



Francis L. Castro

March 27, 1948 - September 29, 2017

Francis L. Castro was born March 27th 1948 in the Mississippi River town of Savanna, Illinois. After graduating from Savanna High School in 1966, he began an adventurous life that would span almost 70 years and take him across the United States and the World. He attended and graduated from the Institute of Medical Technique in Minneapolis, MN and went on to St. Anthony Hospital School of X-Ray Technology in Rockford, IL. Upon graduating from St. Anthony's, he worked there in the X-ray and specialty departments for several years until 1970 brought a new calling for him; becoming a Rockford Police Officer. Being fluent in English, Spanish and the ability to sign, his skills were put to good use in his new career serving and protecting.

Fran loved life - his family and friends, he loved to hike, spearfish, hunt, camp, ride his Harley and was diligent in his fight against Parkinson's disease, making sure the disease did not define who he was. He was intelligent, incredibly funny, quick witted, mischievous and proud. His spirit was undeniable, never turning his back on a challenge he felt could be solved or person he hoped he could help. Creativity was seen in the custom-made hunting knives he worked on for weeks, then enjoyed by friends and family members, and the many home projects he tackled with earnest.

Fran met his future wife Jo in Minneapolis and they married in 1972. Over the years, Fran said his greatest accomplishment in life was being a father to their

son Brady and daughter Beth. The joy, love and sense of pride he had for his kids was so fulfilling for him. The impact he made on the lives of those around him is immeasurable and will never be forgotten.

Once he became a father, Fran decided it was time to find a career with fewer dangers and more family time. He worked his way into the trucking industry, first on the shipping and receiving dock and later became an Account Executive with USF Holland Motor Express, a position he enjoyed for 25 years, retiring in 2007.

Fran was a true American patriot who loved serving his country in the Naval Air Reserves for 12 years. He will be honored with a Military service and burial. He not only served his country but also his community; being a part of the Big Brother/Big Sister organization, Senior High Fellowship leader with Jo for Westminster Presbyterian teens, volunteer wrestling assistant for the Hononegah High School Varsity Wrestling team, Hononegah High School Board member, Board member of Rockton Sanitary District and Belvidere, Illinois' Police Department Spanish speaking liaison, assisting with the Latino community.

Travel was a passion for Fran and Jo and they were fortunate enough to have had many wonderful vacations with family and friends throughout the United States and abroad. Their favorite place is Puerto Vallarta, Mexico where they made lasting memories with old friends and new for 27 years.

Fran is survived by his wife Jo, children Brady and Beth, mother Lupe Castro, brother Jay (Georgann), brother Dan, sister Roxanne Smith (Phillip), brothers and sisters-in-law Tom and Barb Stone & Rick and Becky Sitz, many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and their children, whom he loved dearly. Preceded in passing by his father Ramon Castro, Grandparents Juan and Juanita Ramirez & Frank and Antonia Castro, mother-in-law and father-in-law

Chuck and Doris Sessions, as well as many other family members.

Our family has so much love and gratitude for the medical care Fran received from UW-Madison Hospital nurses and doctors, Van Matre Rehabilitation Hospital employees, especially Jenny, Jeanie, Julia and Donna, and AGRACE Hospice medical staff Erica, Sara, Kristine, Edward, Sue, Julie and Jenny. We are eternally grateful for the overwhelming comfort and support we have received from family and friends during this difficult journey. Each of you hold a special place in our hearts and truly blessed to have you all in our lives.

Visitation will be Friday, October 6th, 2017 from 4p-7p at Roscoe United Methodist Church, 10816 Main St., Roscoe, Illinois 61073

A private burial for immediate family will be held Saturday October 7th, 2017

Funeral & Memorial Service will be Saturday October 7th, 2017 at 11a at Roscoe United Methodist Church, 10816 Main St., Roscoe, Illinois 61073

In lieu of flowers, we graciously request memorials be given in care of the family, to be shared in Fran's honor with the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease, RUMC Community Garden Mission fund, Pedaling for Parkinson's, Parkinson's Boxing programs and AGRACE Hospice.

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Share a memory or condolence at www.graceFH.com

Cemetery Details

Rockton Cemetery

500 West Street
Rockton, IL 61072

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Roscoe United Methodist Church
10816 Main St.
Roscoe, IL 61073

Funeral Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Roscoe United Methodist Church
10816 Main St.
Roscoe, IL 61073

Tribute Wall

SW

“ *Frances was a rare, kind gentleman. His essence was deep & gentle. I feel blessed to have known him many years ago and then I also had the pleasure of seeing him again at Lupe's 80th birthday party at the VFW. My sincere condolences to his entire family.*
Sue Walker (Friedenbach)

Sue Walker - October 09, 2017 at 12:55 AM

JF

“ *Sorry to hear the passing of Fran. He was always a pleasure to work with on the Belvidere Police Auxiliary.*

John Fish - October 06, 2017 at 04:15 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



October 06, 2017 at 12:58 PM

MG

“ *Michael Glover purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



Michael Glover - October 06, 2017 at 11:51 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



October 05, 2017 at 08:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



October 05, 2017 at 05:51 PM



“ *Brian Miranda sent a virtual gift in memory of Francis L. Castro*



Brian Miranda - October 05, 2017 at 04:42 PM



“ *Love, Matt and Jamie Pendergrass purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



Love, Matt and Jamie Pendergrass - October 04, 2017 at 06:39 PM

EM

“ We, the Meza's, pray for the soul of Frank and our wishes for strength and serenity in the Castro's family in these difficult and sad moments.-
Lucy and Eduardo



eduardo meza - October 04, 2017 at 03:29 PM

TM

“ All I can say is that I loved my cousin Fran and admire how much of an inspiration he was for our family. May he rest in peace and some day we will see each other again. Tony wanted to add that Fran was the very first family member to welcome him into the Ramirez family.

Much love,

Tammy Ramirez Mendoza and Tony Mendoza

Tammy Ramirez Mendoza - October 04, 2017 at 12:13 PM

AR

“ Adriana, Giselle, Alejandra and Ryan purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Francis L. Castro.



Adriana, Giselle, Alejandra and Ryan - October 03, 2017 at 08:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



October 03, 2017 at 05:10 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



October 03, 2017 at 04:08 PM



Elizabeth Binger

“ *So sorry to hear of Fran's passing. I have known Fran for many years while he worked at Holland. RIP Fran.*



Elizabeth Binger - October 03, 2017 at 02:21 PM



JF

“ *Rest in Peace Fran*

John Leggero. Ft Myers FL - October 03, 2017 at 01:47 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.



October 03, 2017 at 12:10 PM



“ Our deepest, sincere sympathy to the family of Francis L Castro. Henry & Virginia (Adrian) Winter. May he rest in peace.

Virginia M. Winter - October 03, 2017 at 10:05 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.



October 03, 2017 at 08:24 AM



“ Deepest sympathy- The Joseph Ferris Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Francis L. Castro.



Deepest sympathy- The Joseph Ferris Family - October 03, 2017 at 06:17 AM



“ *Dan, Toni, and family*
We are so sorry for your loss. Losing a loved one is hard, but we have Heavenly Fathers promise of life hereafter... Prayers for all of you during this difficult time. Hugs to you.

Lois Clark - October 02, 2017 at 11:02 PM

VS

Don & Vinnie Schweda
As God leads your Dad home, find comfort in the promise of eternal life and the kindness of family and friends . With sympathy and prayers may God surround you with loving care! Sorry for your loss!

Vinnie Schweda - October 03, 2017 at 11:51 AM

PN

“ *I knew Francis when he was a very young boy. I ran around with his Aunt Helen Castro and went to her house quite a bit. Francis would be there with the other kids. He was a little cutie. My sympathy to the family and especially his mother, Lupie. In sympathy, Paula Brock Nehr Korn*

Paula Brock Nehr Korn - October 02, 2017 at 08:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Francis L. Castro.*



 October 02, 2017 at 08:25 PM