



DR. John F. Frasco DDS

September 27, 1947 - May 28, 2020

Hello my name is John F. Frasco, DDS and a whole bunch of other letters, (AKA, “Pops”, “Uncle Fester”, “Pop”). If you are reading this then what I said a lot “With birth, comes death, everything in between is the adventure” must apply to me at this moment. An obituary is usually dry and stuffy, but my adventure in life was very much the opposite of the norm.

I would like to share somethings with you that you probably didn’t know. I was born in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois the son of John S. and Camille L. (Leona) Frasco. My father was more than just a mentor, he was a constant guide in my life and I followed in his footsteps and worked side by side with him. Mom (“Auntie Suzie”) was a story all of her own, but I loved her deeply. To my wife Kathleen “Kathie” M. (Orlowski) who I married on June 20, 1970 and my son John M. Frasco, I want you to know that I love you both, even though I was often a benevolent curmudgeon. To my friends, co-workers, DMORT and Elks members, who KNOW I am a curmudgeon, you need to know that we have been on numerous rodeos but the pleasant and sometimes whimsical moments were some of the best times of my life. I have shared compassion, respect and dignity for everything and everyone I have worked with in my three careers.

I graduated from St. Joseph High School, St. Mary’s College, and Loyola University of Chicago. It seems as my life was surrounded by Priests, Nuns, Brothers and Monks - this may be why I have had an attitude, at times. I held dental licenses in Illinois and Iowa. My first career of the three was in dentistry. This included being a participating member of some very fine professional and administrative organizations of which I served in leadership roles. One of which was being a Dean at Loyola School of Dentistry. I have always been a hands on person, so I loved being in the clinics, and as an assistant Professor. The hatred of paperwork did lead me down the road to careers two and three. Dentistry also leads me to some very interesting Forensic pursuits. I will engage you later on that.

Following my father and mother’s deaths, Kathie and I made a wonderful decision to leave “The City” and pursue my career in a quieter and more relaxed location. After looking at many communities, we decided to land in Mason City and open my practice here. We live at 216 S. Vermont Ave. Mason City, Iowa 50401. It was closer to her parents and we have

other relatives in this area. For several years I owned and operated Creek Side Dentistry, and then I decided to semi-retire and work part time Dentistry in Northwood. I then discovered I had too much time on my hands and started working part time at Ace Hardware. No, there were no Black and Decker power tools in my operatory. However I have had two passions outside of my careers. Fishing and woodworking. One of my ministries was making wooden toys for my grandchildren and others. I also made wooden infant urns that I donated to a dear friend in Texas for their cemetery for those that could not afford them.

My second career was being the general manager of the Mason City Elks Lodge. I served as an officer in many positions including being the Exalted Ruler (President). As the manager I did the ordering for the club rooms and did the books for both the lodge and the club. I also pitched in with the cooking and bartending many times. That is my Sicilian Italian coming out. So many wonderful members and a few grouchy old men. Working with the staff made my day, most days anyways.

My third career was one of my biggest passions in life. I was exposed to forensics in school and my dental career. I was a Deputy Coroner for DuPage County, Illinois and was an investigative consultant for many deaths, bite mark cases and mass fatality incidents. Three were prior to my joining the DMORT Federal Team. These included American Airlines Flight #191 at O'Hare Airport, a natural gas explosion and the Paxton Hotel Fire in Chicago. With DMORT I have been deployed to a Korean Air Line crash, City of New Orleans Amtrak train derailment in Bourbonnais, IL, spent many months as the dental section Leader at the World Trade Center Attack, in conjunction with the American Airlines Flight crash at the same time, the Katrina Rita Hurricanes in Mississippi and Louisiana, and the Puerto Rico Island Hurricane. Along the way I was proud to serve in the capacity of being the Administrative Officer for our Region VII, and also working missions from Washington DC to make sure everyone got their pay and travel voucher reimbursements. Sometimes working with the government regulations is like herding cats or nailing Jell-O to a tree. Speaking of nails, you buy them by the pound and you get rid of them the same way. I had to throw a tangent in somewhere or people will not believe I really wrote this. My adventure also included me making dental and mass fatality presentations, lectures, publications, memberships and a whole host of helping others the best I could. I heard once that you never will know the impact you make on others through speaking, writing, a handshake, a heartfelt thank you. But I think I did pretty well as an old grouchy curmudgeon. I must have done more than I thought, because my curriculum Vitae is 13 pages long. I took a lot of people under my wing. Most soared like eagles, but some just waddled like ducks, I did my best with all of them.

To those who will miss me the most, I want to say - take a year to grieve, then remember all the good times we have had. Laugh, joke, cry, but most of all smile at the things we did. At least we didn't end up sitting on a bench in jail together. This includes Kathie who has

been by my side during this trip for nigh unto 50 years, my favorite (only is the joke) son John and his wife Nicole of Pleasantville, NY, my all-time favorite grandchildren Sophia Eileen and Giovanni Federico; my sister Rosemary Frasco of Minneapolis, MN; and all of my Bruddas, and friends who I've met. I wouldn't change a thing, because then I wouldn't be who I am. You all had a part in making me, me.

I was preceded in death by my parents and my infant brother Michael.

I hope my family respects my wish to have an old-fashioned DMORT gathering. A celebration where all will have an opportunity to hoist a toast, shed a tear, hug one another, and talk honestly about me. For once, I cannot interrupt, or tell the same story again, so I expect all of you to share stories about me. Bless all of you that I have had the privilege to know and care for, and for the same that you have shown me. I will be watching all of you from over your shoulder. Those planning an expression of sympathy may consider memorials to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To share with the family, sign my book and leave a message go to the website below. My family will cherish what you have to share.

I died peacefully on Thursday, May 28th, 2020 in my home, with my family by my side. Over the last few days I was under the expert care of MercyOne North Iowa Hospice both in home and a brief stint inpatient. Glad I didn't piss them off too much when I sent them away the first few times. Thanks to Stacy, Rob, Lisa, Carol, Doreen, Amber, Tammy, Michelle, Dr. Gedney and countless others. You helped me as much as I'd let you...and a little more. You also helped Kathie and my son through the unimaginable.

I did it my way, as always.

Fullerton Funeral Home, 123 2nd ST. SE, Mason City, Iowa 50401-3904. 641-423-8676. <http://www.Fullertonfh.com>, or [Facebook/Fullertonfuneralhomes](https://www.facebook.com/Fullertonfuneralhomes).

Cemetery

Cremation Services of North Iowa

123 2nd ST. SE

Mason City, IA, 50401

Comments



“ We met John and Kathie Freshman year in College. Dennis was in the same dorm as John. We enjoyed dances, pizza and get togethers between our two colleges. Dennis and John also graduated from Loyola University at the same time, John with his DDS and Dennis with his MBA. Later John was our family dentist in Naperville. John, Tony Fanoni, Dennis O'Block and Dennis went to a John Wayne movie in Winona the night I met my lovely wife Bea, who had gone to a Beatles movie with her Teresan friend Mary. God Bless John on his new journey!

Dennis Morneau

https://s3.amazonaws.com/storage.lifetributes.com/Temp/720fd166-8319-4ffd-801f-b5fb28e92355_Thumb.jpg



Dennis Morneau - July 11, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ John, Steve Rose and I(Larry Rothenberger), pulled each other through dental school . We remained friends for many years before losing contact . We had many good times both during and after dental school. John gave me my 1st flyrod that he had made for me. Wrote "rookie" on it. I also attended AFIP with john and this was another influence of him on me. Too many stories to tell. It is with deep sadness I hear of his passing. My heart and prayers go out to Kathy and "little" John. I am sorry we lost contact. He will be missed.

Dr. Larry Rothenberger - June 18, 2020 at 05:36 PM



“ John during the AA191 investigation. The pix in scrubs was taken late night 5/25 or early 5/26 in the AA Medical Department.



jack Kenney - June 16, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ It has taken me a while to wrap my mind around the fact that John has moved from this earth to keeping heaven organized and prepared. My deepest condolences to Kathie and John. My deep sadness can only be a fraction of theirs. We shared a profession of dentistry as well as a commitment to good forensic science and Identification of disaster victims and returning them to their loved ones for burial. John covered disasters all over the US and KAL In Guam. We had become good friends starting in 1978. We both had attended AFIP in '76, but did not meet till an evening program he was doing in 78. We would be the first two dentists on the scene and morgue for the AA DC10 Disaster in 1979. When I took over as Odontologist and disaster team leader at the Cook County Medical Examiners Officer he was a trusted colleague and group leader. We would work two other major incidents for Cook County, the Paxton SRO hotel fire and the gas explosion at 824 N Racine. He would locate the maxilla of one victim during a search in subzero weather (in his Red hunting duds). We both became involved in DMORT and deployed for the first “official” DMORT event, the Amtrak crash in Bourbonnais IL in 1999. The time at O'Hare bound us together. I know that many of his DMORT colleagues have been with him on other operations and feel a deep bond ad well. I will miss you John. Till we meet again Godspeed!
Jack aka frack



jack Kenney - June 14, 2020 at 08:04 PM



“ Our heartfelt condolences to Kathy and the Frasco family. John and I first met as freshmen at St. Mary's in 1965. We were roommates in St. Ed's that first year and our friendship even survived that, to be roommates again as Juniors. John shepherded me through the nuances of life with "Da Chicago Boys" all around the dorm, and we had a great time. I remember his mom and dad, (especially the care packages he got.....although he never did share those jars of Mostaccioli she would send him.) My mom loved to see him when he came down to Joliet to see me and hang out during school breaks. I remember being over to his house in River Forest for his sister's wedding. What a great time that was! Fast forward 10 or 15 years, and we ended up in Naperville, Ill not far from John and Kathy, and he became our family dentist at his practice on Washington St.. But life marched on and we went our separate ways, but I will always remember the friendship we had at St. Mary's, and all the great times we had together. He usually had a grin in those days, worked hard, and was always up for a good time with the guys from "First Ed's" . We'll miss him. Bob and Susan Sonnenberg, Deland, Florida.

Bob Sonnenberg - June 14, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ Growing up next door to John and Kathie was a joy I will never forget! Shoveling snow with him on a shared driveway, picking up nightcrawlers after a warm summer's night with him and then heading to the Village Pub for a couple of beers, countless fishing trips, and his mentoring me to secure a job in pharmaceuticals after college! He loaned me his PDR to research USV Products! Standing up in my wedding! Coming to my wedding with April! Affectionately JOHN are so missed! Till we see each other again SODLAYER!

Danny Striz - June 10, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ I fell in love with John the very first time I met him at a co-Ed class for funeral directors in Des Moines. I asked him how to join and he walked me through the process and had been taken care of me ever since. Although I never did deploy I've enjoyed everything about DMORT IIV all thanks mostly to John but also because his DMORT team is full of great people who know how to work together. John I will dearly miss you as part of our team and all the tenderness you show everyone. Chuck 4982

chuck Geilenfeld - June 09, 2020 at 11:27 PM



“

Dear Pops-

You will be painfully missed. You always expressed yourself with characteristic wisdom, grace, and humor, that would become your signature.

I admire you and will never forget when you conducted my dental admissions interview at Loyola. You gave a scared 'kid" the opportunity to earn a dental education, and for that I am forever grateful. Your forensic dentistry lectures were so interesting that it led me to join DMORT. You were also that compassionate and familiar figure at deployments, when comfort was needed. I only aspire to your level of knowledge and charm. Thanks for being an excellent educator, inspirational mentor, and great friend.

Thanks for the memories and laughs - Love you!

My deepest condolences to the Frasco family. Thank you for sharing John with his many "families" at Loyola and DMORT.



Sheila Hall - June 05, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“

I thought the world of John. He helped me a lot when I was a student at Loyola dental school. He always had a smile for me and was always willing to help me any way that he could. Dental school was a stressful time for students and he helped us all to calm down and look at things in a little lighter view. It was good to know that someone like him was looking after us and had our backs.

We fished together in Canada and hunted doves together in Macomb and had some wonderful times.

I will miss him very much!

He made the world a better place to live in.

His loyal student and friend,

Dr. Ted Pawlias

Theodore Pawlias DDS - June 03, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“

Dear Friends

I am saddened by the news of the death of John Frasco.

One of the very best people I have ever known!

He represented the very best of dedication, commitment, loyalty, friendship, and loving nature.

My sympathies go out to all who new John, and to his family.

Sincerely

Sandy Block

Sanford Block - June 01, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“

Festus you will forever be in my heart. DMORT will miss you my friend.

Marvin Douglas "Digger" Nobles

DMORT retired

Digger Nobles - June 01, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“

There will never be another "Pops" the way we know John! What a legend he will continue to shine on being to all of us who loved and cherished our time, and laughs, together with him!! He was the friend that we could all only aspire to be! He was one of the most humble and accomplished men I have ever met. You are already missed, Pop!

Live large in the sky with the "Big Guy" now and let them ALL know that

You

Have

Arrived!!!!

I have no doubt Heaven will never again be short of laughter, fun, and LOVE!

Rest peacefully my Friend!

AJ Jarabek

DMORT V

AJ Jarabek - May 31, 2020 at 07:50 PM



“ Pops was always there to listen and gave y the sincere feeling that he was right next to you. He gave advice only when you asked and only then never forcing his opinion on you (which was usually the right one). A man's man. Straight shooter. I bless the day and met John and cherish his friendship that will be cherished. The great memories are the best that keep us going. Kent A Caserta DDS

Kent A Caserta DDS - May 30, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ Kathie and John I am sorry for your loss.
There are very few DMORT members that impressed me more than John/Pop. What a true leader! And definitely his nickname "Pop" says a lot about what he meant to all of us. Pop touched every team member from California to New York and from Illinois to Texas. Thank you Kathie for sharing Pop with us. I want to let you know that John/Pop had a very large adopted family and that he is a huge loss for the DMORT team. Thank you Pop for your service and May God Bless your family.

Michael Iliescu
DMORT IX
Phoenix, AZ

Michael D ILIESCU, MD - May 30, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ Great Mentor, Leader and Friend. You will always be remembered. Rest in Peace "Doc".

Marsha Voelker - May 30, 2020 at 02:10 PM



“ Helga Scharf Bell and the Entire NDMS Headquarters purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of DR. John F. Frasco DDS.



Helga Scharf Bell and the Entire NDMS Headquarters - May 30, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ It was an honor to work with Doc a few times with DMORT and move in some of the same dental circles over the years at meetings ASFO/AAFS. I am pleased that you held your own and thank you for your letter to each of us. I got to go back to nailing this Jell-O to the trees now, but the rest of us will maintain our signature rigid flexibility in your stead. Semper-Gumby buddy. Amber-DMORT X



Amber Riley - May 30, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ NDMS has lost a precious light with the passing of John. He was the first person to help everyone and the last one to leave a site. His heart was as big as his desire to always do the right thing for anyone he met. He was the role model for everyone as he set the standards very high.

Although his light has left us-- his spirit and careful eye will always be there to his family, friends, DMORT and the entire NDMS family.

Helga Scharf-Bell - May 30, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ although i have only meet John a few times in my career with the NDMS system John was a mentor and friend, He is a true inspiration even in passing he is still inspiring others to remain strong. John you will be missed. we all have your family in our thoughts and prayers.



Lewis Lodini - May 30, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ My prayers and condolences to the Frasco family. My heart aches in hearing that John has passed. He is one of the great ones, loved his stories, his compassion, his “fatherly” concern, his time to be off the wall and his time for seriousness and work. We all loved John and knew he was there to support us. I am proud to call him my friend and he will always hold a special place in my heart. Rest In Peace with your Lord and Savior after a job well done! You will be missed by so many of us!

Jan Manson, RDH
Retired, DMORT VII

jan manson - May 30, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ Our sympathy and thoughts are with you, Kathie and John.
Kathie, I have so many memories, from John's graduation party in Riverside, where my life kind of changed, being with Richard Frasco and him mentoring me becoming a court reporter, to working with John at Segreti's, to standing up for your wedding, with fun receptions in Chicago and Minnesota.
Rest in peace my smart and funny cousin Sonny. We'll be thinking of you, Kathie and John.

Tom and Jackie Manno

Thomas Manno - May 30, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ I just read all of the comments posted so far. It's hard to find words that haven't already been said about this great friend. Like many in the AO community, John was my "go to" guy when I first took the job of Admin Officer for Region 8. I knew that whenever I was confused about something (which was most of the time), I could call Pop and he would have the answers. Reading the comments, I know that he was more than just a mentor to many of us. He was a devoted husband and father, and most of all, just one hell of a decent man. Rest, my friend. You are loved by all.

Rich Lipich
AO, DMORT VIII
Interim AO, DMORT V and VII

Rich Lipich - May 30, 2020 at 08:17 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of DR. John F. Frasco DDS.



May 30, 2020 at 01:43 AM



“ Fester taught all of us so much through his friendship, hilarious DMORT stories and sharing life’s experiences. Whether it was a training or deployment, he was always watching out over each one of us and I have no doubt he will continue doing this. Thank you for everything, John. Peace be with you.

Ruth Grant
Retired DMORT V, MLI
Lansing, MI

Ruth Grant - May 29, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ Pop, you were a mentor to me when I was a new AO. I was a green horn and needed to know everything about everything. You took the time to teach me “ Govtrip”. Gosh, that’s so long ago, laughed and talked about that just a few weeks ago. Thank you fir always having time for me, for the stories that taught and the lessons in life. You will not be forgot because what I learned is carried on in my work. God speed dear friend.

Kathey Henley - May 29, 2020 at 10:04 PM



“ I will never forget you Pop's. I am glad I was blessed with you as one of my mentors. Ever since I meet you during Hurricane Katrina you have been a great friend, advisor, and family. You will so be missed! My love, and prayers go out to your family, and everyone else whose life you have touched. Love you Pop's!!

Karen Hand - May 29, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ I am so saddened to hear this. Pops was truly a great man. When I first joined DMORT they were going through LOTS of changes and the process to get me on took about 2 years. Pops was so helpful. I had the pleasure of spending time with him on a few trainings and we emailed a few times but I felt instantly connected to him like family. Which is what DMORT... a family. He was sweet, selfless, caring, funny, and feisty. I wish i could have known him longer. I will forever treasure his friendship.

Bethany - May 29, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ Rest In Peace doc one Sicilian to another
Thanks for the great stories and memories
God speed

vinny - May 29, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Dear Kathie and family,

Thank you for sharing John with DMORT for so many years. He was a friend to all, and he was my mentor when I first became the AO for DMORT-IX nearly 20 years ago. I will miss my friend and DMORT colleague, the dental and forensic stories we often shared and the chats on the phones we enjoyed.

John meant a lot to many people, and he will definitely be missed. He certainly touched my life in a great way!

With wonderful memories and great respect,
Barbara Salazar, AO
DMORTs IX & X

Barbara Salazar - May 29, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ You always made me laugh and smile every time I saw you. Thank you for all your patients with teaching me so much with DMORT. I will never forget you. Many prayers for your family.

Robyne Bohn Short
DMORT III

Robyne Short - May 29, 2020 at 05:28 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Barbara Salisbury - May 29, 2020 at 05:28 PM



“ Bless you Pops. Rest in Peace...

Pete Burke, DMORT IV - May 29, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ I never knew what a cauliflower ear was until I spent hours and hours hours listening to this incredible man's life and Stories. I could never interrupt him to tell him that was the fifth time I heard it. This obituary is the best obituary I have ever read in my life. Pop taught us how to live and he taught us how to die. Your presence is a footprint on my heart. You are loved!!! See you on the other side my friend

Jim Coyle Chaplain DMORT VII - May 29, 2020 at 05:13 PM



“ I can only imagine the extent of your loss. I met Pops on Friday, April 26, 2019 at DMORT classroom training. He and I were early risers and connected over coffee in the hotel lobby on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We really hit it off. I felt like we could have chatted all day. This was the weekend Pops became the interim Administrative Officer for DMORT V. This was my first meeting ever with DMORT and Pops took me under his wing from that weekend until his passing. I just adored him and feel such a loss at his passing. I can't even imagine the void he's left in yours and so many others' lives, people who've known him for years. But, that's the kind of man he was; he made such a big impact on everyone lucky enough to have crossed his path, proven by the profound sadness I and so many others feel.

I hope you all will find comfort in your memories of John/Pops. I truly wish I'd had the privilege of knowing him longer. I'll miss him dearly.

Judy Chamberlain - May 29, 2020 at 04:43 PM



“ John IS (because he will always be with us) a great guy and as hard as he tried to be an old curmudgeon, you couldn't help but like him! Thanks, John, for all the service you gave and for being a friend. God bless you and your family.

Jeff Zealley
DMORT VIII
Riverton, UT

Jeff Zealley - May 29, 2020 at 04:14 PM



“ John,

You were the best friend anyone could ask for. Thank you for everything and especially for helping me with all things DMORT. My heart and prayers go to your wonderful family.

Kirsten Sorensen
Maryland

Kirsten Sorensen - May 29, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ How do I capture in words what our relationship of 14 plus years meant to me. I can say that I not only had the extreme pleasure of working with Pop professionally but as with most of us, also sharing a deep friendship. Having Pop for a friend has impacted my life in so many ways. He often referred to himself as a Old carmudgeon but he was so far from that. He was so kind to all of us. I will miss him so much but will forever cherish our many early morning coffee chats when he came to DC and often times having so many laughs at dinner as well. When he wasn't in DC, my day was also brightened by our early morning phone discussions. I loved hearing how happy he was when he completed a wooden toy project for his grandchildren. He would be beaming with pride sharing his family stories. I will miss you Pop so much, but my life has been so enriched by knowing you. My prayer for your family is to Please find some comfort in knowing now we all have a very special guardian angel watching over us. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Sharing my deepest sympathies,
Mary Chaboudy
Washington DC

Mary Chaboudy - May 30, 2020 at 01:19 AM



“ Pop touched so many people and was truly a legend. I enjoyed sitting back with a drink, listening to his stories in that slow, easy way he talked. Always looking over his glasses at you to see your reaction, I would just shake my head and laugh at him. I will raise a glass in your honor, my brother.

Brody Hubbard
DPMU Redshirt
DMORT VI
LRAT DC
Newport, AR

Brody Hubbard - May 29, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ You were the first to call and check on me after the Joplin tornado ripped through my town. Thanks for always looking after me and the rest of our DMORT family. XOXO

Michelle Waldron
DMORT VII

Michelle Waldron - May 29, 2020 at 03:26 PM



“ May your memory be eternal Pops!

David Williams
DMORT V
Daleville, Virginia



David Williams - May 29, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Nicole Frasco - May 29, 2020 at 02:57 PM



“ What a great guy and friend. He always ‘made things right.’ I, as well as all my DMORT team members, will miss him more than we can express in words. All my prayers and love are with you.

Dr. Corinne Stern
DMORT VI

Dr. Corinne E. Stern - May 29, 2020 at 02:51 PM



“ What a wonderful legacy you have left. I am one of those fortunate DMIRT members that had several deployments with you. Rest well and thank you for all you have accomplished!!

Brad Targhetta - May 29, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ To the Frascos from our NDMS family, we are blessed with knowing you were there for us, in good and bad. Your presence accomplished much and will never be replaced. For your family, thanks for sharing John with us. In our thoughts and our prayers for eternity. Tony Averbuch

Tony Averbuch - May 29, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



James@Fullertonfh.com - May 29, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ My condolences to the Family of John Frasco, He was really a 'POPS' and I (we) have learned so much from him. I will never forget the warmth and love that he displayed to all his team members. May he Rest in Peace.

Thomas O'Connor
DMORT V - MLI

THOMAS M. O'CONNOR - May 29, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



James@Fullertonfh.com - May 29, 2020 at 12:15 PM