

**Fred Clark Priest**, 50, died early Wednesday morning, Feb. 16, 2005, at home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was born in St. Johnsbury, Nov. 6, 1954, the son of Clarence and Ruby (Lund) Priest, who survive him in St. Johnsbury. A 1972 graduate of St. Johnsbury Academy, Fred went on to be a vocational teacher at the Academy specializing in truck and diesel. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Church, a coach of St. Johnsbury Baseball and Softball, worked at the concession stand and was a member of the "famous" St. Johnsbury Center Baseball Team. His passion and skill for auto racing will long be remembered by the area fans and especially his fellow drivers. He was track champion several times at Groveton, N.H. Fred loved spending time with his children, grandchildren and his family. He was a mentor and friend and a great role model for so many. He was a good man, who was always there for you, as shown by his relationship to foster children and Academy students. On Oct. 13, 1973, he married Debra (Winot) Priest, who survives him in St. Johnsbury. Besides his parents, he leaves two sons, Michael and his wife Carrie of St. Johnsbury, and Hon Lo of California; and a daughter, Lydia and her husband Jeffrey Norway of McGuire AFB, N.J.; a brother, Clarence his and wife Carol Priest Jr. of Waterford; a sister, Penny Priest of Newburgh, N.C.; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Other survivors include his mother-in-law, Doris Winot; sisters-in-law, Sallie and her husband Wayne Lewis, Bobbi and her husband Kendrick Utley, Darcie and her husband David Brill, and Linda Winot. He was predeceased by his sister, Deborah Coons; a brother-in-law, Bruce Winot; and his father-in-law, Theodore Winot. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Church, Monday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m., with Father Patrick Forman, celebrant.

Spring burial will be in Grove Cemetery, East St. Johnsbury, Vt. Friends are invited to meet the family Sunday, Feb. 20, at Sayles Funeral Home from 4-8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to St. Johnsbury Baseball (Concession Stand), P.O. Box 421, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.