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FEATURED

## Caroline native Gen. James Fretterd dies

23 hrs ago



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL J. MINARDI

Lt. Gen James F. Fretterd's last salute at his retirement dinner Feb 22, 2003, near Baltimore after 52 years in the Army National Guard, 16 as Adjutant General.

FEDERALSBURG — Lt. Gen. (MD) James F. Fretterd (ret.) of Federalsburg died early Saturday, Nov., 26, at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Staten Island, N.Y., on Nov., 2, 1930. He was 86 years old.

"General Fretterd served the State of Maryland and our nation with great honor and distinction," said Gov. Larry Hogan in a written statement. "He leaves a legacy of achievement that will forever stand as an example of selfless service and commitment for Maryland's Citizen Soldiers and Airmen."

"It was with great sadness we learned of General Fretterd's passing yesterday," said the Caroline County Government in a released statement on Facebook. "Though brilliant leader and tactician who traveled the world and received many great honors, he never forgot his roots in Caroline County. He was a patriot and a devoted family man. We are so proud to have one of our County government buildings named in his honor. Love and condolences to his family, especially his daughters Linda and Laura."

Fretterd served 52 years in the Maryland National Guard, he joined in 1951 until his retirement in January 2003. He served as Adjutant General of Maryland from February 1987 to January, 2003. He was reappointed in 1990, 1994 and 1999, thus becoming the second longest serving adjutant general since 1794.

A longtime resident of Caroline County, Fretterd was a graduate of the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He was also a 1999 graduate of the College of International and Security Studies and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. In 1987, he attended the Senior Executives Program in National and International Security at Harvard University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the State of New York in Albany, N.Y.

He chaired the National Guard Steering Committee on guard participation in international affairs, which includes oversight of the State Partnership for Peace Program. He travelled extensively to Europe, establishing and solidifying Maryland's relationship with the Baltic Republic of Estonia, formerly part of the Soviet Union and Bosnia.

His assignments were varied and challenging. He served as a company commander and later S3 of the 2nd Battalion, 115th Infantry.

He later served as commander of the 115th Military Police Battalion. He became the chief of staff of the Headquarters Detachment of the Maryland Army National Guard in December 1976. He became the assistant adjutant general of the Maryland Army National Guard in October 1981 and was appointed as adjutant general in February 1987.

Fretterd received a direct appointment as a 2nd Lieutenant in July 1956. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology for the University of the State of New York. He also was a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College and graduated from the Senior Reserve Commander's course for the Army War College.

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Among his many military decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Service Cross, state of Maryland.

Fretterd was preceded by his wife Ellen in 2010 and is survived by two daughters, Linda Earls (Chris) of Greensboro, and Laura Patrick (Bruce) of Harrington, Del.; and four grandchildren: Amber Patrick (18), Ryan Patrick (16), Ryan Earls (24), and Morgan Earls (11).

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec., 2, at the Fretterd Community Center at 107 S. Fourth Street in Denton, MD. There will be a public visitation at the Fretterd Community Center from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, and one hour before the service on Friday. The interment will be in the Bloomery Cemetery in Smithville.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, friends make a donation to the James and Ellen Fretterd Foundation at National Guard Association of Maryland, P.O. Box 16675, Baltimore, MD 21221 toward educational scholarships for Maryland National Guard soldiers, airmen and their families. To offer online condolences, please visit [moorefuneralhomepa.com](http://moorefuneralhomepa.com).