early 1950s. Economically, dairy farms have been replaced by housing developments, and local manufacturing has declined while large interstate companies have emerged. These transformations highlight the enduring importance of family, faith, and love. These themes are woven throughout these pages and aim to convey the significance of these intangible principles to readers, especially to his children and grandchildren.



"Reflections on Family, Faith, and Love: Through the Eyes of a Baby Boomer" offers an intimate narrative that captures the essence of a life shaped by the post-World War II era. The author shares personal adventures and experiences that define this unique period.

Through vivid prose, heartfelt poetry, and personal letters, the author portrays the connections with family and friends that influenced a baby boomer's journey and served as the foundation for his faith.

While these cherished experiences may seem distant and unfamiliar to today's generations, they are a tribute to the baby boomer generation while promoting timeless lessons that hopefully will resonate with the reader. The author hopes that these insights into love, resilience, and community will nurture and inspire younger generations as they navigate their own paths.

[Buy it Here](#)



---

## Club Recognized for Support

---

Thanks to this collective effort, 7,778 sponsorship groups registered to bring the program to their communities, and more than 1,054 new groups signed up to support the mission. I've said it before, but I genuinely believe this mission resonates with many people. The National Wreaths Across America Day ceremony and wreath-laying event enable families, communities, and the nation to set aside differences and honor those who have championed our freedom. In 2025, thanks to the joint efforts of volunteers, local businesses, and individuals like you, just over 3.1 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored and placed by more than 3 million volunteers.

I am humbled by our volunteers' incredible dedication, commitment, and the continued growth of our year-round mission. The \$17 sponsorships afford us the opportunity to provide so many outstanding programs for free, some of these include the TEACH Program with free, downloadable lesson plans and service-based learning for youth of all ages; the Mobile Education Exhibit, a museum on wheels that travels the U.S. sharing the mission and serving as an official 'Welcome Home' unit for Vietnam War veterans; our National Museum and Gold Star Family History & Hospitality House in Maine that offers guests an opportunity to learn about the many stories of service, sacrifice and success through personal memorabilia; our veteran outreach efforts including partnerships with VSOs nationwide that are supporting living veterans and their families; and Remembrance Tree Program which allows families to create a living memorial to loved ones who served; and Wreaths Across America Radio, A Voice for America's Veterans, this 24/7 internet radio station is sharing the stories of service, sacrifice and success from all across the country and now has over 100 veteran-centric shows in the line up. Oh, and each sponsorship places a veteran's wreath!

As a volunteer-based organization, none of our success would be possible without your effort. Thank you for making a difference in your community and championing this impactful mission! Please know the staff is here to support your efforts, however we can.



Please stop by the Wes Patrick St. Roy Rogers between 12 and 3 for lunch. Mention Frederick Kiwanis when checking out and 25% of your net sale will be donated to our club!

---

## **BOD Agenda for Jan 13, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION UPDATE

KEY CLUBS

BUSINESS

Kiwanis was notified that a dear member, Allen Byrne, passed away December 28, 2025. An immediate service will be private. A public service in Frederick will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Allen to the Kiwanis Club of Frederick. Allen will be dearly missed.

A Thank You note was sent to Gladchuk Brothers for opening for us and serving a delicious dinner.

A Thank You note was given to Dave Maloney for his exceptional auctioning our gifts brought in by members. The money collected will be put in our Service Fund.

Kiwanis has received 25 thank you notes from the Fair 4-H winners.

Wreaths Across America donations ended December 1st. 94 wreaths were purchased with 100 being our goal. 15 wreaths were purchased after the deadline and will be matched by Wreaths Across America to start us off with 30 wreaths for next year's campaign.

Proposal for the Pancake Fundraiser - discussion

ADJOURNMENT

---

## Member Monthly Volunteer Hours: December 2025

by Colette Baker

Here are volunteer hours for the month of December 2025. Be sure to report your monthly hours on the first of each month for the preceding month. Go here to do so:

<https://davidmaloney.com/machform2/embed.php?id=18517>

Salvation Army Bell Ringing	7 members	14 hours
Mission of Mercy Food Distribution	1 member	1 hour
Marine Corps League		
Children's Photos with Santa	1 member	4.5 hours
Assist Seniors	1 member	2 hours



### In this issue:

- Governor's Message
- Executive Director
- Governor-Elect Update
- SLP Updates
- Midyear Information
- CKI Update from KI
- Kiwanis Children's Fund
- Our Firm Foundation
- Leadership News
- Service Showcase
- Eye On KI
- Beyond the Call

[Click here to read the latest edition of \*The Capital Kiwanian\*](#)

### Upcoming Birthdays!

Peter Brehm 2/23 pbrehm@comcast.net

Diane Reba 3/7 dcreba@comcast.net