The Frank Church Legacy

Born into an Idaho pioneer family, Frank Church epitomized the Western ideal of independence, integrity and leadership. He was president of the student body at Boise High School and won the national American Legion Oratorical Contest, which helped finance his college education at Stanford and Harvard.

That education was interrupted, however, by the outbreak of World War II. Frank Church enlisted and served in military intelligence in the China-Burma-India theater, where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

After the war, he married Bethine Clark, daughter of Idaho Governor Chase Clark. Returning to Stanford, where he obtained his law degree in 1950, Church endured and overcame cancer, which nearly cost him his life. The courage of that fight was typical of Frank Church and helped form the character that sustained him throughout his years of public service.

Elected to the Senate in 1956 at the age of 32, Frank Church quickly gained the respect of his colleagues. Best known for his expertise on foreign affairs as a member and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Senator’s leadership was based on his own deeply held convictions.

Frank Church presided over key Senate investigations as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which probed the activities of U.S. intelligence agencies.

Frank Church was an early leader in the conservation movement, long before environmental issues became popular. In Idaho, he was responsible for creation of both the Sawtooth and Hells Canyon National Recreation Areas, as well as what is now known as the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area.

The Frank Church Institute was established in 1982 as the Frank Church Chair of Public Affairs at Boise State University, to honor the achievements and to carry forward the principles of one of Idaho’s most distinguished native sons, Senator Frank Church.

Through the endowment, Boise State University emphasizes to its students those ideals which the Senator held dear — a strong belief in the rule of law, eloquence firmly based on reason and an unwavering faith in the American political system.

The endowment has been used to fund the annual Frank Church Conferences, the Frank Church Distinguished Professor and future Frank Church Scholarships.
Giving to the Frank Church Institute

To date, the endowment has some $700,000 invested toward a goal of $3 million to fully fund the activities of the Frank Church Institute. The mission of the Institute is to raise the remaining funds to complete the endowment, and to bring together academic interests and practical politics by involving students, faculty and the community with renowned leaders.

The Institute is supported by gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations, as well as income from endowment funds.

You can help in making a tax-deductible contribution to the Frank Church Institute by:

- **Cash gifts** — checks should be made payable to the Frank Church Institute.
- **Credit card gifts** — contributions by Visa or Mastercard should be made to the BSU Foundation-Frank Church Institute account.
- **Planned gifts** — provisions in wills or life income agreements.
- **Memorial gifts** — contributions made in memory of another.
- **Matching gifts** — many employers will match employee charitable gifts.

For inquiries, please contact:

Garry V. Wenske  
Executive Director  
The Frank Church Institute  
Boise State University  
1910 University Drive  
Boise, ID 83725  
(208) 426-2941  
garrywenske@boisestate.edu  
www.frankchurchinstitute.org

The BSU Foundation  
1910 University Dr.  
Boise, ID 83725  
(208) 426-3276 or (800) 341-6150  
www2.boisestate.edu/develop

---

**Education Leadership Public Service**

The goal of the Frank Church Institute is to build the endowment to fully fund the Frank Church Chair of Public Affairs, the annual Frank Church Conferences and the proposed Frank Church Scholarships at Boise State University.

An integral part of the Institute is its focus on education. Students make up a large part of the conference observers, and a number of professors use the conference to supplement their courses.

As a former member of the Idaho Supreme Court has written, “we need sons and daughters of Idaho, like Frank Church, to give us a broader view of the public policies that will best serve the people of Idaho, the nation and the world.”

“For more than 20 years, the Frank Church Institute has provided a valuable service to Boise State faculty and students, the Boise community and the state of Idaho by sponsoring the annual Frank Church Conference. Contributions to the Institute will ensure the continuation of this popular annual event, as well as create additional learning opportunities and enhance the quality of public affairs offerings at Boise State.”

— Boise State President Bob Kustra