

Franklin Hair was born January 6, 1927 to Fred Graham and Frankie Louisa Davis Hair in Inverness, Florida.

A native of Inverness, Franklin was known to be a popular boy with his peers and adults. He was an Eagle Scout and a member of the Civic Recreation Club.

On June 10, 1941 he was swimming in Lake Tsala Apopka at the wooden bridge on Gospel Island Road along with his brother Julian Fred Hair, his cousin Frances Hair from Columbia, South Carolina, and many friends.

While swimming, he pushed away from one of the wooden pilings as if to swim on his back. After several minutes, he failed to make an appearance and his brother and friends thought he might have walked home. When it was determined that he was not at home, search parties were organized. The lake bottom was dragged by local men in rowboats. After approximately three hours, at 6:00 pm his body was found within three feet of where he was last seen. Efforts at artificial respiration were attempted but were not successful.

His oldest brother Reuben Murray Hair was serving in the military service with the 265th Coast Artillery battery stationed at Ft. Crockett, Galveston, Texas at the time of his death.

On June 23, 1955, a law naming this bridge "The Franklin Hair Bridge" was enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida. This act can be found in Chapter 30450, Senate Bill Number 1327 in the Laws of Florida. Bronze plaques were placed at the bridge several times, but each time vandals stole them. The City of Inverness recently requested the replacement of the signs.

Attending the unveiling of the signs are the daughters of Fred Hair – Jennice Wilson of Georgia, Martha Hinkle of Inverness, and Faye Hoff of Hernando. Also attending are the daughter and son of Reuben Hair – Debora Aungst of Citrus Hills and Davis Hair of Crystal River.

The family appreciates the efforts of the City of Inverness to replace the signs honoring their uncle, an Inverness native.