



Frank Kralj (Ret. CFD, Capt. Eng. 13)

June 27, 1925 - April 9, 2017

Frank Kralj, Jr. (Ret. CFD, Capt. Eng. 13), 91, of Bonita Springs, FL, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

A Chicago native, Frank worked alongside his father and brother at the much beloved King's Tavern on the city's East Side. As an 18 year old during World War II, he enlisted in the US Navy, serving aboard a Destroyer Escort in the European, African and Middle-Eastern theatres. Shortly after his return, Frank joined the Chicago Fire Department, a member of Engine Co. 13, retiring as its decorated Captain in 1986.

Frank was known for his love of the ocean and his quirky sense of humor. Equal parts charming and stubborn, Frank made an unforgettable impression on all those he met. He fought fires with bravery and endured personal losses with incredible strength. He was loved. And he will be missed.

Frank is survived by his loving daughter, Kim (Dee) Kralj of Los Angeles, CA; step-daughters Linda Christner and Cheryl (Clint) White of Amargosa, NV; his sister and brother, Carolyn (Jim) Zuzich of Flossmore, IL and George (Elaine) Kralj of St. Joseph, MI; sister-in-law Diane Kralj (Edward) of Ft. Myers, FL; two cherished grandsons, Evan and Ryder; his step-granddaughters Amber and Brittany; along with many other members of a large and affectionate extended family which included his cats, Patches and Butterscotch.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank, Sr. in 1976 and Emma (nee Laich) Kralj in 1989; by his sons Glenn Edward Kralj in 1979 and Gregory Frank Kralj in 1993; his sisters Betty (Frank) Natarelli in 1988 and Mary (Emil) Priesol in 1998; his brother Edward (Diane) Kralj in 2014; his step-son, John Christner in 2003; his wife Helen (nee Christner) Kralj in 2009; and his beloved cat, Troubles in 2016.

The family will hold a private celebration of his life.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to either cancer research, suicide prevention or the Fire Fighters Retiree Healthcare Assistance Fund - Chicago, Local 2.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Frank Kralj (Ret. CFD, Capt. Eng. 13)*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *My condolences to Kralj family. I Was a co-worker with George for years. So George, just wishing you the best. Jim Elbaor....*

Jim Elbaor - April 24, 2017 at 04:39 PM



“ *I remember Junior when he went into the Navy 50? years ago. I was 10 or 11 but oh, how handsome he was. I am Gloria Falbo Adamonis and our family lived next door to the Kralj's. The East Side holds many memories for me. Please accept our condolences.*

Gloria Falbo Adamonis - April 24, 2017 at 10:46 AM