



## Francis John Constable

February 10, 1934 - April 28, 2023

### CONSTABLE, FRANCIS JOHN (1934-2023)

After serving nine tours of duty in Vietnam, the ravages of Agent Orange and a multitude of other complications finally took its toll. Frank fought hard but sadly succumbed to his illnesses at the age of 89 on April 28th in Sanford, Florida. Born in West Seneca, NY on February 10th to the late Frank and Carmella (Olivadoti) of Catanzaro, Italy. He bravely served our county as a member of the United States Army, earning the rank of Master Sergeant before retiring.

Frank enlisted in the US Army and was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 11th Airborne Division with his first tour of duty being Company G21st Infantry 24th Division Korea (1950). Throughout his lifelong career, he joined the Heavy Mortar Company 19th Infantry (1952), Former Drill Instructor at Fort Dix Army Base (1953-1955), Scofield Barracks Hawaii (1955-1960), Studied at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (1956-1960), Fort Bragg Company B321 Airborne Regiment, Vietnam MACV Corp Danang and Hue (1964-1970), US Army Recruiting Command, Brooklyn, NY (1971-1973), 82nd Airborne Division - Rangers, 101st Airborne Division – Screaming Eagles. While in Vietnam, Frank received six Purple Hearts for his bravery. After retiring, he was assigned to a special mission to train soldiers going to San Salvador. He was and will always be remembered as the consummate soldier.

Once retired, Frank and his first wife, Susan, headed to Islamorada, Florida where they lavished in the sun, enjoyed life relaxing and meeting a multitude of friends at Papa Joe's and other famous hangouts in the Keys. Later they moved to Lake Mary, Florida where Frank sold cars, gardened and traveled. After Susan's death, from cancer, Frank married his second wife, Ilona who was forever loving and caring up to his last breath. Together they raised Ilona's daughters in Sanford, Florida and enjoyed traveling to Germany. His wish was to visit the towns his parents came from. Unfortunately his illness took him too soon. Getting his green thumb from his dad, he enjoyed putting around the yard and grew the most beautiful orchids.

Along with his parents, Frank was preceded in death by his first wife of 52 years, Susan McBride, children Roy and Jessica and by his siblings Sandra C. Notaro, Katherine C. Knaus and John. Those left to cherish Frank's memory include his wife, Ilona Santiago, his children Susan C. Huntley (Mark), Diana, Francis (late Carol), Michael (Andrea) and adoring step-daughters Ciara S. Ettleman (Andrew), Marissa, Danielle S. Hopstatter (Jeffery), Alicia S. Newberry and Lindsey. Frank also leaves behind several adored nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and his forever companion, Daisy.

Frank will be laid to rest at Bushnell National Cemetery and will have full military honors deserving of a United States soldier while being close to his wife, Ilona and family.

# Cemetery Details

## Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

GN

“ My prayers to you and your family Uncle Frank. I enjoyed the week we got to spend here in Buffalo a few months ago watching you spend time with your sister. I always will remember the summer times I spent with you and Aunt Sue, Sue, Roy, Fran and Cissy. Rest in peace.

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**Gary Notaro** - May 07, 2023 at 07:31 AM

DC

Thank you Gary. I am so happy my dad finally made it to Buffalo. He wanted to go for the longest time but always wound up back in the hospital. Now the family are all together at peace. Much love. ❤️

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**Diana Constable** - May 12, 2023 at 09:01 AM

LC

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers and love to the family. Love, Kit

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**Linda (Kit) Covney** - May 05, 2023 at 11:33 AM

DC

Thank you Kit. ❤️

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**Diana Constable** - May 05, 2023 at 07:15 PM

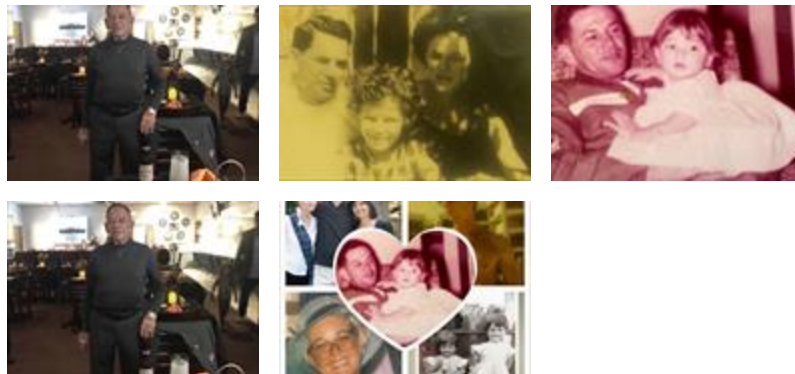
DC

“ Years ago when I was living in Bensonhurst, my dad came to my apartment with a brand new stereo. He was as excited as I was and quickly set it up for me. He asked me if it was good? I went and got my Dave Mason album and set it to play, We Just Disagree. The sound was amazing. I could hear every instrument in that song. It was if the entire band with all their instruments were in my living room. I was so thankful he bought this stereo for me. Now I could listen to all my treasured albums. On the way home from that long trip last week, I was just driving into NJ and was in a foggy state of mind. What do you think comes on the radio? Yes! It was Dave Mason followed by Teach Your Children Well by CSN&Y. I knew then that even though my dad was in heaven, he was still with me. I will greatly miss the hours long conversations we used to have. I'm thankful he is now at peace and no longer in pain. He tried to keep it from me. But I finally saw and it broke me. I LOVE YOU DAD!! ❤️ Give mom and Roy a huge hug and kiss for me. If God allows me, I will bring a bagel to heaven. 🙏🇺🇸

Diana Constable - May 04, 2023 at 07:17 PM

DC

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Diana Constable - May 04, 2023 at 07:01 PM

DC

“ This is a letter Ilona found that my dad had written. So glad he started to put his memories to paper. 🇺🇸

with the 11th Airborne, was reassigned to the 508th Airborne in Japan, was reassigned to the 24th Infantry Division G company 2nd inf Regt. Korea was a squad leader in the 4th platoon that was not the best assignment Korea, was " hell " coming from Up State New York you would think I knew what cold weather was like hell. Korea was hell living with a summer uniform in -25 degree weather. I asked my father to send me a vest that saved my life he also sent me gloves with a right hand trigger finger which I loved. After 3 years in Korea as a combat inf. I was reassigned to the 19th inf. Regt at Camp Hagan Japan got a promotion to Sgt. and assigned to 19th Heavy Mortar Co. had a private room living like a King. What a change this was on the weekends Tom a

Diana Constable - May 04, 2023 at 04:16 PM

DC

“ After my brother died, my dad and I got very close again. Years ago when I moved to Bensonhurst, my dad bought me a new stereo. He brings it to my apartment and sets it up for me. He asked if it was good? I told him I need to play *We Just Disagree* by Dave Mason. It has such beautiful instrumentals. I put the record player on and every single note could be heard as if they were playing in my living room. I was thrilled!!! On the way back to NY and just before NJ what do you think comes on the radio but this song followed by *Teach Your Children Well* by CSN&Y. I knew then my dad was still with me. I look at pics from 7 years ago to recent. I'm glad he is no longer in pain. He tried to hide it from me. But, I saw. I love you very much dad!! I'll bring you a bagel as soon as I get to heaven. 🥰 Give mom and Roy a huge kiss for me.



Diana Constable - May 04, 2023 at 04:13 PM