



Frank Anthony DeCaterina

March 9, 1920 - March 23, 2018

Frank Anthony DeCaterina passed away March 23rd, 2018 at age 98. He was born March 9, 1920 in Newburgh, NY to Silvio and Rose DeCaterina in a family with four brothers and four sisters.

Frank DeCaterina married Cathy Wayne Fleenor of Bristol, TN on May 7, 1950. He is survived by their three children and their spouses: Frank & Ladonna DeCaterina, Diane & Danny Fair, Lynn DeCaterina. Grandchildren: Kerry Fair, Trevor Fair and Bryan DeCaterina. Four Great-Grandchildren: Onnaley, Cohen, Mira and Dakota. And his 'adopted sons', Mitch Skaggs, Frank Wood and Brother Barker.

DeCaterina joined the Navy in World War II and retired 21-years later as a Master Diver, highly decorated for his leadership and bravery on countless rescue missions and dangerous assignments.

DeCaterina's family later settled in Bristol, TN, the home of his wife's family, where he enjoyed another full 20+ year career in advertising sales for WCYB television. Along the way, DeCaterina cultivated a side career and hobby as a professional photographer, always there to capture friends' weddings, parties as well as community and WCYB events.

DeCaterina's most valued contribution to Bristol is the legacy he shares with his wife, Cathy: supporting her founding and development of the Bristol Children's Theatre and Theatre Bristol. Frank was the official photographer and tireless fund-raiser, also lending support for the massive renovation of the Paramount Theater that Cathy spearheaded. Frank enjoyed cards, swimming at the YMCA, crossword puzzles, The Lions Club and most importantly, time with family and friends. His contagious smile will be missed.

The family wishes to thank the staff members at Brookdale, NHC of Bristol and Caris Healthcare for their tireless care and compassion.

A private service will be held.

Condolences and memories may be left for the family at akardfuneralhome.com

Akard Funeral Home (423) 989-4800 is serving the DeCaterina family.

Comments



“ I'm deeply saddened to learn of Frank's DeCaterina's death. The team of Frank and Cathy were a powerful cultural legacy, not only to the Bristol community, but to a region that encompassed over 60 school districts in five states - wide-eyed children who watched the classics of history and literature come alive onstage right before their very eyes. Frank's wonderful photos were instrumental in Theatre Bristol's early success and he was Cathy's "rock." So, rest in eternal peace for a job well done.

Russ Bralley - May 08, 2018 at 10:45 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Frank's passing. I am the wife of the youngest of the family; Michael who passed away in 2014. We did not know much of Frank and his family as the years accumulated We saw or heard from each other infrequently. But since Mike's death Frank and I did call and enjoyed chatting. --Time does slip by; with or without our attention. My deepest condolences to all.
Marian DeCaterina

Marian DeCaterina - March 29, 2018 at 04:36 PM



“ Such a wonderful man. Always with a smile on his face and love in his heart.

Cody Miller

Cody Miller - March 27, 2018 at 04:10 PM



“ Frank Decaterina was easily the coolest man I ever knew. I count my memories of him among my finest possessions. Rest in peace, friend. Kelly McMurray Barker

Kelly McMurray Barker - March 27, 2018 at 05:39 AM



“ Lynn, your Dad left a legacy that will benefit the next generation. He must have been a wonderful man who contributed much to society.

Pauline Maupin - March 26, 2018 at 07:10 PM



“ My friendship with Frank and Cathy goes a long way back. We shared so many wonderful times together and I will never forget the precious moments we had at their home over coffee and conversation. Work, passion, family, photography and all the other things Frank did were important lessons for life for many of us who knew him. His and Cathy's community spirit will be hard to beat by anyone anytime soon. It seemed that their mission was to touch as many people as possible with the idea that creativity and love are simple things to share. RIP Frank I know you and Cathy are taking Heaven by storm.
David and Patty Browning

David and Patty Browning - March 26, 2018 at 01:04 PM



“ The staff and volunteers of Caris Healthcare would like to offer our deepest sympathies. It was such an honor to serve Frank and his family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. If we can be of any assistance please let us know.

Annette Howell - March 26, 2018 at 10:25 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to Lynn, Diane, Frank, and all of the family. We loved Frank and will miss him very much too. He shared his joy and energy with our family and it was always a pleasure to see him. He helped the boys with their swimming and breathing, shared his tomatoes with us, took the kids out for happy meals, told his adventurous stories, came to many theatre performances, and supported and encouraged us. He was a dear person and friend. He also clearly changed the landscape of Bristol with his contributions and support of Theatre Bristol and Cathy and your family's work. He has a legacy as big as his laugh and his smile through his service, work, the Theatre, and you. We are grateful to have shared time with Frank and Cathy. Our prayers are with you.

Samantha Gray - March 26, 2018 at 09:56 AM



“ I have many fond memories of Frank. He was the one who first introduced me to diving first learning in a friends pool. We will miss him.

Frank Glasscock - March 26, 2018 at 07:19 AM



“ It is only appropriate that I heard about Frank's passing while I was in a rehearsal. Like so many people I was blessed to benefit from Frank's indomitable spirit and support for Cathy's work at Theatre Bristol. I also had the good fortune to work with Frank at WCYB. He was a force of nature and I will always remember how his smile made you feel like he could whip the world. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family.

Rick and Lola McVey - March 25, 2018 at 12:52 PM



“ We loved Cathy and Frank and enjoyed working with them through Theatre Bristol and the Paramount Theatre renovations. Cathy's legacy will live on in Bristol forever. Bless you all. Bill and Diane Thompson

Bill and Diane Thompson - March 25, 2018 at 11:01 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Frank's passing. He and Cathy were always so kind to Genie and me. It was like having a second family. Frank seemed to have an unending capacity for helping people and was always a joy to be with.. His family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Joey Jackson

Joseph W Jackson - March 25, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ So sorry to hear of the death of "Big Frank". Enjoyed knowing both he and Cathy.

PHYLLIS TILDEN - March 24, 2018 at 10:13 PM



“ To all of you.....I am deeply saddened at you father,s passing.....I must say the memories I have of your mother and father are still so fresh in my mind, it seems lthat .only yesterday they were together and doing so many wonderful things for all who knew them! Their contributions to this community, and the surrounding regions, have made a lasting impact that will never be forgotten! Your father was so supportive of your mothers dreams, and his enthusiasm was so contagious that no one could ignore him.....they worked together very well.....my thoughts are with each of you....and please know that Theatre Bristol is doing well. Samantha Gray is making sure that their dreams continue to offer our Community theatre for all. I would love to see each of you.....and if there is anything that I can do, please let me know!

Fondly,
Mary Beth

Mary Beth Rainero - March 24, 2018 at 03:56 PM



“ Frank will be missed by all of his friends at Brookdale Bristol and the Bristol community. My mother is a Brookdale Resident and knew Frank and his family for many years. We enjoyed Frank's smile and friendly greetings. We are very appreciative of his, and that of his family's, contribution to our Bristol community over many years of service.

Catherine Brillhart - March 24, 2018 at 09:34 AM



“ Frank, Diane and Lynn,

I was so saddened to learn of your dad's passing. I always enjoyed being in both his and your mom's company. He always had so many interesting stories and was such a kind sweet man. Please know I am keeping all of you in my heart, thoughts and prayers.

Sandy Jones Nickell

sandy nickell - March 23, 2018 at 07:28 PM



“ I loved your Dad,and always looked forward to his “stories “,as well as his enthusiasm for life , please know his passing has left void That no one can feel . David also enjoyed having him as a patient

Connie G Thomas - March 23, 2018 at 04:06 PM