



Malcolm Franchot Palmer

November 17, 1938 - June 20, 2018

Malcolm Franchot Palmer died peacefully at the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, following a two-year illness. Born November 17, 1938, in Albemarle, NC, he was the son of Malcolm Monroe Palmer and Mary Davis Palmer. Franchot was named after a popular movie star of the time – Franchot Tone – and often said, “Mama wanted something different in a name and she got it!”

Franchot was as unique as his name; a renaissance man with a robust measure of southern gentleman farmer; comfortable quoting Kipling or comparing cow breeds. After his family, his greatest love was UNC Tar Heel sports – especially basketball and football – which he attended as often as possible.

In 1960, Franchot graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in history and was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. In 1961, he returned to the University and earned a second undergraduate degree in business. He entered the United States Navy and served as a commissioned officer, working in communications, from 1962 to 1966 in the Philippines and at NOB Norfolk, Va, and achieving the rank of Lieutenant. Following active duty, Franchot moved to Washington, DC, where he served in the Navy Reserves and worked for Marsh and McLennan in their Architects and Engineers Professional Liability program. There he met Carol Dougherty of Princeton, NJ. In 1973, they married and moved to Albemarle to help with his father’s family-owned farming corporation. Franchot’s love of history

coupled with his travel experiences had led him to become an avid collector of antiques. After settling in Salisbury, he and Carol established The 1839 Antiques in 1976, which Franchot enjoyed operating for over 40 years until illness prevented him from doing so.

A long-time member of St Luke's Episcopal Church, Franchot volunteered as an usher and served on the vestry and the St. Luke's Foundation. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and daughters Deirdre Palmer, a museum educator at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and Brooke Palmer, a professional musician and teacher living in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 23, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 131 West Council Street, Salisbury, NC, with committal in the church columbarium. The family will greet friends in the Parish Hall immediately following the committal.

The family offers sincere gratitude to Dr. Myron Goodman and Ms. Tonya Parker for their devoted care during the past two years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 131 West Council Street, Salisbury, NC 28144, or the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House, 1229 Statesville Blvd., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Palmer family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Columbarium

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
131 West Council Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall



“ Carol,

I just found this news about the passing of Franchot while browsing through an Albemarle web site. I recently thought of Franchot as I was looking through old photographs from my childhood.

One memory I have of Franchot was a birthday party I attended at his home when we were children. His mother, Mary, and my mother Betty Holdbrook were friends. I don't remember many details about the party other than the birthday cake was in the shape of our American flag. It's strange how certain memories remain with us. I wondered if a photograph is still available from that event.

Please accept my belated condolences on the passing of Franchot.

Sincerely,

Molly Holbrook Thomas

Molly Thomas - October 25, 2023 at 05:03 PM

JF

“ Carol and family, I am saddened to just hear that Franchot had been sick and recently died. I knew him all my youth as we were Palmer cousins, next door neighbors and dated. He could tell a story about anything and laugh at the same time. I remember his laugh-still.

He truly loved “wheels” and was driving the seated lawn mower around Forrest Hills as a pre-teenager. He once drove me home from school in a one seater “race” car while I sat on the hot, uncomfortable floor board juggling my school books. I was 13 at the time and would have had a long walk home. He was kind. I was grateful. He soon moved up to a Corvette that was really special in Albemarle. I don't think anyone else had one. He would often pick me up at the old high school and give me a lift home. Then his dad purchased that pink Caddy (1956/57) it truly stood out in town.

A best friend's parents (Croson & Rachel Miller) purchased it the next year as Cousin Malcolm traded cars yearly. We girls enjoyed going to the drive in theatre in that car.

Franchot's mother Mary was my Aunt Dorothy's age (two years older than my mother) and was able to tell Franchot some stories of her. He was surprised to know she had a lovely voice. He said one of his daughters could also sing and was pleased to know more about his mother and see the “Old Full Moon” the AHS newspaper from that era with her name and some information.

Some years ago I was in Salisbury with my cousins and we stopped by his 1839 antique store where we all made purchases. He told me Mildred inspired his love of antiques and we had a happy reunion catching up on our families and homes.

I grew up hearing him from our kitchen window bouncing a basketball for hours at a time. His friends often stopped by for a noisy game with faithful Solomon keeping an eye on them and especially him.

He loved those Tar Heels and shared with me some of the net from

that remarkable UNC championship game in 1957. What a story he had to tell on that experience!

Yes, Franchot was unique and funny, and LOVED those Tar Heels, the KA fraternity, his family and friends but he didn't dance, back when almost everyone shagged!

He made up for that lack with those sparkling banjo eyes, big smile and engaging humor.

So sad for all of us.

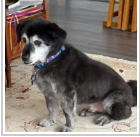
Eunice Lee Haynsworth Forbes, Skidaway Island, Savannah, Ga.

jLee Forbes - August 09, 2018 at 01:42 PM

BZ

“*Carol....I have been out of town. I am so sorry to hear of Franchot's passng. The community has also lost a great guy. Though I have not seen much of either you recently....I will always remember how much Franchot helped me with the very first estate sale I worked on. He was always to good to share information or give guidance in where to find information. I have an English stained glass window in my home that I bought from him that I cherish. Take care and God bless you and your family. Brenda Zimmerman.*

brena zimmerman - July 01, 2018 at 12:00 PM



“ Carol,

One of the first people I met when my family moved to Albemarle was Franchot. He was 11 and I was 10. I remember that he told me which scout troop to join, and which 5th grade teacher to avoid. I did not take his scout troop advice, and was assigned the 5th grade teacher he told me to avoid. Some how, it all worked out.

We were in the same Sunday School class at First Lutheran until he left for UNC.

Much later, I enjoyed visiting with him at 1839 and sharing memories of our shared time in Albemarle. I remember Franchot as a kind person with a unique sense of humor.

God grant Franchot rest eternal.

White Iddings

White Iddings - June 26, 2018 at 05:03 PM

GC

“ Carol, I am so sorry to see that the world has lost Franchot. I can look around my home and see so many memories of him in the pieces I bought. Love to your family. Gail Carter

Gail Carter - June 23, 2018 at 09:07 PM

JW

“ I was so sorry to hear this sad news. Our KA bond at UNC gave us the opportunity to become friends and I still enjoy those memories. I'll be thinking of the family during this difficult time.

John Willingham

John Willingham - June 21, 2018 at 03:53 PM