



## Rev. Dr. Charles Johnston Freeland III

September 8, 1940 - June 26, 2020

Rev. Dr. Charles Johnston Freeland III was born September 8, 1940, in Rayne, Louisiana, to Charles Johnston Freeland, Jr., and Mary Alice Winn Freeland. He passed away peacefully at his home in Owasso, Oklahoma, Friday, June 26, 2020, at the age of 79 years. Charles completed his secondary education in Crowley, Louisiana, and graduated with the Crowley High School Class of 1958. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Davidson College in North Carolina and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas. Dr. Freeland served churches in New Orleans from 1965-1971, then Hot Springs, Arkansas, from 1971-1981, before being called to become the Organizing Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Owasso from 1981-1988. Following the organization of the Owasso church, he served as the interim pastor for eight Presbyterian churches in eastern Oklahoma and southern Kansas. He honorably retired from the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery in 2005 and became the Pastor Emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church in Owasso in 2006.

While serving his communities in New Orleans and Hot Springs, Dr. Freeland was instrumental in addressing systemic inequality and supporting youth education. He also served on various committees of the Church World Service including Resource Development, Long Range Planning, and the Board of Directors. He served as the budget chair for two presbyteries. Giving back to his alma maters, Dr. Freeland was a member of the Board of Visitors for

Davidson, and the Board of Trustees for both Austin Seminary and Lyons College, formerly Arkansas College.

He truly valued his community building and development and was involved as a member of the Owasso Chamber of Commerce from 1981-2020 and the Lions Club of Owasso serving as president from 1987-1988. Dr. Freeland was an active member of the Owasso Rotary Club, serving on the International Committee, as President, and Paul Harris Fellow. He and his wife hosted Rotary and AFS International exchange students. In 2008, Dr. and Mrs. Freeland were named "Mr. and Mrs. Trail Days", an honor for long-standing members of the Owasso community who have contributed to its growth and development. A great joy of his was his one-time role playing Santa Claus in the Owasso Christmas Parade.

Dr. Freeland was an avid reader, a continuous learner, and had numerous hobbies that he pursued with vigor. He built an amateur small plane, sailed through the Caribbean, taught friends and family how to hunt, ran a marathon, designed furniture, sang in the Owasso Community Choir for 11 years as well as the John Knox Presbyterian Church choir for 31 years. He explored Israel and the Mediterranean on his quest to learn about biblical archaeology. A member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, he was also the Young Eagle Coordinator – giving free airplane rides to kids and teaching ground school. (He said that was a fun assignment!).

Those family members he leaves behind who hold many cherished memories include his wife of over 56 years, Sandy Freeland, their two children, Charles J. Freeland IV and his wife Susie, Mary Kay Freeland Cook, four grandchildren, Chelsea Freeland, Rowdy Freeland, Katherine Cook, and E. Wilson Cook IV, two brothers, Tom Freeland and his wife Mary, Joe Freeland and his wife Charlotte, and a host of other relatives and numerous friends. He hopes others will continue his legacies of joy of life, love of God, and community involvement.

A public memorial service honoring his life will be announced at a later date. The family requests memorial contributions be made in his memory to First

Presbyterian Church of Owasso, 12800 East 85th Street North, Owasso, Oklahoma, 74055, or Rotary Club of Owasso, c/o Chris Wheeler, Treasurer, Prosperity Bank, 12041 East 96th Street North, Owasso, Oklahoma, 74055. Arrangements and services were entrusted to Mowery Funeral Service of Owasso.

[www.moweryfs.com](http://www.moweryfs.com)

# Tribute Wall

CK

“ We were sorry to learn of Dr. Freeland's passing. We will miss seeing him and hearing his beautiful voice harmonizing all the hymns at John Knox. His life exemplifies the meaning of "servant" through his dedication to his church, family and his community. Our heartfelt condolences to Sandy and all his family. Joe and Claudia Kovar

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**Claudia Kovar** - July 06, 2020 at 01:15 AM

JD

*I did not know ! I "would have been there ! He was my friend !*

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**Jess Denney** - May 28, 2022 at 01:06 AM

LT

“ We send our prayers and wishes for comfort & peace to the Freeland family.  
Dr. Freeland created a legacy of kind, strong and caring people in his family.  
Fly high & free with Him.  
Wes & Lynette (Peters) Tramell and family

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**Lynette Tramell** - June 30, 2020 at 04:03 PM

AH

“ I wish to express my family's deepest condolences during this time. Dr. Freeland was a very kind man who cared very much for his family and his community. Owasso has lost a very good man. - Arthur Harvey and family.

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**Arthur Harvey** - June 29, 2020 at 02:30 PM