



Francis D. Moul

April 11, 1940 - March 4, 2023

A journalist, newspaper publisher, college instructor and administrator, author, avid reader and book reviewer, Francis Dean Moul was born on April 11, 1940 to Willis Francis (Snook) and Dorothy Dean Moul at York, NE. He died March 4, 2023 at the age of 82 at Lincoln, Ne. He graduated from Vermillion, SD High School in 1958, and received a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in political science from the University of South Dakota at Vermillion in 1964 and 1966. He received his doctorate in environmental history from the University of Nebraska in 1998.

He received a Fulbright Scholarship to India at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, in 1966. His journalism endeavors included the Sioux City Journal, Boone News Republican and editorial writer at the Des Moines Register and Tribune. He was an instructor in political science at Wayne State College and then was a founder, CEO and Publisher of the Syracuse, NE Journal-Democrat and Maverick Media, Inc. a printing and publishing firm in Syracuse, NE.

He also was a proprietor of an antiquarian bookstore and art gallery in Lincoln and development officer for the Nebraska Community Foundation. He was vice president for Institutional Relations at Chadron State College and Executive Director of the Chadron State Foundation, retiring in 2001.

His book on the National Grasslands was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2006. He wrote numerous articles for Nebraska publications, primarily on environmental issues, and wrote hundreds of book reviews for the Lincoln Journal Star, Des Moines Register and Omaha World-Herald and other newspapers and magazines.

He received numerous newspaper writing and publishing awards, won the James C. Sellers Award for best article in Nebraska History magazine and the 2007 Nebraska Center for the Book award for best nonfiction book, for the National Grasslands.

He was a charter founder, director, president and volunteer executive director for the Nebraska Wildlife Federation and president of numerous organizations in Syracuse and Southeast Nebraska, president of Nebraskans for Peace, and first associate chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party and member of the Democratic National Committee.

He married Mary McVay, who died at the age of 25 in 1966. Their daughter, Jennifer, was adopted by his second wife, Maxine Burnett (married on April 20, 1972), and they had a son, Jeff. Jennifer died in an automobile accident in 1985 at the age of 19.

He is survived by his wife, Maxine, of Lincoln; son Jeff (Diane Becket) and children, Adia, Annalise and Logan of Rapid City, SD; son Bogart (Donna) Nomad and sons Nik and Zak of Elkhorn, NE; brother, John Moul of Boone, IA; sister, Judi Leonard of San Jose, CA; sisters-in-law, Karlene Moomey of Elwell, MI, Kris Johnson of Lyons, NE, and Mary Thomas of San Antonio, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary; daughter, Jennifer; parents Willis Francis and Dorothy Dean Moul; sisters Miriam Moul and Maxine Carey; mother-in-law Gen McVay; and father and mother-in-law Einer and Eva Burnett.

A celebration of life will be held in Lincoln at a later date, with private family burial in the Fairmont, NE cemetery, next to his pioneer ancestors who came to Filmore County in 1872. In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to the Jenny Fund at the Nebraska Community Foundation. Online condolences may be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

LM

“ *Saddened to hear of Francis passing...Prayers for family and friends. I worked for Francis and Maxine for 15 years, starting a very successful publication for them in Maryville, Missouri. So enjoyed the many conversations with Francis over the years. Seems like those years flew by so fast as they do the older we get. He had a tremendous wit and likable down to earth charm, which many appreciated. Was truly blessed to have crossed paths with him in my lifetime. God bless Maxine, Jeff and family.
Larry McDonald , Tampa, Florida.*

Larry McDonald - October 24, 2024 at 02:27 AM

FU

“ *Maxine, I'm so sorry to hear this, keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. His impact touched so many across the State of Nebraska, definitely a life well-lived. He'll live on in the memories of so many.*

Fred Uhe - April 20, 2023 at 09:23 AM

MA

“ *Maxine and Jeff - My sincere condolences on your loss. Francis was one of my very best instructors at Wayne State. A caring and wonderful professor who made his class fun and enjoyable. Mick Anderson*

Mick Anderson - April 17, 2023 at 09:43 AM

JT

“ *Maxine I am sorry to hear of Francis' passing. I remember you both during the time you were Lt. Governor. My condolences to you and your family. Jane Tooley. (Retired Trooper)*

Jane Tooley - April 16, 2023 at 12:44 PM

SS

“ *Very sorry to learn of your loss, Maxine. What a force of nature Francis was. Torch Club, the city of Lincoln, the state of Nebraska, and the whole of the Great Plains region will all miss his energy and vision and laughter. Scott Stanfield*

Scott Stanfield - March 08, 2023 at 12:02 PM

MZ

“ *Maxine, heartfelt condolences on Francis' passing. You both are such Nebraska treasures and together you made quite a pair. I love that Francis' ancestors and mine were from the same part of God's country. May he rest in peace.*

Mike Zeleny - March 07, 2023 at 10:54 PM

TS

“ *Maxine, so sorry to hear about Francis. He was an interesting and engaging character to be sure. I have too many good memories to try to mention. But I sure loved being with you guys in Namibia and he wrote a great piece for the paper about the trip. He will be missed. Our condolences. Tyler Sutton & Aina Silenieks*

Tyler Sutton - March 07, 2023 at 06:29 PM

LC

“ *Maxine, I send my heartfelt sympathy to you and your family in the loss of Francis. I always appreciated that he asked me to cater your birthday party a bunch of years ago. Love and hugs, LeeAnne*

LeeAnne Call - March 07, 2023 at 03:34 PM

CH

“ My heartfelt condolences at this sad time as you prepare to honor sweet Francis. I loved that he called me "cousin" because there was a tiny connection 100 years ago. I have been a fan of you two these many years and I'm so glad you found each other. I am so sorry.

Cindy Hadsell - March 07, 2023 at 02:16 PM

DA

“ Maxine, I am so sorry for your loss. Francis led an interesting and exciting life during which he accomplished so very much. His loss will be felt by not only you and his family but also the communities to which he contributed so much. Dorothy C. Anderson

Dorothy C. Anderson - March 07, 2023 at 12:41 PM

FB

“ Maxine, you both have done so much for the good of Nebraska, My condolences and God Bless your family. Fred Bruning

Fred Bruning - March 07, 2023 at 10:59 AM

DF

“ Francis was a pioneer in so many ways...just like his ancestors in Fillmore County. Thirty years ago, Francis planted seeds of encouragement and inspiration to help sustain the economic future of rural communities all across Nebraska, by encouraging citizens to give back to their hometowns through the newly established Nebraska Community Foundation. Many of those seeds took root, grew into trees which are now bearing abundant fruits far beyond what he ever imagined. I am blessed and a richer person through my encounters with Francis. - Doug Friedli

Doug Friedli - March 06, 2023 at 02:54 PM

EW

“ Francis was one of a kind! I met him when he and Maxine started dating back when he was teaching at Wayne and our lives have intersected for decades -- through the Maverick Media years, politics, his bookstore and so much more. He and Maxine were sort of yin and yang. They complemented each other with their identical values and very different strengths.

Francis was smart, kind and so much fun -- so many good times at journalistic events and parties. You always knew when Francis was around. He took his many causes that included community journalism, the Democratic Party, wildlife and the environment seriously but never himself. We're all better people for having him in our lives.

Eileen Wirth

Eileen Wirth - March 06, 2023 at 11:19 AM

DC

“ Maxine, we are so sorry to hear of Francis' passing. Dave often mentions his conversations with him regarding the watering in our back yard, as he had practice before we moved in. And how he'd drive the trash to a nearby location rather than deal with the mud in the alley. I can only imagine the memories you and he made over the 50 years. Praying those memories help you through the coming days. Thinking of you. Dave & Deb Cottier

Deb Cottier - March 05, 2023 at 02:05 PM

AS

When Francis joined the Board of Torch International, he immediately realized that expanding the organization should occupy our attention. Instead of jawing about it, he went out and founded several new Torch Clubs in Nebraska. He was an excellent talker-- but an amazing doer. A catalyst! He was on the cusp of taking the job as President of Torch, when his health said otherwise. Even now, few board meetings occur without Francis being cited. A conversation with Francis was like attending fireworks on the Fourth of July.

--- Anne Sterling

Anne Sterling - March 15, 2023 at 11:12 AM

VK

Such a bright spark who lived life to the fullest and was true to his ideals of life in Nebraska. He will be missed but definitely remembered as a treasure. Vicki and David Krecek

Vicki Krecek - April 16, 2023 at 11:01 AM

CD

Maxine and family: We are sorry to hear of Francis' passing. Our condolences and prayers to you and the family. - Craig and Kate Derickson

Craig Derickson - April 18, 2023 at 09:11 PM