



Frank J. Ricotta

June 18, 1936 - October 6, 2020

Frank J. Ricotta, 84, of Pueblo, passed away Oct. 6, 2020.

Frank dedicated his life to his Roman Catholic faith, his family, and the Pueblo community. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife, Carole, with whom he recently celebrated 66 years of marriage. He is also survived by his adoring children Constance Ricotta (Mike D'Cristina), Carole Guinane (Tom), Therese Suazo (Tim), Frank Jr. (Barbie), and Dominic (Stacy). Frank's 12 beautiful grandchildren and 16 sweet great grandchildren brought him tremendous joy. He will also continue to be cherished by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, Godchildren, and friends.

Frank's loved ones will miss his smile, quick wit, sense of humor, storytelling, guidance, wisdom, voice of reason, compassion, unyielding support, unconditional love, generosity of spirit, and strong and positive presence in our lives.

Frank was born on June 18, 1936 in Pueblo. He is predeceased by his parents Frank and Nancy, his Godparents Dominick and Vera Genovese, baby Ricotta who became an angel prior to birth, his sisters Judith Willett (Tom), Constance Pryor (Edward), Elizabeth Albanese (Pete), and Lucille Moore (Robert), his Uncle Vince and Aunt Victoria Marion, and his friends John DeNardo and Anthony Paglione.

Frank is a lifelong educator and advocate of public education. A man of faith, integrity, humility, intellect, loyalty, and reliability, Frank always put his children, grandchildren, and students first as their teacher, coach, faculty sponsor, tutor, mentor, and champion. He taught mathematics at Pueblo South High School, where students and faculty alike universally loved him. Frank always urged his own children and grandchildren to place a high value on education.

Frank served as an administrator in Pueblo School District #60 in human resources and facilities lead roles prior to his retirement. His passion for public education led him to victory in an election to serve a six-year term on the Colorado State Board of Education representing the Third Congressional District. Frank was selected for the Pueblo South High School Alumni Hall of Fame, one of the school's first faculty members to receive this honor.

Frank obtained his A.A. degree from Pueblo Junior College, his B.A. degree from Adams State College, his M.A. degree from the University of Southern Colorado (now Colorado State University, Pueblo), and his Ed.D. degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He also studied mathematics in a summer program at Boston College pursuant to a grant.

Frank played semi-professional baseball as a young man. He was not only a baseball fan, but a New York Yankees superfan. Frank also loved his dogs and rescued many in need of a good home. He has served on the Pueblo Catholic Diocese finance board and the Shrine of St. Therese parish board. He is past president of the Roselawn Cemetery Board, co-founder of the Pueblo La Famiglia Italian heritage chapter, and past board member of the City Park Municipal Golf Course. As a licensed professional contractor, Frank contributed to the residential expansion of Pueblo's southside during the summers between school years.

Frank maintained a strong faith in Jesus Christ his Lord and Savior and a lifelong devotion to Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord. Frank is a longtime parishioner of the Shrine of St. Therese.

Frank's family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Father Mike (Chrisman), the Rivera family for their loving care, and the staffs of St. Mary Corwin Hospital, Penrose Hospital, Sangre de Cristo Hospice, and Bonaventure of Pueblo.

There will be a public viewing at Roselawn Chapel on October 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Frank's Rosary service will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at the Shrine of St. Therese at 10:00 a.m. His funeral service will immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. Frank will be rested during a private service at Roselawn Cemetery on the afternoon of October 13.

Due to the coronavirus, we are asking those with any medical conditions to send their love and prayers from home. At the Rosary and funeral services, the Shrine of St. Therese offers only limited seating and requires social distancing and masks. With deep regret and sincere apologies in these difficult times, church attendance will therefore be limited in order to ensure available seating for Frank's closest family and friends. The Rosary and funeral services can be viewed online via the Shrine of St. Therese livestream beginning at 10:00 a.m. on October 13 by visiting the Shrine of St. Therese YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNUW4PgceNyVAS0C63N5dIA>

In lieu of flowers and food, donations may be made in Frank's honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at www.stjude.org, by phone at 1-800-822-6344, or by mail at 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

1706 Roselawn Rd
Pueblo, CO 81006

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT **12**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Roselawn Funeral Home Chapel
1706 Roselawn Rd
Pueblo, CO 81006

Funeral Mass

OCT **13**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Shrine of St. Therese
300 Goodnight
Pueblo, CO 81004

Tribute Wall

JP

“ Our families have been blessed with the friendship over many years with Frank. He truly lived life with God, Wife & Family & Friends & in that order. He was an inspiration to us all. We all will truly miss him.

With Love, Jill Paglione & Children & Grand-Children

Jill A. Paglione - November 11, 2020 at 03:36 PM

FZ

“ We are so sorry to hear about Frank. He was such a good person and role model to all. Our prayers are with Frank and all of the family.

Frank and Joan Zugelder and family

Frank & Joan Zugelder - October 19, 2020 at 05:04 PM

BS

“ Frank was the kindest, most wonderful man. He was my favorite teacher of all time, and from him I learned not only math, but many lessons in how to treat others. We continued to be friends over the years, and I always knew he would greet me with a smile, encouragement and affirmation. He showed how he believed in you and built others up always. I am grateful to have had such a great friend and mentor. Frank lived a full and beautiful life and leaves a legacy of love for everyone blessed enough to know him.

*With love and admiration,
Bennie and Jim Swanson*

Bennie L Swanson - October 14, 2020 at 01:42 PM

VL

“ My condolences to the Ricotta family. We appreciate how much you shared Frank with the rest of us. He was such a generous man. I really enjoyed the La Familia events he helped to arrange. His smile and wonderful sense of humor will be missed. I'm sure he's smiling at all of us now sharing his love from above.

Vicki Lim - October 14, 2020 at 11:24 AM

TV

“ My condolences to the Ricotta family. There was one constant if you went to South High over a period of many years. You had to go through a math course via Mr Ricottas class. My father was a Teacher at South and colleague (Mr Vinci) of Mr Ricotta and a fellow teacher. Everyone had a great deal of respect of you. And we all are in a better place because we understand math at a higher level. I am glad for teachers like this as they had a positive influence on our lives and futures.

Thanks!

Ted Vinci and Family.

Ted Vinci - October 13, 2020 at 10:33 PM

EV

“ Carole and Family, I am so saddened to hear of Frank's passing. My deepest sympathy. Frank was a great boss, a good friend and a wonderful man. May he Rest In Peace.

Eleanor Valdez - October 13, 2020 at 06:41 PM

DA

*Dear Carol & Family,
I am so sorry to hear about Frank's passing and I am especially sorry for not being there for his Memorial Service. Your husband Frank was a very sweet and kind hearted person. Frank will be missed by all so very much.*

I just found out about Frank's passing because I have not been in touch. I am so very sorry for not keeping in touch as well.

May God and Peace

Be with you and your

Family in this time of

Sadness.

Deborah Andalini

Deborah Andalini - October 15, 2021 at 01:53 AM

DA

man. I just found out about Frank's passing just now. I pray for you Carol, and your Family's peace. My Love and prayers are with you and your Family.

Love ❤️ & God Send

To You & Your

Family,

Deborah Andalini

Deborah Andalini - October 15, 2021 at 01:59 AM

DM

*“ Carole, Carole Sue and the entire Ricotta Family,
We are so sorry for your loss and so it is with great sadness we send this message. Frank was a very special and generous person filled with kindness, understanding, and showed much compassion. He was loved by all of you and well respected by his colleagues as an educator. It was an honor for us to know him. He was committed to his family being very proud of all of you and your accomplishments. Frank has left a wonderful, strong legacy. Please know we are keeping all of you in our prayers that you will find comfort in sharing your loving memories at this sad time.*

With sincere sympathy,

Dr. Gordon and Helen Murley, Jeffrey, Mark and Kevin

Dr. and Helen Murley - October 13, 2020 at 03:24 PM

LP

“ To Carole and the entire Ricotta family: We were so saddened to hear of the passing of Frank. Eric and Rachael so enjoyed his stories that always brought a smile to their faces. We certainly admired Frank for his dedication to the teaching profession and to the future of young people. His devotion to his family and his Catholic faith is an inspiration to all. We will miss Frank. May the love of family and friends comfort and strengthen you in the days ahead. Prayers and blessings for all of you! The Ron Pumphrey family

Linda Pumphrey - October 13, 2020 at 02:13 PM

RP

“ To the Ricotta family, Sorry to hear of the passing of Frank he was a good man and will be missed. Our prayers are with you at the difficult time. Mike and Raeann Parlapiano

Raeann Parlapiano - October 12, 2020 at 07:42 PM

YC

“ Your Friends and Colleagues at Cognizant purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Frank J. Ricotta.



Your Friends and Colleagues at Cognizant - October 12, 2020 at 12:40 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frank J. Ricotta.



October 12, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ Dear Carol and family,
So sorry to hear of the loss of Frank. Heartfelt condolences. Such a great godfather. Will miss him greatly.
God Bless,
Phillip and Kathy Albano and family



Phillip Albano - October 12, 2020 at 01:39 AM



“ Dear Carole, and family my deepest sympathy for your loss, when .Frank was the best boss, mentor and friend. I had many coffees and lunches with Frank, cherished all the guidance and storytelling. I was blessed to have one last lunch with Frank and Anthony before they both left us. I truly will miss Frank. Ben Montoya

Ben montoya - October 11, 2020 at 06:33 PM



“ Sorry to hear we lost you my friend. I'll never forget the many years we shared together at South High. You will be dearly missed by all who knew you. Jim Daugherty

James Daugherty - October 11, 2020 at 03:01 PM

LH

“ To Carol and family, Lewis and Betty Hunker send our deepest sympathy to you
Lew enjoyed working with Frank, we know he will be missed by all who knew him

Lewis/Betty Hunker - October 11, 2020 at 02:48 PM

VC

“ Uncle Frank will be deeply missed. He was always a calming effect on all of us kids growing up. I never wanted to disappoint him. He encouraged me to follow my dreams, and that anything was possible. I contribute part of my success as an individual to him. I was thankful that Uncle Frank was able to see my children grow up and become successful adults. He will always be remembered. With Our Sincerest Condolences
Vicki and Rick Carara

Vicki and Rick Carara - October 11, 2020 at 02:20 PM

GS

“ Our condolences to the Ricotta family.
Frank was a great friend and colleague. We taught together at South many years and shared great memories. Frank and Bob framed our first home in Pueblo West in 1972 and we are forever grateful to them for starting us on the path to home ownership when we could barely afford the cost of building.
Frank was a great educator and role model to us both and a loyal advocate for South High. Rest In Peace good friend, knowing that you will be remembered as a positive influence on so many.

Sincerely, Gary and Kathy Salimeno

Gary Salimeno - October 11, 2020 at 02:09 PM

BM

“ Ben Montoya purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Frank J. Ricotta.



Ben Montoya - October 11, 2020 at 01:10 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Frank J. Ricotta.



October 11, 2020 at 12:03 PM

MD

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss, Carole and family..May God's peace be with you.
Mary grace (Biondolillo) Dremel

Mary G. Dremel - October 11, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank J. Ricotta.



October 11, 2020 at 08:53 AM

FC

“ *From The Team at Venture , Beverly Hills CA purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Frank J. Ricotta.*



From The Team at Venture , Beverly Hills CA - October 10, 2020 at 06:27 PM

BB

“ *Frank Ricotta was blessed in so many ways. He was a blessing to me and many others all through his life. Frank was a big tease and fun to be around. He was a gentle spirit who had a contagious smile, quick wit with a loving, caring and giving heart, a man of faith. I cherish many sweet memories of our Frank.*

Beverly Beard - October 10, 2020 at 02:07 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank J. Ricotta.*



October 10, 2020 at 01:13 PM