



Mr. Benjamin Preston Rich

October 12, 1941 - January 30, 2021

After a long and courageous battle, Benjamin Preston Rich passed away Saturday January 30, 2021, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Baltimore County.

Benjamin Preston Rich, known by most as Preston or Pres, was born October 12, 1941 in Baltimore, Maryland to Dr. Benjamin Sunderland Rich and Helen Jackson Preston Rich. He is the only grandchild of Baltimore Mayor James Harry Preston (1911 to 1919) and Helen Fiske Jackson Preston and is the great nephew to the former 41st Governor of Maryland, Elihu Emory Jackson (1888 to 1892). Mayor Preston's accomplishments while in office included securing a portion of the City's budget to form a municipal orchestra known as the Baltimore Symphony which debuted February 11, 1916. Mr. Rich has been a lifelong supporter and enthusiast of the BSO. Mr. Rich's family ties to Maryland are numerous and widespread. He was very dedicated to his Baltimore heritage and was an avid family history researcher and genealogist.

In 1995, as the founder and Executive Director of the U.S. Federal Government's FinanceNet organization, Preston (a Certified Government Financial Manager [CGFM]), working with the White House and with support from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), was largely responsible for putting all of the U.S. Federal government's departments and agencies, and their four million Executive Branch employees, on the Internet for the very first

time.

FinanceNet was the Federal Government's financial management Web portal established through the Executive Office of the President in 1994 by Vice-President Al Gore and sponsored by the U.S. Chief Financial Officers Council. FinanceNet served as the shared electronic resource for all Federal, state, and local government financial managers and analysts. During his time as Executive Director (1995 to 2001), Preston worked closely with Vice President Al Gore with support from the U.S. National Science Foundation, providing internet communications tools to the White House and to more than 100 intergovernmental agencies and organizations, associations, and affinity groups.

Mr. Rich was also the founder and Executive Director of the FedSales Program established through the Executive Office of the President (Office of Vice President Gore) with operations at the National Science Foundation. FedSales was the original turn-key Web portal providing an organized government-wide directory of information on more than \$50 billion in annual Federal government surplus and property sales for the general public.

Mr. Rich was an active member of the President's Management Council within the White House and chaired the Council's Interagency Government Asset Sales Team (IGAST). The IGAST was comprised of Federal agency senior property disposal executives, database and Internet specialists, and government auction and technology vendors. With its unique government and corporate mix, the IGAST catalyzed governmental best practices by providing an innovative Internet platform for building technology solutions to facilitate and streamline government asset sales to the general public. He was also a sitting member of the Asset Disposal Working Group of the President's Management Council working as an advisor and program manager for the government-wide asset sales portal.

Mr. Rich chaired the Federal Executive Council Working Group that coordinated the missions of the US Chief Financial Officers Council, US Chief Information Officers Council, and the US Procurement Executives Council for the Executive Office of the President through sponsoring joint conferences and activities that highlight common issues, problems and best practices.

Mr. Rich was also the Director and Executive Chair of FinanceNet's companion project in the Executive Office of the President, the International Government News Project (GovNews). The GovNews Project created a dedicated "channel" on the Internet's Usenet in 1993 for distributing government news and information worldwide through the auspices of the White House.

GovNews was chartered to promote open government throughout the world via the Internet by providing a single world-wide Internet "channel" for facilitating intergovernmental communications between government executives and their constituents. He also chaired its International Government News Project Coordinating Committee populated by senior executives from most of the major embassies.

Mr. Rich was also a member of the Boards of Directors and Advisors for several international joint public/private institutions and associations including the International Institute of Business Technologies and the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management and the Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

Mr. Rich was one of the founding board members of the International Organization of National Government Financial Executives and sat on a number of government-wide boards, committees, sub-committees, and task

forces, including those of the U.S. Chief Financial Officers Council, U.S. Chief Information Officers Council, Federal Financial Managers Council, Small Agency Council, and the Federal Credit Policy Working Group.

In gratitude for all of Preston's contributions during his service with the Federal Government, Vice President Al Gore stated "I wish to thank FinanceNet's Executive Director, B. Preston Rich, for his continued international leadership and vision. Preston has been critical to the success of our Federal government re-invention efforts through his boundless energy and entrepreneurship."

-- V. P. Al Gore, 6/28/97

Prior to working for the NSF, and a short stint at the U.S. Treasury Department in the early 1990s, Preston, who was imbued with an entrepreneurial spirit from a very young age, founded and ran the CMI Corporation; first as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and then as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CMI Corporation was an international financial services company and was one of the largest players and fund managers in the burgeoning financial derivatives trading markets in the 1970s and '80s specializing in equity and debt futures and options.

Throughout his life, Preston also developed and published securities investment advisories (syndicated and subscription-based) and also provided subscription-based retirement management services. Preston also financed, bought, developed, and sold small- to medium-sized start-up companies in the areas of advertising and finance.

Attending Duke, Loyola, and the University of Baltimore, Preston held both BA and MBA degrees. He was a registered Commodity Trading Advisor, fund manager and securities analyst, and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). He was also a member of the American Federation of Financial Analysts, the National Association of Futures Trading Advisors, the Association of Government Accountants, the Government Finance Officers

Association, the Financial Executives Institute and the National Association of Public-Private Partnerships.

Preston authored numerous articles and several texts on financial management and securities, futures and options analysis and was frequently invited to speak on financial instruments and Internet-related issues.

Because of his passion for history, Preston and actively participated in civic and community affairs in both Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. He was a long-standing member of the Baltimore Country Club, Society Sons of the Revolution, Society Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Colonial Wars, St. George's Society, and was a participant in the Baltimore Rocket Society, Duke University Golf Team, and the University of Maryland Madrigal Singers. Preston also chaired an oratory competition for all U.S. secondary school students for the Sons of the American Revolution.

During Preston's retirement years he remained engaged in his work and family. In 2004, Mr. Rich founded and has since served as CEO of TSP Pilot, the largest financial newsletter that focuses on federal employees' retirement investments. He has enjoyed spending as much time possible with his doting grandchildren, continuing to be actively involved in their lives and teaching them invaluable life lessons.

His kindness and generous heart have left a lasting legacy for his family and numerous friends (many lifelong). His offbeat and buoyant sense of humor was always welcome, infectious, and brought a smile to most people he met, even during his very last moments. His presence was palpable and would immediately make you feel at ease in any situation. His love for and wonderment of the universe and his continual studies into astrophysics and metaphysics have left irreplaceable memories for those lucky enough to have spent time talking with him. He had many hobbies and interests including politics, science, history, photography, astronomy, boating, cars, rockets, drones and magnificent telescopes. Preston knew something about everything

and everything about something. His intellectual capacity was limitless. Additionally, he thoroughly enjoyed his natural environment by spending time at Ladew Gardens and bird-watching at his daughter's Monkton home. He enjoyed city life as well from his son's residence overlooking the Inner Harbor of Baltimore where he once docked his Egg Harbor yacht. When he moved back to Baltimore nearly a decade ago and walked into his Mays Chapel condominium he knew immediately it would be his home for the view from the 8th floor was brilliant. His immense appreciation for and love of classical music, fine art, and antiques was also contagious and, to those who knew him, this will live on through the lives of the many loved ones left behind.

Benjamin Preston Rich is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Pamela St.Clair Berkeley Rich to whom he married on October 15th, 1966 in Bel Air Maryland. He is also survived by his children Dr. Preston Berkeley Rich and Dr. Virginia Rich Killingstad, both of Baltimore, Maryland. His legacy continues through his grandchildren Jackson St. Clair Rich, John Berkeley Rich, Anna Sewell Killingstad, and Eva Bond Killingstad. He is dearly loved by his sister-in-law Diane Berkeley Stasiewicz, his son-in-law Marc Killingstad, daughter-in-law Melissa Rich and his nephews Brett St. Clair Stasiewicz and John Brennan Stasiewicz who have been like his own sons.

A graveside service will be held to honor Benjamin Rich at Druid Ridge Cemetery on Thursday February 4th at 2pm.

On January 30, 2021, Benjamin Preston Rich, beloved husband of Pamela Berkeley Rich, devoted father of Dr. Preston Berkeley Rich and his wife Melissa and Virginia Rich Killingstad and her husband Marc, dear grandfather of Jackson St.Clair Rich, John Berkeley Rich, Anna Sewell Killingstad and

Eva Bond Killingstad, brother-in-law of Diane Berkeley Stasiewicz, uncle of Brett St.Claire Stasiewicz and John Brennan Stasiewicz.

A Graveside Service will be held Thursday, 2PM at Druid Ridge Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Druid Ridge Cemetery

7900 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208

Previous Events

Graveside Service

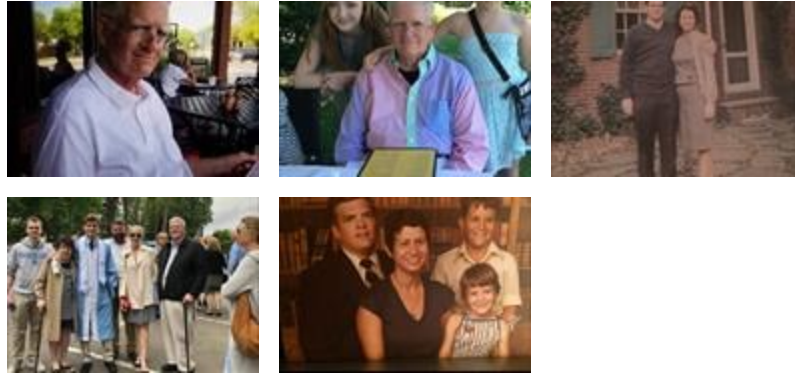
FEB 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Druid Ridge Cemetery
7900 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208

Tribute Wall

VK

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Virginia killingstad - February 05, 2021 at 12:39 PM

CS

“ Thoughts and prayers with Pres' family. I met Pres years ago when I was President of the Col. Aquila Hall Chapter SAR which his grandfather founded 100 years ago. He had some great stories to tell. May he RIP.

Christopher Smithson - February 03, 2021 at 12:59 PM