



# THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

1 WEST POTOMAC STREET · BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND 21716 · (301) 834-7500

*Distinguished Citizens biography for:*

## **Milton E. Frech Jr.**

1964-2021

*Honored as a Distinguished Citizen in 2023*

Milton Emerald Frech was born on August 13, 1964, in Baltimore, Maryland. He is the son of Milton Frech Sr. and Jean Stevens. Known to his friends and family as “Milt,” he dedicated his life to public service. Following graduation from Andover High School in 1982, Milt joined the United States Army where he served until being honorably discharged in 1986. While in the Army, he specialized as a mechanic and spent several months overseas in Germany. He was also a single father raising his daughter Brandy at the time.



Following his service in the military, Milt began his law enforcement career in Baltimore City. He joined the Baltimore City Police Department in 1987 and stayed there until 1989 when he moved to the Frederick Police Department. It was May of 1989 when he and his wife Michele moved to Brunswick, where they bought a house on West Potomac Street and began to grow their family.

Milt worked at the Frederick Police Department until 1993. He left FPD to become a Frederick County Sheriff’s Deputy in 1993 and would spend the next 14 years with the Sheriff’s Office. Milt spent the majority of his career there as a narcotics investigator but also spent time in patrol operations, training and as a School Resource Officer. Although he was never a promoted supervisor at the Sheriff’s Office, he was absolutely an informal leader wherever he went. He used his sense of humor and humility to bond with officers from different agencies and build teams where officers wanted to go to work, work hard and try to outperform their co-workers.

His influence on law enforcement is immeasurable. While assigned to the training academy, Milt influenced hundreds of future police officers from many different agencies. There was a drill instructor who screamed at all the recruits and broke them down, but Milt was the guy who came in after and coached and encouraged the recruits to get back up and push through the pain. That is a glimpse of who he was – always wanting others to get better and doing what was best for the team. During chaotic events, Milt was a calming factor and able to put people at ease. It



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didn't matter if it was a nasty domestic violence call or a routine traffic stop; he had a way of talking to people that de-escalated the situation and made everyone know they would be treated fairly. His children still tell stories of being out with their dad when they were young and seeing strangers come up to him and talk as if they were old friends and thank him for things he had done. Following those conversations, the children would ask their dad who it was he was talking with, and the answer was often, "just someone that I arrested."

Milt retired from the Sheriff's Office in 2007 and came to Brunswick as the Assistant Chief of Police. He worked for a long-time friend, John Smith, who also retired from the FCSO. Like many other chiefs in Brunswick, Chief Smith did not stay very long and resigned his position in April of 2009. Milt, however, became the chief and stayed in that position until his untimely death in 2021. In the 20 years prior to Milt becoming Chief of Police, the city had gone through 13 chiefs and at least 3 "Acting Chiefs" on loan from the Sheriff's Office. Milt brought stability to a police department that badly needed it. He was retained by four Mayors and multiple City Councils.

Chief Frech's biggest asset to the City of Brunswick was his time. In his 34 years in law enforcement, he missed a lot of anniversaries, birthdays, holidays and family gatherings. In his 14 years in Brunswick, he never missed a community event. He gave his heart and soul to this city and its police department. He always wanted to make sure everything was ready and right before an event started. He would often cook breakfast for the police officers prior to Railroad Days and other city festivals. He was out in the community talking with residents and not just talking to talk. He valued their opinions and wanted to know what he could do to make the police department better. When the department got new equipment, it always went to one of the officers, not him – at the time of his death, he was driving the oldest car in the BPD fleet! If there was something broken and he could fix himself, he took it home and fixed it to try to save the city some money. He was very frugal with the city's money because he appreciated the fact that the citizens of Brunswick worked hard for that money. He missed some vacations and cut others short if he was needed back at work. He literally gave his life to this town.

While not at work, Milt had a love for his family and friends. He would do anything for anyone and could fix just about anything that was broken. He loved working on cars and motorcycles. He also enjoyed going to yard sales and auctions and couldn't pass up a deal on anything – even when he didn't need it! He loved playing softball and riding his motorcycle with his best friend on the back.

Chief Frech passed away unexpectedly at his home in Emmitsburg on March 30, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Michele, of almost 32 years, and his father Milton Sr. In addition, he is survived by three children, Brandy Eyler and husband Cliff; Olivia Hale and husband Mike and Milton Frech III (Boomer). He is also survived by one loving granddaughter, Mia Eyler. Milt will be forever missed by his friends and family and members of the Brunswick community.

*The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Milton Frech Jr. as a Distinguished Citizen of Brunswick, Maryland.*