



R. Michael Francoeur

January 6, 1919 - January 18, 2011

R. Michael Francoeur, 92, beloved husband of the late Marie Dungan Francoeur, of West Hartford died Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at St. Francis Hospital. He was the eldest of ten children of Ferdinand and Rose Delima Yelle Francoeur, born in Fall River, MA on Jan 6, 1919. He is predeceased by his siblings: Armand, Lorraine and Raymond, and survived by: Germaine, Jeannette, Arthur, Noelle, Gertrude, Donald, and their spouses, and their many children and grandchildren. He attended University of Montreal and UCONN before starting a teaching career at Rockville High School, Sedgwick Middle School, and Hall High School in West Hartford. While teaching at Hall High, he became active with Dale Carnegie Training and eventually purchased and ran Dale Carnegie Courses in Connecticut and Rhode Island for over 30 years. He took great pride in helping thousands of graduates improve personal abilities, professional skills and public speaking through his training. As a respected business man, he was influential in several professional and charitable organizations, including the Hartford Rotary Club where he was past president, two-time Paul Harris Fellow, and District Governor's Award recipient, the Salvation Army where he was past president of the auxiliary board, and the Hartford Old Guard where he was past president. He was a devout catholic and served the parish council at St. Peter Claver parish and Our Lady of Good Council in Old Lyme. He was renowned for his inspirational public speaking and became a much desired guest speaker at regional and national events. He traveled extensively in the

Americas, Europe, and Asia with his wife of 53 years, and spent his summers at Old Lyme Shores, where he was the oldest member at the New London Country Club. He is survived by his children; Michael and his wife Margaret Francoeur of West Hartford, Mary-Anne Baldassarre of West Hartford, and Edward and his wife Susan Francoeur of North Andover, MA. He loved his nine grandchildren: Julia, Michael, Daniel, and Brian Francoeur, Drew, Kathleen, and Annemarie Baldassarre, and Sarah and Courtney Francoeur. He is survived by his sister-in-law Delores and her husband Thomas Mulcahy of Bolton, CT and their three sons: Tom, Kevin, and Chris. Funeral services will be Monday January 24, 2011 at 9:30 am from the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave, West Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am in the Church of St. Peter Claver, 47 Pleasant St. Burial will follow in nearby Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. Friends may call Sunday Jan 23 from 2-5 pm at the funeral home. On-line expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salvation Army of Greater Hartford.

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael and family,*

I was so sorry to hear about your dad. He was a good friend during our years in Dale Carnegie and I'm sure you will miss him very much.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Wynn Etter##imported-end##

January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We will miss him, I am so sorry for your loss and sorry we could not attend if there is any thing we can do please let us know.##imported-begin##Pierre R. Messier##imported-end##*

January 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I shared a lifetime with Mike & my cousin, Marie - I was just a little girl when they got engaged. I think I drove Mike crazy as, I made him play with me for hours! I never forgot those memories and watched their beautiful family grow up. Marie and Mike and the children were like my second family - memories I will never forget. Especially when I was 17 yrs. old and, they asked me to be Edward's Godmother. Such a privilege! They can never be replaced in my heart.##imported-begin##Judith A. Cianci##imported-end##*

January 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Michael, Mary-Anne, and Edward,

I am very sorry to hear of the passing of your father and for your loss. He was a truly great man and I have fond memories of him growing up. I was always impressed with his speaking ability and his calming demeanor as he spoke. He has effected many people through out his life all in a positive way. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Paul and Liz Messier##imported-end##

January 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike, May the love and prayers of all those your father helped, myself included, give you strength now. We mourn with you and your family. You have our heart-felt sympathy for your loss to you and your family. May you find peace with time.

Wally & Pat Vega

Jan. 24 2011

Barcelona Spain##imported-begin##Wally Vega##imported-end##

January 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To Mike's family and friends I offer my deepest condolences. I was barely 20 years young when I was put through the D.C. ringer by this man whom I will never forget and will continue to emulate the best I can as long as I am of this earth. He had a lot to do with who I am and what I am today, 36 years later and I have never lost sight of that. Lots of people make a difference in life. Some leave legacies they never knew.

Thank you Michael Francouer.##imported-begin##Don Guilmette##imported-end##

January 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *It is with joy that I remember Mike. While I mourn his passing, I am privileged to have served with him on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army of Greater Hartford. His compassion, energy and devotion are models for me. I extend to you, his family, my deepest sympathy. Marian Moore##imported-begin##Marian Moore##imported-end##*

January 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike-
Your father touched so many lives, including my own, in so many ways. I consider myself honored to have learned from and been inspired by him at Carnegie meetings, taught a Junior Achievement Carnegie class with him where I learned more than the kids!, and worked for his family, teaching the course he loved so much. He will be missed, but there is no doubt that a piece of his spirit lives on within you.
I am so sorry I will be out of town this week and cannot pay my respects to you personally. My heart and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Ellen Simes##imported-end##*

January 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael, Margaret, and family, We are sorry to hear about the loss of your father. We remember him well from the Dale Carnegie International Conventions over the years. He was always so warm and friendly and represented the values and ideals of our business in every sense of the word. In addition, we remember him as being a man who took a stand on staying true to these values while making needed changes in the business along the way. It is no surprise that he was highly regarded by his peers, his family and friends, and the community at large. God Bless you all during this time of loss and celebration of the important life he lived on this earth.*

Mike & Karen Norman##imported-begin##Mike & Karen Norman##imported-end##

January 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are sorry to hear about the passing of your father and you have our sympathy at this difficult time. We know that he will not only be missed by you and the rest of his family but also by the many people whose lives he touched and influenced over the years. Because we will be out of town, we are sorry we cannot express our sympathy in person. Cal and Carolyn Walker##imported-begin##Calvin Walker##imported-end##*

January 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Michael, Maryanne, Edward,
It is with great sadness we hear of the passing of your father,our
uncle. I have very fond memories of him from the visits we would
have with him over the years growing up, he was so much fun to be
around. Surely, he will be missed by all those he so touched in life.
Take comfort in your memories of him. With our deepest sympathy,
Denise & Awni Ayoubi###imported-begin###Denise & Awni
Ayoubi###imported-end###

January 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Michael, Mary-Anne and Edward,
I, and all the Merritt family, are sharing in your sorrow over the loss of
your dearly loved Dad. As Connie said, our families have been
intertwined since 1960 and all our older girls babysat for you kids
over many years. Dad and Mike were best pals as they taught
D.C. together. Your Dad was my instructor when I took the D.C.
course. Your Mom was one of the bravest, strongest women I have
ever met and Your Dad was sunshine itself! We will be surely
missing him at our cottage at OLS this year but we are relieved and
happy that he is with his beloved Marie again. He often said over the
last couple years that it was all he wanted. God Bless him and you
all.
Love, Kathy###imported-begin###Kathy Merritt Amenta###imported-
end###

January 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Michael, Mary Anne, Edward and your Loving Families,
Please know that our thoughts, love and prayers are with all of you during this time of loss. Your father was a very special person and a wonderful role model for our entire family. We have all been blessed to have know him on a personal level and he was very much loved. Thank you for sharing him with us. Love Jeri and Ted###imported-begin###Jeri Farrell###imported-end###

January 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Michael, Edward, and Mary Anne - Your dad was one remarkable man, and we share your sorrow at this time. When I think of Mike, the image of his sparkly eyes and his hearty laugh come to mind. I used to love it when he'd come to the house and get our names mixed up, especially the girls. I can hear him calling me "Polly, I mean Jean, no - Polly"... We had more fun with him and it was so easy to make him laugh. As a youngster, I would help with those HUGE Dale Carnegie mailings in your basement. As I got older, I babysat for you kids. Then, through college I worked part-time for him in his office on Farmington Ave. - what a time we had. As an adult, I spent many hours visiting with your mom and him on the porch with my parents. What a gift to have had this man all throughout my life as a role model, and how blessed you were to have him as your dad. May the Lord bless him with peace and joy.

Love,

Jean###imported-begin###Jean Merritt Linderman###imported-end###

January 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *A truly great man that will be missed by many. He was an inspiration to those that he loved.##imported-begin##Andrew Baldassarre##imported-end##*

January 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael, Mary Anne, and Edward - We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Your father was a dear man and a devoted friend to my parents for many years. He will be missed.*

*Love,
Judy and Paul Rowean##imported-begin##Judy Merritt
Rowean##imported-end##*

January 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary Anne, Michael, and Edward:*

Your dad - my best friend for over fifty years - has left me with one question I never asked: "Mike, why do you always say 'Holy Toledo' when you miss a golf shot?" Never heard a curse or foul word from Mike's mouth in fifty years...a respected gentleman, and God's humble servant.

Bud Merritt##imported-begin##George H. Merritt##imported-end##

January 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Michael, Mary-Anne and Edward,
My heart goes out to you and your families. Your dad was a fine, hardworking man who had a deep devotion to his faith and his family. Knowing your mom and dad since 1960 I had the utmost respect and admiration for them both. Our parents were dear friends and I remember babysitting for you all on those nights your dad would go out to teach Dale Carnegie with your mom by his side. The last few years were tough for him without your mom but he barely skipped a beat and choose to stay in the game of life. May his reward be filled with God's blessings in eternity with his love, Marie by his side. And may you find comfort knowing they are together again! He will be missed at OLS!

With love,
Connie###imported-begin##Connie Merritt###imported-end##

January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Michael has left a wonderful legacy his family and friends will remember and cherish. His life's efforts and accomplishments, too numerous to mention here, would make anyone proud, especially the many times he gave whole heartedly, to those in need. While he spoke with firmness and eloquence, it was always sincere and heartfelt. I'll always cherish the many good times we spent together with our families at Holy Family Retreat. He will be missed, but having known him, I am left with a joy he would have wanted rather than sorrow.###imported-begin##Edmund Trifari, Jr.###imported-end##

January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Francoeur was my English teacher at Hall High. After writing a paper for him and then seeing him at the Town Fair, he complemented me on the paper. He had a personal interest in every one of his students. He made learning fun. I can't remember him ever being angry in class.*

At 74 years old I read the obituaries looking for my friends, not my teachers. When I spotted the Francoeur name it brought back memories of one of my favorite teachers. Imagine my surprise, after looking at the picture and reading the article, to discover it WAS my teacher. How fortunate you all were to have had this wonderful man in your lives for all these years. It is obvious from the article that he achieved great success, remained very active, had a large and loving extended family and many, many friends. He earned it all and deserved no less.##imported-begin##Howard A. Buz Willard, Jr.##imported-end##

January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM