



## Francis D'Aversa



## Francis "Frank" D'Aversa

March 14, 1934 - August 2, 2020

A Joyful and Congenial Person  
Veteran and Unionman

Dear Friends,

In honesty I did not know Frank D'Aversa well. But when you met him or talked with him on the phone you felt like you had known him your entire life. He was a friendly man who often chuckled as he spoke. That never interrupted what he was saying, but joined his words and personality as recurring evidence of his good humor. Year after year he and his wife Liz were the **first** to buy tickets to the Chili Bowl. They were Chili Bowl-philes and from the moment Frank entered the hall, his cowboy hat and walking stick in hand, I knew the Bowl was ON. Liz became familiar with CU through the Eagle Fest and it was the beginning of a long and happy relationship.

CU is filled with personalities who show up for certain activities and their presence somehow just completes the event. If they aren't there it is like a good recipe with a missing ingredient; it's just not the same.

Frank was that kind of spice.

In looking for a picture of him I stumbled upon this Facebook video of him telling his war stories. He served in Germany during the Korean war, and it brought back the Cold War times to watch Frank talking about his experiences. [Click here](#) to see the clip.

Our condolences go to his wife Liz and his family and friends.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto  
CU Maurice River Board President



Francis "Frank" D'Aversa

## Francis D'Aversa

1934-2020

Francis (Frank) D' Aversa died Sunday morning, August 2, 2020, at Haven Hospice in JFK hospital. Frank, born March 14, 1934, was the son of Rosaline and Jennie D' Aversa, Sicilian immigrants. Frank and his younger brothers, Salvatore and Leonard, were raised with a multitude of cousins who were more like brothers and sisters. Frank served with the United States Army in occupied Germany during the Cold War (see his YouTube video: Frank D'Aversa; War Stories- and "like" it). He graduated from New York University thanks to his G.I. benefits.

Frank joined the New York City Department of Social Services in August of 1965 as a caseworker and met Elizabeth (Liz) Wake at his first training session. He and Liz were married on a hillside near Warwick, NY in June of 1971, thus adding to his cousins by blood and the heart. Frank and Liz purchased a cottage next to the Green Brook in Plainfield, NJ. During a massive flood, they were not discouraged, as the serenity of the setting provided a balance to the chaos at work, as they served a clientele made up of individuals struggling with homelessness, addiction, and the prison population, not to mention the challenging bureaucracy.

Frank believed in active citizen participation in democracy. He was an involved union member (SSEU and DC 37). He credited the G.I. benefits for his education and strongly believed in the advocacy of unions for the creation of a middle class. Frank was one of the original New Democrats for Plainfield and a vocal member and claimant to the privilege of the floor as a member of the Plainfield Democratic City Committee and the Union County Democratic Committee from 2003-2019. As a believer in civic responsibility, he also served as a member of the Green Brook Flood Commission and the Plainfield Citizens Budget Committee during the 1990s. He attended many City Council meetings.

Frank was a voracious reader, a connoisseur of fine bourbon, a lover of wolves, a wearer of many seasonal hats, a world traveler, a student of politics, and a true friend and neighbor. He was content with a glass of Wofford, a Spencer novel, and a purring cat on his lap. Frank approached his cancer diagnosis as he approached everything - firm in his belief that hard and honest work would result in a good end. He was positive that he would walk home with one of his walking sticks.

Frank is remembered by Liz, his wife of 49 years, a niece, Munia, a nephew, Mike (Diana), and his numerous loving family members. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Plainfield Symphony, the Plainfield Public Library, and Defenders of

Wildlife. Liz hopes that we will achieve a safer new normal in 2021 and that travel will be easier so that friends and relatives can gather to remember and celebrate the life and death of a good man. Frank was a great friend of the HSP/Drake House Museum, and helped his wife, Liz, a Trustee, with many tasks to prepare for receptions, and he was always willing to offer advice. Frank, you are missed and rest in peace.

## CU ON THE RIVER

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