



Mr. Michael "Frank" Owens

April 4, 1946 - June 15, 2019

UTICA - Mr. Michael "Frank" Owens, age 73, passed away on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Born in Ireland on April 4, 1946, Frank ventured to the United States alone, when he was age 19, and settled in the Utica-Rome area. At one time, he was married to the former Joann L. Brodowski and to that union came the blessing of their son, Sean.

Frank was an accomplished musician and a talented self-taught bass guitarist and backup singer. In the 1970's, his band "Triple Play" performed top-forty songs locally as well on-the-road as a traveling band. He was at his best when performing. He also held positions at the Trinkaus Manor Motor Lodge, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and Utica National Insurance Company. Frank will be remembered for his smile and the twinkle in his "Irish eyes". Humor was always his companion. His jokes were well-delivered and well-received, and his thick Irish Brogue brought beautiful intonation to his voice and interest to his audience. His inner qualities were admirable. He was good-natured, soft-spoken, non-judgmental, witty, gentle, charming and especially loving. He had a wealth of virtues and was rich in ways that really counted. The nature and strength of his principles shaped his personality — he never caused harm to anyone. He was not always aware of his goodness because his humble nature was not self-serving.

When he was 12 years old, his mother passed away unexpectedly in his arms. He faced this and other adversities with courage and commitment, and

he worked hard to become the man he became. Joann was a major stabilizing force in his life and after the birth of their son, his free spirited lifestyle transformed him into a responsible family man. This was the best time of his life. He enjoyed family gatherings and loved to tell stories using Irish blarney to charm and flatter family and friends. Whenever there was music, with little coaxing from family and friends, we could always count on Frank to do the “worm dance” which astonished and entertained us. This is one of many wonderful memories that will never be forgotten by his family. As a young boy, he taught himself to swim and was fond of taking dips in the cold seas surrounding Ireland.

Frank was a “one day at a time” kind of guy, and he tried to make each day count.

He is survived by his former wife and forever friend, Joann; his son, Sean D. Owens and his love Katherine Dennyhy; and his grandson, Maximus Ryan Dennyhy Owens. Frank was one of three children including, brother Sean Owens, and sister Kaye and John Fanning of Ireland; in-laws, Robert F. and Lucy S. Brodowski, Dr. Michael J. Brodowski and Melissa Wilson, Anita M. Pariseau and Tim Burke; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and his good friend, Sara Moshier. He was preceded by his parents; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Walter and Mary Brodowski.

The family is grateful to the personnel of MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, especially the 3rd Floor staff for their gentle, dignified care; and Fr. Kevin Bunger for his prayers and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Frank's family will commemorate his life at a private time. By family request, please omit floral offerings. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Mary's Church in Auburn, NY at a future date and time.

<https://youtu.be/TcGmLu27OII>

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling

There's a tear in your eye
And I'm wondering why
For it never should be there at all
With such pow'r in your smile
Sure a stone you'd beguile
So there's never a teardrop should fall

When your sweet lilting laughter's
Like some fairy song
And your eyes twinkle bright as can be
You must laugh all the while
And all other times smile
And now, smile a smile for me

When Irish eyes are smiling
Sure, 'tis like the morn in Spring
In the lilt of Irish laughter
You can hear the angels sing
When Irish hearts are happy
All the world seems bright and gay
But when Irish eyes are smiling
Sure, they steal your heart away

For your smile is a part
Of the love in your heart
And it makes even sunshine more bright
Like the linnet's sweet song
Crooning all the day long

Comes your laughter so tender and light

For the springtime of life
Is the sweetest of all
And there is ne'er a real care or regret
And while springtime is ours
Throughout all of youth's hours
Let us smile each chance that we get

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Tribute Wall

HP

“ Frank and I met in Ireland in 1971. We fell in love, lived together in Mullingar and then Dublin. We moved to Rome NY in 1972 and got married. He was 26 when he came to America to join me. We parted ways in 1976. Whoever wrote his obituary was not aware of how and when he got to America. Well wishes to all his loved ones.

Helen Peak - February 13, 2022 at 08:27 PM

BW

“ So sorry to just now , through a mutual friend found out about Frank's passing . RIP
We were great friends back in the early 1970's , having played and roomed together in The Jim Farley Band , Ian Corrigan & The Country Style and The Mullingar Big Band .
I lost contact with Frank when he went to America and despite numerous enquiries to
about his whereabouts never managed to make contact .
A great musician and character he will be sorely missed .

Brian Wynne - January 04, 2021 at 01:46 PM

LB

“ So sorry to hear of this so late!!! Frank was a wonderful person, full of life and laughter!!!
My sincerest sympathies to his family.



Lisa Bullet - June 02, 2020 at 07:30 PM



“ It’s June 2, 2020 and I just today learned of Franks passing. I honestly find it hard to believe it didn’t occur to anyone to seek me out....is what it is, but I will always treasure, never forget our years together on the road, many times rooming together at the hotels we played., Our recording sessions, our records and our love for our craft. “Triple Play” would work six nights a week and the 7th we would either travel or jam. I was never better. We were never better. Music was our lives then. It’s all we did. The “wee nipper” made lifelong friends in every town and we all benefitted from it. I wish I could’ve seen you one more time man, wish I could’ve said good bye. ...or maybe not. I have so many joyous, happy, crazy, funny, and personal memories. Maybe it’s better this way.

Gary Colmey - June 02, 2020 at 07:00 PM



“ I was 3 when my uncle Frank left Ireland for America, prior to him leaving he would bring places in his little Fiat 600 car, I didn’t get to see him agsin until I was 21 in 1990 when he visited ireland. Only tonight we became aware of his death and we are greatly saddened, may he RIP

Jonathan Owens - July 07, 2019 at 05:05 PM

BG

“ Joann, We will miss Frank even though we haven't seen him in years. Marilyn & I will remember meeting you at some of his local haunts with his band before you both got married; We came with Cindy before she married Arron do you remember? The music was great to dance to & also he was a lot of fun the times we saw him @ your house & I was with Steve. No one could ever utter a harsh word about him cause he was always smiling. RIP dear friend of family. God Bless you.

Barbara Gondek & family.

Barbara Gondek - June 20, 2019 at 05:33 PM

CS

“ Joann, I just saw this obituary and I'm so sorry to learn of Frank's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your son.
Sincerely, Charleen Sangiacomo

Charleen Sangiacomo - June 20, 2019 at 09:31 AM

BB

“ Joann, It's painful to know that Lucy and I have lost 3 family members in 11 months - all 3 of these people were near and dear to our hearts. It just reminds us that life is very fragile and as Frank professed, "make every day count". The best way that I can honor Frank is to be a good person and respect all others, no matter who they are or what they believe in, not be judgemental and find humor no matter what life issues arise. For all those who knew and loved Frank, he enriched all of our lives in many ways. We will miss him very much. Take comfort in knowing that Frank is pain-free now and will join the rest of our loving family in everlasting life. Love, your brother, Bob.

Bob Brodowski - June 19, 2019 at 02:20 PM

MB

“ Joann and family, Very sorry to hear about your loss. Everyone loved Frank and we will miss him every day. We are all better to have known him and have spent time with him. Love - Matt

Matt Brodowski - June 18, 2019 at 07:27 PM

BA

Joanne and family So so sorry for your loss. He was one of my Moms favorite people in the world She thought very highly of Frank. He will be missed. Love for all

Barb - June 19, 2019 at 04:24 PM

LB

“ Joann & Family, So hard to believe Frank has left us. I am grateful for his kindness and generosity of spirit. He was my brother-in-law as well as my friend. I will miss this gentle man, especially the twinkle in his eyes when he would tell me jokes. He was so easy to love. He was like a brother to me and I always worried about him. We had some lovely talks about his life in Ireland and about his family members, especially his mum. So, I am pleased to say he will no longer be lonely for her. Joann, he always told me that you were the best thing that ever happened to him and he was right. I will miss you Frank, perhaps we will see each other in the sweet by and by. May the sun be at your back. Love, Lucy

Lucy Brodowski - June 18, 2019 at 07:19 PM

MK

“ Rest easy my friend. From the 1st time I met you, we Irishmen hit it off. So for one final time I offer you a “Hey Mo”!!!! May you Rest In Peace my friend.

mike kennedy - June 18, 2019 at 12:12 PM

SA

“ I still have the photo albumn you gave me with the cats on the front. Thank you for being an extension to the family. God bless- Sara

Sara - June 17, 2019 at 08:07 PM

TE

“ Thank you for your music and your Irish whit, I will always think of you singing at my daughter's wedding. -God Bless- Terry and the Ball family

Terry - June 17, 2019 at 08:06 PM

SA

“ I know your Irish eyes are smiling and I know "Imagine" is playing for you now. Rest well- Sarah

Sarah - June 17, 2019 at 08:05 PM

BH

I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of my old friend Frank (Hank) Owens. He taught me guitar when we were kids & we played together in bands before he left for the States. We lost touch but I always hoped to meet up again. Brian Harris Bray Ireland.

Brian Harris - March 14, 2020 at 09:15 PM

KS

So sorry to hear this news. I played in a band with Frank (Fanfare) back in '81-'82 and can only echo all of the great things that have already been said by previous commenters. He was a great musician, had a great sense of humor and just a joy to be around. I will miss you, my friend.

Kevin Shaw - June 17, 2022 at 05:11 PM