



Philip Lawrence Froemke

May 28, 1950 - December 18, 2025

Philip Lawrence Froemke, a longtime resident of Tallahassee, died on December 18, 2025, at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Born on May 28, 1950, to Jessie (Rathbone) and Robert Lawrence Froemke in Athens, GA, Philip moved to Tallahassee in 1958 and grew up in the Betton Hills neighborhood. He graduated from Leon High School in 1968 where he was active in student government and sports. He attended Florida State University receiving a BA degree in English, a minor in Music, in 1972. He spent his junior year in Europe as part of FSU's Florence, Italy Study Aboard program where he developed a deep appreciation for Italian culture and cuisine. In 1974, he received a master's degree from FSU in Theatrical Arts, specializing in Playwriting.

After a short sprint in New York City where he worked for the Public Broadcasting Company, Philip moved to Los Angeles and for the next 25 years worked in film production as a producer. He began his career producing national TV commercials for clients such as Pepsi, Toyota, Burger King, Lexus, Nestle, and Hewlett-Packard working with directors like David Fincher and Barry Myers. Being detailed-oriented, he enjoyed working with large technical crews at a fast pace and thrived under pressure when meeting tight deadlines. He was also well-known for his on-set diplomacy and being able to communicate effectively with creatives to maximize their potential. During this

time, he also worked on long-format documentaries.

In 2000, Philip returned to Tallahassee where he pursued freelance film projects in Florida, enabling him to be near his elderly parents and to assist in their care. Always community-minded, he became an active member of the Betton Hills Neighborhood Association from 2002-2007, serving as its President in 2006.

In 2009, Philip became employed at the Tallahassee School of Math and Science where he led special projects and was a beloved member of the staff. One of his lasting legacies is the school garden, which he envisioned after noticing an empty patch of ground and decided to bring it to life. Through the garden, Philip inspired hundreds of students, teaching them to grow food, try new vegetables, and develop a lasting appreciation for gardening and hands on learning. He also played an essential role in supporting school events and daily operations and was deeply cherished by the school community. During his tenure at TSMS, the school grew from a small middle school into an accredited K through 8th Grade academy, a transformation in which Philip took great pride. He retired in June 2024.

Throughout his life, Froemke had an abiding love for music, especially the music of the Beatles, the Beach Boys and The Lovin' Spoonful. During his 20's and 30's he often played in bands when time permitted. He enjoyed writing songs as a hobby and would occasionally record one. To his surprise, last year a British producer, Hampus Gunnarsson, contacted him to place one of his songs from the 70's, "Best Wait 'Til February", on his YouTube channel.

Philip, the deeply loved brother of Judith Miller, Brownville-Junction, ME, Susan Froemke, New York, NY, and Bruce Froemke, Tallahassee, FL, will be forever missed. There will be a memorial visitation to celebrate his life on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 from 5-7pm at the Bevis Funeral Home.

Rocky Bevis and Jessie Hill of Bevis Funeral Home are assisting the Froemke family with arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please donate in honor of Philip to the charity of your choosing.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Philip Lawrence Froemke*



Bevis Funeral Home - January 21 at 12:07 PM



“ *I collaborated with Philip on various farm to school projects throughout 2015-2019. I hosted a lot of teacher professional development programs and Philip was one of my favorite people to work with, always encouraging me to dream big and supporting his fellow teachers. He was always eager to learn more about gardening himself and worked hard to share his passion with TSMS students. I remember Philip as tenacious, funny, and dedicated. I am saddened to hear of his loss, but his legacy will definitely live on in the school's gardening program.*



Tiffany Torres - March 20 at 02:05 PM

KC

“ Judy, Susie and Bruce, we were saddened to learn of the passing of Philip. I'm glad that he was able to have a most recent visit with Judy. There is nothing quite like family.
Love, Karen and Roger



Karen Cox - January 22 at 11:19 AM

IB

“ Philip was my colleague for more than five years. I have never seen anyone more organized than him. He was our colleague, friend, family member, and role model. He will be missed forever.



Ilhan Baysal - January 21 at 06:04 PM

AM

“ I am saddened to hear of Mr. Froemke's passing. What a great loss of a genuinely loving soul! I had the privilege of bonding with him through our shared love for gardening, and I was the one blessed for it. When I restarted the garden at Fairview, he was always on my mind but I did not get a chance to tell him all about it.
He will be greatly missed. May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Aisha Morris - January 16 at 08:10 AM

PP

“ Philip was an essential part of our school’s success. Thankful and honored to have worked alongside him for all these years. He will be greatly missed, and his legacy will live on in our beautiful school garden.



Patricia Pagozalski - January 05 at 07:41 AM

EG

Phillip was a wonderful colleague and a genuinely kind person. I will always remember the sign in his room that read, “Another day in heaven,” a true reflection of his outlook and spirit. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed. I have been thinking of him often, especially since Thanksgiving, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and all who loved him.

He was a hardworking, awesome Cheetah who truly cared about students and the entire community. We were honored to receive the Golden Shovel Award because of his outstanding contributions. He loved taking us to the butterfly garden, sharing his knowledge and passion as he talked about bees and butterflies—memories I will always cherish. Phillip leaves behind an incredible legacy. With Gratitude, Ergul Gunerhan

Ergul Gunerhan - January 05 at 11:18 AM

LW

Phillip was a man who never showed upset. He was always calm. He had organization like no other. I recall when we were working toward certification. I was on a panel in a room with interviewers. There were about six of us, and every question they asked he had the file ready. We soared through that and completed the process faster than could ever be imagined. The cucumber challenge, the butter fly garden, there are no words.

Let me tell a funny story. One day I am in my classroom and he comes down and says we need you at the cafeteria. There was a bird that was very confused at its reflection. It apparently did not care for tall people... I guess. I am short and country so he knew I would be ok. I walked up to the bird and said it is time to go. We moved it along. Not ten minutes later he told me the bird was back. That silly thing stayed for days. I said, I think the bird actually likes tall people, he is trying to get in here with one.

Phillip was an amazing person and he was as zen as can be. His music, kindness, willingness, to help, and his ability to remain calm in chaos was top notch. You will be missed, my friend.

Lesia Wrinkle - January 05 at 04:01 PM

PB

“ *Philip was a special person, artistic, intelligent and one who cared deeply for others, especially the " little guy " .*

Patti Bevis - January 03 at 02:35 PM