



Jennings Franklin Worley III

June 4, 1958 - November 28, 2020

Jennings Franklin Worley III was born June 4th, 1958 in Washington, DC and grew up in Forestville, Maryland. Jennings was a beloved father, husband, son, brother, friend, scientist, but most of all he was an exemplary man and human being.

He was lovingly married with unquestionable loyalty to Teresa, “Terry”, for 34 years and had two children, Alex and Lauren. He is survived by his wife and two children, parents Pauline and Jennings F Worley Jr, brother Daniel Worley, brothers and sisters in law, nieces and nephews. Jennings lived by his truest virtues of free-spirited passion for life, “seeking knowledge”, pursuit of challenges, love of collaboration and team work, and a complete devotion to his loved ones.

He received his Bachelors of Science at University of Maryland College Park and pursued his studies in Molecular Biology at the University of Maryland Medical School, achieving a Ph.D. in Electrophysiology by age 26. He continued his post-doctoral work at the University of Miami and the University of Vermont under Mark Nelson, Ph.D. in cardiac studies. His first faculty position was at West Virginia University as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology. After several years he moved into the private sector at GlaxoSmithKline in North Carolina, continuing his work in cardiac studies and branching into other diseases like diabetes and cancer. During this time, he was a scientific consultant with bio-engineering companies. He contributed and is named in multiple drug discovery and bio-engineering patents. In 2004 he and his family moved to San Diego, California to join Vertex Pharmaceuticals where he dedicated the last 16 years of his life.

Every decision in his life, small or large, was fueled by his intense devotion and passion for all things he loved. It is this initiative that inspired his career at Vertex. He became a leading scientist in the drug discovery field through determination to “work the problem” passionately and inquisitively, and rose quickly into mentorship roles, inspiring his teams to always “seek knowledge” in new and innovative ways. His team’s work at Vertex led to many revolutionary drug discoveries and medicines in the company’s main focus, Cystic Fibrosis, saving many lives from the threat of this disease. As Senior Director of Discovery

Core, Jennings was proud of the people he worked with and always celebrated the team's accomplishments in all the company's fields of research.

One of his greatest joys was to witness the multiple CF patient success stories of the medications he helped create. He often shared with pride testimonials from patients with everyone in his life.

Jennings will be remembered by the experiences he shared with the people he loved: enjoying Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs with globs of Old Bay at "the Property" in VA, cherishing Baja camping trips with his close friends, exploring Loreto with family and friends, the simple joy of being on a boat, the obsession with Yeti coolers, connoisseur of Stone Beer and good Bourbon, a good Cuban cigar, one on one trips to Petco Park with his son Alex to enjoy Padres games, a secret fondness for his two dogs, complete knowledge of the Star Wars universe, and his love for the challenge and thrill of cycling.

More than anything, his favorite place in the world was sitting in his backyard next to the fire with a bourbon in one hand, cigar in the other, dog on his lap, and his wife, family, and friends beside him, speaking to the ups and downs of life.

His family has provided a link to donate to the Cystic Fibrosis foundation in his name.

<https://give.cff.org/tribute/JenningsWorley>

Comments



“ My deepest condolences to your family. I was so saddened to hear about your loss. I knew Jennings professionally since the 1990's. He was a pioneer in the automated patch clamp field for the study of ion channels. I really enjoyed getting to know him at conferences.

Chris Mathes - December 15, 2020 at 06:45 PM



“ As a close high school friend of Jennings, I am heartbroken for all of you. It appears Jennings turned out to be an amazing, talented and accomplished man. Reading about all his accomplishments made me awe struck as he was always so humble even in high school.. I am not surprised to read that he was such a devoted family man -he learned from the best as they didn't come any better than his wonderful parents as role models. It was the family cat that didn't like me! Kerry Leyden Smith

Kerry Smith - December 07, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ Reva lit a candle in memory of Jennings Franklin Worley III



Reva - December 07, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Tina Worley - December 07, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss. Khanh Nguyen his Vertex family.



Khanh Nguyen - December 06, 2020 at 10:31 PM



“ Ellen Dagenhart lit a candle in memory of Jennings Franklin Worley III



Ellen Dagenhart - December 06, 2020 at 08:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ossie Arciniega - December 06, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ Jennings and Ossie on what I titled: "Nuestro último brindis" (Our last toast)

Ossie Arciniega - December 06, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ I am an uncle of Jennings. He was always known to us (family) as Buddy, until he entered his schooling and professional life. I was pleased and surprised to see all the attributes that were listed for him. I want others to know something else about Buddy. In his pre-teen years he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Later he was baptised by immersion as a result of his commitment. In our family and this is very important. Because we know that we will see him again in heaven. Where he now resides.

Duane Johnson

Duane Johnson - December 11, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ Dear Worleys, This is what I was going to share at the memorial had we not run out of time:

Last night I asked out loud, “What do I say about you, Jennings? Help me, please.” Then I wondered, “Who am I to stand up here and talk about, someone so wonderful...so brilliant...so loved, so admired, and respected?” And then it dawned on me...the reason that I AM here to speak a few words about Jennings is that he made me feel included in his family’s life, he made me feel cared about like he was sincerely interested in my life, and who I’ve become since our younger years together in Forestville, Maryland. He made me feel like a friend who COULD speak of him at a time like this.

And after talking with some of his friends these past few years that we’ve been reunited, I realize that he made a LOT of people feel that way, like they are ALL friends that mattered to him.

Jennings was a gift to a broad spectrum of people, to science and academia, and especially to his family.

There’s a gaping hole in this world now that he’s gone. So much so that I keep wondering why...why is this beautiful human gone? Of course, no answer comes. So the closest thing I can think of in response is that we should be inspired to carry forth the indelible mark that Jennings left on our hearts, to live with purpose, and show our care and love for the people in our lives and those who aren’t.

God love you, Jennings! And God love all who have to live the rest of our days missing you!

Laura Baker - December 06, 2020 at 11:04 AM



“ Dear Jennings, you were/are one of the finest individual that we ever interacted with. The Singh family is so proud to call you and Terry as our friends. We also love the two beautiful kids, Lauren and Alex that you and Terry have raised. You were so loving and so fun loving, always enjoyed life - I still remember the great times we have had during our oyster eating trips to Mexico. Will miss sitting with you in your backyard, drinking bourbon and smoking a fine cigar - love you for those great times.

You are the most loving father that I know of and truly loving life partner to Terry.

You were one of the best mentors one can hope for - I certainly am. You were one smart scientist and were always there to help any colleague at work. It was fun discussing science with you - it was a love/hate relationship as you constantly pushed the boundaries for anyone working in your group. Fruits of your hard work is helping thousands of CF kids and their parents live a normal life - very proud of your achievements.

"For the soul there is neither birth nor death at any time. He has not come into being, does not come into being, and will not come into being. He is unborn, eternal, ever-existing, and primeval. He is not slain when the body is slain." Bhagavad Gita Chapter 2

Love to Terry, Lauren, Alex and the beautiful Worley family.
We shall miss you Jennings!!!

Ashvani, Sangeeta, Amrit, Leesa, Arunav, Ambika and our parents

Ashvani Singh - December 05, 2020 at 01:04 PM



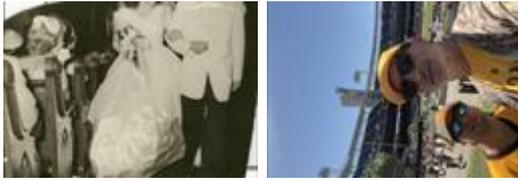
“ To my sister Pauline and brother-in-law Noah - so very sad of this loss of your son, to Terri, Lauren and Alex the loss of your husband and father. And to the rest of our extend family - It will be little things that we remember—smiles, laughter—and although it is hard right now, the memories of these things will become tools to push away the pain. And our family is blessed with so many memories of Jennings lifetime and so proud of his accomplishments to this world which will benefit so many. The loss can feel immeasurable, but so can the love that's left behind.

With lots of love and many memories
Teta Charlie (Brenda)

Charlie Martin (aunt) - December 05, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ Hey This is Jennings Mom & Dads Wedding picture married August 31, 1957. He was born June 4, 1958.
It brought great joy to see him spend time with his son Alex.



Jennings & Pauline Worley - December 05, 2020 at 09:24 AM



“ This was February of 2019 at a family gathering at the East Coast Worley's.



Daniel Worley - December 05, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ hi my Buddy. you were my little brother . I do remember our life together when I lived with y'all . you never liked your peas and your mom wouldn't let you up from the table so when they left the room and I did dishes "surprisingly' they were gone. buddy you and I became friends as you got older and I enjoyed our long chats we had. Even a couple days ago you directed me on Don and just be prepared. little did I KNOW that you were going to take Dons hand and y'all were going to go together. Love, Aunt Judy

Judy Mitchell - December 05, 2020 at 08:41 AM



“ Pauline and Judy work with me for 14 plus years, I was kept inform of the family's from Pauline and Judy were good buddies and enjoyed the families, Danny and Tina were neighbors of ours , my Nick name for Buddy was Dr J after he got his PhD
And he like the kidding we gave him
He is a fine young man taken to soon for this world and I feel for Polly and Noah , as if were my son just not right to bury your children ,
Terry take good care and god bless you
Michael king ,

Michael King - December 05, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ 14 files added to the album Camp Worley Memories



Rosemary Ann Webster - December 05, 2020 at 03:43 AM



“ Jennings,

The memories are many during the years we were neighbours. Firstly, I saw you as a loving son with a huge capacity for caring. This was a wonderful trait. Following on I saw the great love you had for Terry , Alex and Lauren. What a dad you were! One of my fondest memories of you was seeing Alex light up as he saw you arrive home.

The times we spent at Camp Worley were many and varied but all full of laughter, food and vino.

To say you are missed is not enough....the person you were leaves a void which will always be there. I am looking forward to being with your family once more to remember with joy the lasting memories.

God Speed,

Rosemary Webster....Cape Town

Rosemary Ann Webster - December 05, 2020 at 03:35 AM



“ I write this with a heavy heart but alongside the sadness are the wonderful memories of family gatherings around the pool and neighborhood in Carlsbad. The laughter that emanated from there and from Halloween and trips to Anthology downtown and the honest warmth of a close friendship that endures across the miles to our current home in Africa.

The additional enduring memories, locked in our photographs, are the annual family outing to see beautiful Lauren dance her way further into our hearts.

Terry, Lauren and Alex and the extended family, Rosemary and I send our love and condolences.

Together with Jennings and separately with family members we will draw on our happy memories together in the 'hood to fill the void of the passing of a dear friend.

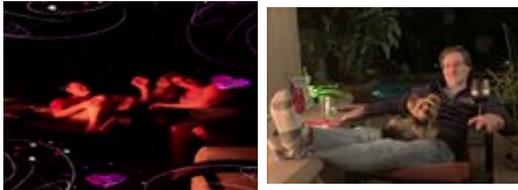
Rob and Rosemary Webster.

Cape Town.

Robert Webster - December 05, 2020 at 01:00 AM



“ “Roomie”, you will be in my heart forever and I will miss you terribly. The fire pit will never be the same without you.



Kimberly Isley - December 04, 2020 at 11:56 PM



“ Jennings and Danny working on the “Property” house.



Tina Worley - December 04, 2020 at 06:45 PM



“ ahh yes so many happy and fun memories at the property!

Charlie Martin - December 05, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ So glad we had this moment together as a family



Kevin Long - December 04, 2020 at 06:13 PM



“ Me too

Tina Worley - December 04, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ I'm his baby sister in law who he mentored since the age of 16. Our relationship had many ups and downs but I was so happy and proud of the great friendship, respect, and love that grew through the years. I will never forget that smile and how I've always known how u adored my sister Terry. I will miss u terribly. Keep protecting her with your heart in death as much as u did in life.



Vicky - December 04, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ Our trip to Bora Bora ... we had so much fun.



Dan Worley - December 04, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ Suzanne Cranfield lit a candle in memory of Jennings Franklin Worley III



Suzanne Cranfield - December 04, 2020 at 02:45 PM