



Frank James Lasch

April 1, 1932 - May 16, 2018

Loudonville-On Wednesday, May 16th, 2018, Frank James Lasch of Loudonville passed peacefully in the comfort of his home surrounded by family and close friends.

Frank was born in Albany, NY on April, 1, 1932, the son of Edward J. Lasch and Mary O'Brien Lasch.

Frank graduated from Christian Brothers Academy, College of the Holy Cross and Cornell Law School. Upon graduating from Cornell, he was commissioned by the Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI as a Lt. j.g. in the United States Navy from which he was honorably discharged in 1960. While still in the service in San Diego, he attended the Democratic Presidential Convention to watch John F. Kennedy's nomination acceptance speech.

After leaving the Navy, he joined the law firm of DeGraff Foy in Albany and thoroughly enjoyed a 40-year law and lobbying practice representing clients large and small. He had a deep sense of caring, decency and ethical integrity that formed the basis of his character, and for which he credited the Jesuits at Holy Cross College for instilling in him at a young age. He also took pleasure

in mentoring many of the firm's young lawyers as well as enlisting them as crew for his sailboat racing.

His time in the Navy ignited a lifelong passion for travel, adventure, and love of being on water. Frank had a great love of sailing, especially on Lake George. He also liked being captain, not crew, and countless people have stories of sailing with him. He loved traveling, having visited all seven continents, and often reminisced about the trips he took over the years with dear friends. But he was happiest surrounding himself with family. He loved organizing numerous family outings and vacations, providing a life full of memories cherished by his children and grandchildren. In later years, he was content sitting on the porch at Lake George looking at the water and being with his family.

Frank donated his time and talent to numerous organizations in the Capital Region. He had a strong commitment to service in all forms and on all levels. Frank's community involvement included serving as president and trustee of the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum (USS Slater); trustee of the Teresian House; treasurer and trustee of the Community Foundation of the Capital Region; trustee of the LaSalle School for Boys; trustee of Siena College, trustee of Maria College; president of the local Holy Cross College Alumni Club; president and trustee of the Fort Orange Club; president and trustee of the Lake George Club; member of the Albany Country Club; parishioner of St. Pius X Church and enthusiastic member of the Dine-a-Round. He was the recipient of numerous awards including the In Hoc Signo award, Holy Cross Alumni Association's highest honor for outstanding and lengthy service to the College in 2006.

Frank is survived by his loving wife of 53 years Mary Ellen Gallagher Lasch. Mary Ellen was the widow of Robert Luddy and mother of seven young children when they married in 1965. Frank adopted the children and he and Mary Ellen had two more soon after. At the time, a family friend joked that he was “the bravest man alive”. He is the beloved father of Meg Carroll (Drew) of Slingerlands; Mark (Lori) of Albany, Susan Helmer (Stephen) of Manlius, NY; Kathleen McNamee (George) of Albany; Karen Welles (Tim) of Albany; Chris of Albany; Beth Clark (Paul) of Saratoga; Terry Edwards (Alex) of Pitlochry, Scotland; and Michael (Alicia) of Loudonville.

Pop-pop is also survived by 27 grandchildren: Kathleen, Siobhan and Martha Mahoney; Emma, Robert and Grace Lasch; John (Jackie) Helmer, Maura (Jack) Conway and Caroline and Meg Helmer; Hannah, Daniel and Roger McNamee; Lauren, Kathryn, Tom and Grace Welles; Patrick Lasch; Michael (Amanda), Erin and Conor Clark; Duncan, Mairi and Eilidh Edwards; William, Christian and Alexandra Lasch; 3 great grandchildren: Teddy Clark; Mary Conway; and Ellie Helmer; and many nieces and nephews.

Frank was predeceased by his parents; his brother Edward and wife Catherine; his sister Mary and husband Joseph LoGuidice; and his uncle and aunt George and Kathryn Foy.

The family would like to thank Dad’s devoted and dedicated caregivers - Ivener Dalberiste, Lisa Fortner and Comfort Yarmeto – for their tireless assistance the last few years as well as St. Peter’s Hospice.

The Memorial Visitation will be held Sunday, May 20, 2018 4:00 to 7:00 pm in St. Pius X Church, Loudonville, NY. Please enter the church through the chapel doorway.

Funeral services Monday, May 21, 2018 at 11:00 am in St. Pius X Church, Loudonville, NY where his Memorial Funeral Mass will be celebrated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the USS Slater or the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern NY.

To leave a special message for the family, light a candle, obtain directions or view other helpful services please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **20**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Pius X Church
23 Crumitie Road
Loudonville, NY

Service

MAY **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Pius X Church
23 Crumitie Road
Loudonville, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *Frank James Lasch*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *My thoughts go out to Frank's family. He was a man of many wonderful accomplishments and lived a long and noteworthy life. The family was fortunate indeed.*
--Ken Blume

Kenneth Blume - May 22, 2018 at 03:12 PM



“ *I did not know Frank, but I wish I had. It sounds like he was the sort of person that I enjoy spending time with--even if it's just sitting on the porch looking out at the water. My best wishes to everyone and especially to my friend Meg (who seems not to have fallen far from the tree). Celebrate a life well lived!*
Kevin

Kevin - May 22, 2018 at 01:38 PM



“ *Dear Meg,
We're so sorry to hear of the passing of Frank. We feel privileged to have met such a decent, warm individual.*

Please convey our sincere condolences to your Mom, siblings, and the girls!

*Our love always,
Ed & Margo Rosen*

Ed & Margo Rosen - May 21, 2018 at 08:00 PM

EN

“ *My condolences to the Lasch family. Many memories of Frank roll through my mind to hear his calm advice and stories of open water sailing off the Carolina coast and barely evading disaster while running from a fast approaching hurricane. He will always be Captain of his own Rainbow; just a bit over the horizon and following another current that is out of our reach. Death can not smother the memories we still have, he will awaken and death will be no more.*

Ed Nolan

Edward Nolan - May 21, 2018 at 10:06 AM

TN

“ When I think of Frank I think of the water. I think of my first taste of saltwater sailing. On a Sunfish capsizing exercise, that Frank insisted we master before heading out on our own off the shores of West Dennis with Mark and his cousin John O'Conner. The capsizing exercise consisted of Frank sailing us a little ways off shore and intentionally tipping us over. After being dumped out of the boat and into the water, we were then instructed to swim around the other side of the Sunfish as it laid over on its side where we were to grab hold of the centerboard and push down on it as to lever the Sunfish upright. At best to train 12 yr old boys anything is no trivial matter but to master the master capsizing exercise to the point where Frank was confident enough to let us sail on our own, was truly a remarkable accomplishment for our group of young eager sailors. The capsizing exercise has been a valuable lifelong sailing skill that I have had to employ more times than I care to admit and whenever I have found myself in that uncomfortable situation, I have been able to right my vessel with the confidence that Frank instilled in me off the shores of West Dennis. Throughout my maritime career Frank Lasch will always be one of my favorite skippers. You will be truly missed in our family and we will always cherish our memories together as life long friends and neighbors where so many of our best life experiences and stories have been intertwined throughout our lives.

Tim Nolan and Family.

Tim Nolan - May 21, 2018 at 07:07 AM

TR

“ I learned Friday that Frank Lasch slipped the hook on Wednesday, following a long illness. He was an attorney and former destroyer officer, who served in USS ROBERT L WILSON and USS PARSONS. He was a major influence on the USS SLATER and in my life.

When USS SLATER came to Albany, there was no real management plan, and Mayor Jennings tasked Bill Bantz and Mercer Management to the job of temporarily administering the ship. One day, Bantz asked me to take a guest down to the ship and show him around. That was Frank Lasch, and probably my most significant contribution to the project was not scaring Frank away on that first visit.

There is no way I can express my gratitude for Frank's support and confidence over the years. Following completion of his law degree, Frank said "No" to an Admiral, and turned down a JAG commission so he could go to sea on the destroyers. He was always proud of that. Frank came on board as President in 1998, and with a firm hand on the helm, put the project on the road to financial stability. He successfully lobbied for \$200,000 in member items from the New York State Legislature, back in 2000.

At his own expense, he flew out to the Destroyer Escort Commanding Officers Association Convention in San Diego. He raised \$90,000 from DECO, thanks to a challenge grant issued by Nash Broaddus. He then organized a reunion of these former Commanding Officers in Albany, in 2001.

Frank was instrumental in the creation of our growing endowment fund. Always the fiscal conservative, without Frank's efforts we would be living hand-to-mouth. Never a micromanager, Frank created the environment of financial stability that has made my job tenable. I came to Albany on a one-year leave of absence, and thanks to Frank's leadership, decided to stay on.

One of Frank's greatest accomplishments was bringing our current Board Chairman, BJ Costello, aboard. Both these fine gentlemen have also been major donors personally to the project, leading by example. Frank resigned in 2011 for health reasons, but we should never forget what he did for the USS SLATER. She is truly his legacy. Tim Rizzuto

Tim Rizzuto - May 21, 2018 at 07:06 AM

JD

“ *Dear Beth and family,*

Please accept our most heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your beloved Dad. From all that I have read, it is evident that he was a most remarkable man. May the warm, loving memories your family shares provide a measure of comfort to all of you in the days ahead.

*Sincerely,
Joanne and Dan Donahue*

Joanne Donahue - May 20, 2018 at 08:17 AM

DG

“ *Condolences to Mary Ellen the entire Lasch clan. I had the extraordinary pleasure of being a client and friend of Frank. He was a wise mentor who provided one of those little inner voices that kept cropping up in my head during negotiations 30 years later: "What would Frank do here?" He was a gentleman. The highest accolade my father had for someone was to say, "That person is worth knowing." Frank was certainly in that category.*

Warmest regards,

Dennis Griesing

Dennis Griesing - May 19, 2018 at 09:06 AM

MT

“ We send prayers and condolences to the entire Lasch family and friends. Frank was a wonderful man who we admired greatly. His professional legacy was captured beautifully in the obituary. Frank’s greatest legacy lies within the amazing family he leaves behind. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers as you lay your husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather to rest.
Warmest regards,
Mary and Walt Tuchowski

Mary and Walter Tuchowski - May 18, 2018 at 02:32 PM

RH

“ Mary Ellen, Mark and all of Franks family. I am so sorry to hear this news, although we have missed Frank for some time. Over the past 35 years, we worked together in the legislature, enjoyed his company at the club, and loved getting good wind and spray on Lake George. He was a very good man and will be missed by all. My warmest condolences.

Ray Hull - May 18, 2018 at 12:37 PM

RM

“ Frank was a good and respected attorney, a gentleman and yes they were right when it was said how brave he was. Richard M Meyers

Richard M Meyers - May 18, 2018 at 12:25 PM

MF

“ Mary Ellen, Mike, and Family: Frank was a great credit to his Family, his Faith, and his Country. He was a wonderful Friend, and we are very sorry for your loss.

Mike and Nancy McNulty & Family - May 17, 2018 at 06:14 PM