



Frederick S. Hopkins III

OCT 11, 1947 - APR 10, 2025



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My brother, Frederick Sherman Hopkins III, known to family as Fred or Rick, was the namesake and firstborn of Patricia Ann Hopkins and Frederick Sherman Hopkins, Jr. At the time, my father was supervising a logging camp in the wilderness near MacKay, Ontario clearing land for a hydroelectric dam. Because of the remoteness, my mother was sent to Springfield, MA to spend her maternity with her in-laws (who she barely knew). After birth, the budding family lived in a real log cabin (no heat, no bath, no water) in the wilderness for a few years. My father's next job took them to St Johnsbury, VT and the family grew by twins Martha and Sara. Then to Essex Junction, VT where my father taught forestry at UVT, and the family grew again with me. That meant that my dear Mother had to deal with four kids in diapers at the same time and decades later, four kids in college at the same time, Whew!!!. My father decided that teaching was a good career for raising a large family, so we moved to Syracuse, where he earned a PhD. After graduation, when Rick was 11, we moved to Ames, Iowa as a professor at Iowa State College (now Iowa State University.) We all graduated from Ames High School. After a post high school hiatus, Rick re-enrolled at Iowa State, this time in earnest! He earned a degree in Industrial Management, a



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“Computer Geek” before

they had a computer science degree field and the sole computer, an IBM 360 filled an entire building.

At Iowa State, he matured into the nickname Fred (but always Rick to me).

At ISU he met his lovely and devoted wife, Deborah Wilson, who would be by his side for the next 50

years, from Marshalltown, IA to Dickinson, TX and finally, in the mid 80's, to Annapolis, MD where he

managed Amtrak's payroll for many years.

In the last few years, Deb and Fred took three teenage students, Jesus, Francisco and Miguel, into their

home and under their wing. For his entire life, Fred loved motorcycles, sports cars, science fiction, and

road trips. Rick had a great mind for history, remembering events, dates, and places.

Recall that I

could never match.

Though his health was difficult for several years, he never lost his interest in reading and watching

documentaries. Rick was an independent thinker, fiercely loyal to his friends and always ready for

spirited debate. I will always remember sitting on his porch with my mother looking at the wonderful

view of the park across the road, talking old times and current events.



Events


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Service

 **Monday**, April 28, 2025


 1:30 AM - 2:30 AM ET


 **Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**
814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis MD 21401



Gathering

 **Monday**, April 28, 2025

 2:30 AM - 3:00 AM ET

 **Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**
814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis MD 21401





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Frederick by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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