

Dr. J. Chapman McGrew Jr. (1946 - 2014)

Salisbury-Dr. J. Chapman McGrew Jr., 67, of Salisbury died Friday, July 11, 2014, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury. Born on Sept. 21, 1946, in San Diego, Calif., he was the son of the late John Chapman and Bernice Yates McGrew.

He graduated from San Diego State College in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in geography and minor in math. He then received a National Defense Education Act Fellowship to study at Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a Master of Science degree in 1972 and a Ph.D. in 1977 in geography. In 1975 he became a professor of geography at Salisbury State College, now Salisbury University, where he taught for 31 years until his retirement in 2006. Dr. Chapman was respected and admired by students and colleagues alike. He recently completed the third edition of "An Introduction to Statistical Problem Solving in Geography" of which he was the lead author.

Chapman enjoyed national parks, particularly the Oregon Caves National Monument, where he met his wife in 1968. Outdoor activities, including running and hiking, were a source of pleasure for him. He completed three marathons. all after the age of 50. He was a chess enthusiast and a very good player. He was an amateur Civil War historian and collector of Civil War books. His most important roles in life were husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Kathy McGrew of Salisbury; two sons, Court McGrew of Rockville, Md., and Grady McGrew and his wife, Alison, of Salisbury. He is also survived by his granddaughter, Emilia, who was his greatest joy and the light of his life.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, at Holloway Funeral Home, Salisbury, where friends may call 1-3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Salisbury University Department of Geography and Geosciences for a memorial scholarship fund in the name of Dr. J. Chapman McGrew Jr.

Arrangements are in the care of Holloway Funeral Home P.A., 501 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804. To send condolences to the family, visit www.hollowayfh.com.