



THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

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

Distinguished Citizens biography for:

H. Bruce Funk

b. 1956

Honored as a Distinguished Citizen in 2025

Although Bruce Funk's father and grandfather played prominent roles in Brunswick's early history, Bruce actually grew up in Lutherville, Maryland, where his father served as Baltimore County's Director of Public Works. It wasn't until 2000 that Bruce would bring the family name back to Brunswick and add his own contribution.

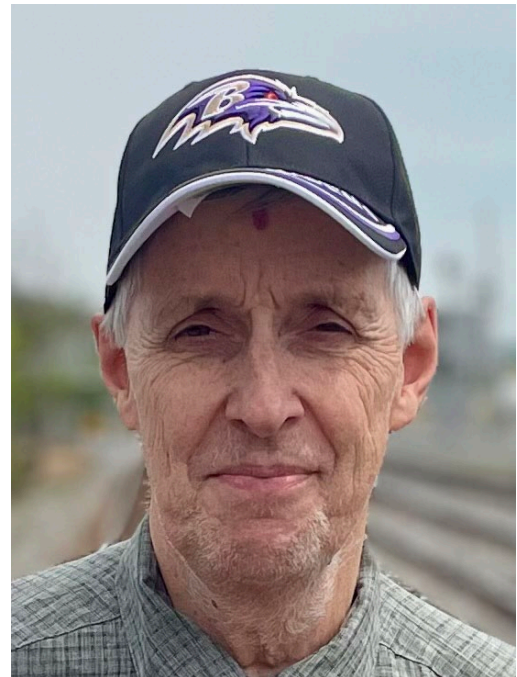
Born in Baltimore on May 15, 1956, Bruce was the fifth of five children born to John Benjamin Funk. His three older siblings – Anne, William, and Demory – were born to John's first wife Doris Lenore Dindore, who died of ovarian cancer in 1953. Sensing the need of a mother in the home, John married Evelyn Blackwell Robinson, with whom he had known professionally, and from that marriage came J. Ben Funk and Harry Bruce Funk.

Bruce attended Lutherville Elementary School, where he learned to play the piano, clarinet, and saxophone.

Following that, he entered St. Paul School, which was affiliated with an Episcopal Church by the same name. While there, he played goalie on the soccer team. But his real love was singing, and he joined the all-male choir of sopranos from the school and other vocalists from the adult community. He participated in that choir for 21 years, which included three tours in Europe and a performance at the White House for President Ronald Reagan.

When Bruce was 16 years old, he experienced the tragic loss of his 17-year-old brother J. Ben, who died unexpectedly of a ruptured aortic aneurysm.

Upon graduation from high school, Bruce enrolled in Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. After two years, he transferred to West Virginia University where he received his B.S. in Business Administration. Degree in hand, he began working as an accountant and de facto office manager for an HVAC company. A year later, he joined the Maryland State Bank Commission's office as a bank examiner. Over the next three years, he examined the financial records of banks, credit unions, and mortgage companies.





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At that point, Bruce made the decision to continue his education and enrolled at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, TX, where he obtained his MBA in 1984. He returned to Maryland and found work with Maryland National Bank as an accountant, then subsequently with Mutual of New York Financial Services, where he first worked as an insurance agent and eventually as an accountant. In 1988, he moved to New Jersey to be close to a friend he had met at Washington College and became a financial analyst for the Resorts International Casino Hotel. On the side, he began doing tax preparation for individuals. Although computers were becoming common, Bruce did his work “by hand.” In 1992, he obtained his CPA certification.

In 2000, Bruce moved to Brunswick and began commuting to Charlestown, WV, where he worked for a short time. He then secured a “temporary” job with a national company in Walkersville that promised to offer permanent employment. When that opportunity didn’t work out, he decided it was time to start his own business. In 2002, he opened an accounting and tax office on West Potomac Street.

Bruce’s involvement in the community began in 2001 when he first set foot in the Brunswick Railroad Museum, operated by the Brunswick Potomac Foundation. Before he knew it, he was a member of the foundation’s Board of Directors, eventually becoming President. He became a member of the Brunswick History Commission in 2006 and remains a member of that commission today. Concurrently, he is also serving as a member of Lovettsville’s Historical Society, which has allowed him to appreciate the broader picture of this area’s history, as the two communities have been closely intertwined.

In 1976, Bruce’s father was asked to write a history of Brunswick. Since he didn’t consider himself a writer, he asked Bruce for assistance. At that time, Bruce had had little affiliation with Brunswick, so no progress was made for the next 30 years. Then, back in his family’s hometown, Bruce went to work. He has since published five volumes of Brunswick history “for Dad.” To this day, Bruce can quote chapter and verse from the extensive research he did to complete those books, and has helped settle – or sometimes reopen – countless questions about Brunswick’s past. Due to his father’s and grandfather’s prolific side careers as builders, Bruce in particular has an extensive knowledge of Brunswick’s many historic buildings. One often hears from him the words, “My father built that!” followed by a treasure trove of information.

Bruce is an active member of the Oakland Community Church in Ranson, West Virginia, and sings in the choir of the First Baptist Church of Ranson. He has been active in theater beginning with his first role as an orphan in the 6th grade production of “Oliver”. In 2015, he organized the Imperial Theater Live Company, producing several productions until COVID-19 shut down operations. He remains hopeful of reviving the company in the future.

The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Bruce Funk as a Distinguished Citizen of Brunswick, Maryland.