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Francis J. "Frank" McCluskey | 2017 | Obituary



Francis J. "Frank" McCluskey

April 01, 2017

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Francis Joseph ("Frank") McCluskey, Age 90, passed away peacefully with his loving wife Joan by his side on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Frank was a long time resident of Pylesville, Maryland.

Born in New York City, New York on September 15, 1926, Frank lived in Manhattan and attended and graduated from Haaren High School and enjoyed and excelled in playing baseball in and around New York City.

In 1944, Frank enlisted and was inducted in the 17th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army serving in a tank battalion. His distinguished career included defending his country serving in campaigns in Korea and Okinawa. Frank earned the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal as Private First Class before being discharged with honor from the Army in late 1946.

After his military service, Frank returned back to New York City to one of his loves of playing baseball, when his talents caught the attention of professional baseball scouts. Frank joined the minor league affiliates of the Brooklyn Dodgers and in 1947 was signed as an infielder being assigned originally to the Dodger's Appalachian League affiliate in Mississippi, the Pulaski Counts where he played third base. In 1949, the Dodgers moved Frank up to the Cotton States League affiliate, the Greenwood Dodgers where he made the League's All Star team that year. With his success in 1949, Frank moved up once again to the Tri-State League with the Ashville Tourists in North Carolina where he completed his minor league baseball career in 1951 covering the "hot corner" for each of those teams.

Frank once again returned back to his native New York following his passion for law enforcement where he was accepted into the ranks of the New York City Police Department, originally assigned as a police officer. Frank's early experiences took him to the 32nd Precinct in Harlem, and later, the 68th Precinct providing police service to the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Fort Hamilton. Frank was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and served in the 13th Precinct in New York City, as an assistant to Police Commissioner Patrick Murphy and then assigned to the NYPD's Ballistics and Scientific Research Squad. Frank retired from the NYPD as Sergeant in 1978.

In 1953, Frank met the love of his life, Joan Andersen, while entering the A Train of the New York subway system near Fort Tryon Park. Married on October 15th, 1955, Joan and Frank settled in the St. Ephrem's parish in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn where they raised four children. After retirement in 1978, Frank relocated to Newfoundland, NJ continuing his passion for law enforcement accepting a position in Corporate Security until 1998 for American Cyanamid in Wayne, NJ.

Now in full retirement, in 1998, Frank and Joan relocated to Pylesville, Maryland where they have resided for the past 18 years. Frank continued in retirement surrounded by family and friends, and especially enjoyed his grandchildren, his love of the New York Yankees, volunteering at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, and found great joy working in and around his house and grounds in northern Maryland.


Frank is survived by his wife of 61 years, Joan; daughter Maureen McCluskey Jennings and her husband Bruce, also from Pylesville; his three sons James and his wife, Deborah of Princeton Junction, NJ; Michael and his wife Judy of Bel Air, MD and Francis and his wife Dee of Ledgewood, NJ. Also surviving are his four grandchildren, Morgan McCluskey Wirtz of Pylesville, Michael McCluskey of New Jersey, Heather Demos and Jackie Bell of Florida, as well as five great grandchildren.

Frank was predeceased by his four sisters, Anna, Margaret, Mary and Eileen.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, April 28th, 2017 at 2PM at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 1021 St. Mary's Road, Pylesville, MD 21132, Phone: 410-879-4015

A private interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. Mary's Food Pantry, Attn: St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 1021 St. Mary's Road, Pylesville, MD 21132, Phone: 410-879-4015,Fax: 410-452-8493

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