



Frank T. Special

SEP 3, 1945 - FEB 15, 2014



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Frank T. Special

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Special, Frank Timothy 09/03/1945 ~ 02/15/2014 SAN DIEGO — Frank Timothy Special passed away on February 15, 2014, losing his fight with bone cancer at age 68. His family was by his side during his final hours. Frank was born in Fort Worth, Texas to Salvatore “Sam” (deceased) and Buena Special. The family moved to San Diego, where they settled in Mission Bay. He graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. He enjoyed a long successful career with the County of San Diego and retired as the Chief of Operations for Parks and Recreations after 33 years of service. Frank enjoyed football, a good cigar, and Italian food with a glass of Chianti. He was a beloved Son, Brother and Friend who will be missed. He is survived by his loving mother, Buena, his sister Sherri Special-Snow (Larry), and his brother Lynn Special (Sherry). Viewing: Clairemont Mortuary, Thursday, February 20, 2014, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at Immaculata Catholic Church, Friday, Feb. 21st, at 10:00 a.m. – Burial Holy Cross Cemetery. Arrangements under the direction of Clairemont Mortuary, San Diego, CA.



Tribute Wall

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MH

Michael Haraway posted:

It was only this current week, when I was speaking to a member of my HR Team, and mentioning working with Frank Special at Parks and Recreation, someone who I greatly admired and respected during and after my time at DPR. Some of my best working memories of my entire career are working with Frank to support his role in managing Park Operations, a role where he made a difference to the entire region where he worked to expand and enhance parks and recreation opportunities throughout the region. Today, a few days later, I found out that Frank had recently passed away, and I am deeply saddened by his passing. My condolences go out to his family at this difficult time.

February 26 at 5:00 PM

OO

Oblique Oblique posted:

I had the privilege of working with Frank Special at San Diego County Parks for more than 20 years. My favorite story about Frank was when he was a park ranger at a special event. An elderly woman went up and told him he was "a hunk from Heaven in that uniform!" Now we know you're up there watching over us! Frank was a very special friend, down to earth, good for a laugh, yet dedicated to his career of community service. Aptly named, gone too soon, but not to be forgotten. Our prayers and sincere condolences to the family and friends of Frank Special. Marianne Bickhaus Drafting Tech II, Retired Spring Valley, CA

February 24 at 5:00 PM

RS

R. C. Shokal posted:

My condolences go out to Frank's family and friends. While I did not know him personally, I have heard of his great leadership in the Parks and Recreation Department. He truly embodied the term leader – as he was promoted, he did not forget the employees under him, but rather turned and offered his hand to help them also advance in their careers. This is the type of leadership that is so rare – and such a blessing to those who work for him. It is the mark of a true leader, and a great person!

February 20 at 5:00 PM



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OO

Oblique Oblique posted:

I worked with Frank for 10 years. He will long be remembered for his good work, wit, charm, love of cigars and the finer things in life, contagious laugh and most of all, his genuine kindness to all. Frank was one of the good guys. My condolences to his family. May you find comfort in knowing the many, many lives he touched.

February 20 at 5:00 PM

AH

Amy Harbert posted:

I will remember Frank with a big smile, enjoying life to the fullest. He always had an interesting story to share and was supportive, willing to lend a listening ear. He took great pride in his work as a public servant and cared deeply about his colleagues and friends. A life too short – he will certainly be missed. My thoughts, prayers and support are with his family and our County/DPR family – Amy Harbert

February 20 at 5:00 PM

RB

Retired Supervising Ranger Jim Blakeley posted:

I have worked with Frank for about 33 years, and all the while he was a great friend and leader.

February 20 at 5:00 PM

RA

Richard Ayres posted:

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, Frank was a great person, he will be missed.

February 19 at 5:00 PM

AR

Angie Rapalee posted:

Frank was a client at my salon for 20 years. I loved his sarcasm and his self-deprecating sense of humor. I met numerous people during my career, but Frank always remained my favorite because he had such an affable manner. We spent countless hours telling stories about our rambunctious Pit Bulls, our families, and just laughing about life's many ironies. I am saddened to learn that he did not get to enjoy his well-deserved retirement longer. My sincere condolences go out to his family. He was truly a great man.

February 19 at 5:00 PM



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RF

Randy Ford posted:

Frank had true compassion for people and many owe their careers to his kindness. Frank was and still is DPR family and he committed his life to Parks. I consider him one of the best men I have ever worked with and for. Goodbye friend. My condolences to Frank's family.

February 19 at 5:00 PM

JS

Jerry Schoen posted:

My condolences go out to family. I worked with Frank for many years and Frank was the most honest, professional, knowledgeable and humorous person I've ever meet. I will continue to wear a tie each day in his honor. Hope to see you again one day my friend we will all miss you.

February 19 at 5:00 PM

CW

Cheryl Wegner posted:

My sincere condolences to Frank's family and friends. He is truly missed.

February 19 at 5:00 PM

OO

Oblique Oblique posted:

Blessings to Frank's family in their loss. Frank was a wonderful man, and I am very grateful to have worked with him. I will always have very warm memories of his sense of humor and generosity toward others. He was honest, genuine, and unique. Peggy Rose

February 19 at 5:00 PM

GW

Gale Withrow posted:

Thank you for your guidance and many kindnesses through the years.

February 19 at 5:00 PM

JP

Judy Tjong-Pietrzak posted:

What moves through us is a silence, a quiet sadness, a longing for one more day, one more word, one more touch... Frank was never short of stories, he is always ready to listen and ready to give advice. Frank will be missed.

February 19 at 5:00 PM



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BB

Becky Banda posted:

My condolences go out to Frank's family and friends. It was a pleasure working with him.

February 19 at 5:00 PM

EO

Elayne Ortiz posted:

I was so saddened to hear of Frank's passing. We both came to the County Parks Dept around the same time. When Frank came to the main office we became good friends and co-workers. He supervised my daughter and my son-in-law. He always called me "Toots" to the dismay of the "Affirmative Action" folks, but it never bothered me. We all loved to tease him about his spiffy wardrobe and I loved to listen to him tell stories about his Dad (kept me laughing for hours) like the one about Frank and his brother hanging Sal's Christmas lights. He was a good friend and I will miss him. He really was "SPECIAL".

February 18 at 5:00 PM

JM

Jim Mccarty posted:

Miss you Frank – kindly thoughts to your family.

February 18 at 5:00 PM

JE

Jane Engleton posted:

God Bless you FRANK. You are truly SPECIAL. Janie

February 18 at 5:00 PM

BP

Bruce Phillips posted:

Frank was a good friend and a Great Chief of Park Operations, he genuinely cared about the people he supervised. It's just sad, after all the years he looked after us and the Parks Department he had so little time to enjoy his own Retirement. He will be missed by so many people, he touched over the years.

February 18 at 5:00 PM



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RC

Roger Covalt posted:

I am better off for having known Frank. Frank always stood behind his staff and always had a good tale to tell. He will be missed by many. I tip my Ranger Stetson to Frank.

February 18 at 5:00 PM

SM

Sol Masangkay posted:

I share comfort in knowing Frank is no longer suffering. I send thoughts of sympathy and support to his Family as they begin their journey without him. I worked with Frank in the County Parks & Rec and we retired together last March 2013 and that was our happy moments together.

February 18 at 5:00 PM

BC

Bob Copper posted:

I remember the day we hired Frank and how much fun it was to see his career advance. He was a good man, and one of the old breed who wore the uniform and knew parks from the inside out. We spent our youth together, grew old together and shared many, many special times, many good, some tough and many challenging. He was a great colleague and a good friend. It was a privilege to share his life and career with him.

February 18 at 5:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Frank by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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