



Frank William Comstock

May 26, 1920 - April 25, 2018

Dr. Frank Comstock, originally from Monroe Michigan, passed away on April 25, 2018 at the age of 97 at the Glacier Hills Manor and under the wonderful care of Arbor Hospice. He began life on May 26th, 1920, Frank was the second of four children of Howard McDowell and Florence (Wahl) Comstock. Frank was president of the Monroe High School class of 1938. Frank then was accepted into the University of Michigan in 1938 and started his undergraduate studies.

In the fall of 1941 Frank was a senior undergrad student when he applied to the school of dentistry and was accepted, scheduled to start his post graduate education early in 1942.

His future was set, until the first week of December 1941. On the drive home from Flint Michigan with his good friend Ham Fischer on December 7th, the car radio told of the attack that took place at Pearl Harbor. Frank and Ham drove home in stunned silence as the news of the unprecedented attack washed over them and became part of their very beings. The "Day that will live in infamy" affected everyone in our nation and spurred millions to take action. Soon after, Ham and Frank visited the Marine Recruitment office in Detroit to learn how they could be part of the solution to the chaos that was enveloping the world. They enlisted, with the proviso that they be able to stay together during their time in service. The Marines gladly accepted these two college graduates to become officers and leaders that were badly needed as the conflict with the Axis powers escalated. Both Frank and Ham passed the rigorous officer training near the top of their class and received their rank as commissioned 2nd Lieutenants in October of 1942. As luck would have it, Ham was assigned to go to Iceland and Frank to the South Pacific!

On July twenty first, 1944, Frank as a member of the First Marine Provisional Brigade landed on the beaches of the United States territory of Guam. Guam was taken and the natives hailed the Marines as liberators. To this day, Frank annually receives an invitation from the people of Guam to come and celebrate the liberation on the 21st of July. They have not forgotten.

Next was Okinawa which was one of the most horrific battles in the Pacific theatre. The invasion, started on Easter Sunday, April First 1945. As a side note, Frank had the pleasure of meeting Ernie Pyle, the famous war correspondent before Ernie was killed later in the Ie Shima fighting.

In late June of 1945, Frank was ordered on a mission to Guam via Saipan, Tinian and Rota with the charge of delivering sealed safes full of critical wartime documents to the high command stationed there at Guam. During the stop at Tinian, Frank marveled at seeing the new B-29 Flying Fortress bombers as he was looking at history, and did not even know it at the time. The Enola Gay sat gleaming on the tarmac, ready for action that would take her to Hiroshima on August 6th 1945. That fateful flight changed the world forever and saved countless thousands of lives on both sides of the war eventually leading to V.J. Day on August 15th 1945. The war was over!

The Navy Unit Citation for the Battle of Bougainville and the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Okinawa will be forever the crowning achievements of his career in the Marine Corps because they were all about teamwork, bravery, honor and accomplishment of the men he lead and the leaders he followed to the ultimate victory. Frank has reflected that these men, all volunteers were without question some of the finest people that he had ever been associated with. Frank made a tape of his Marine unit's story with the Veterans of Foreign Wars completely from memory in September of 2017 at the age of 97. It is housed in the Library of Congress for everyone to see.

The Marines offered Frank a career in the service and after much consideration and reflection, Frank decided to return to a budding dental career. He was honorably discharged after 10 years of service in the Marine Corps with the rank of Captain. Frank continued to organize many reunions with his Marine Corps compatriots well into the 1990's all over the USA. Frank returned to Monroe, then to Ann Arbor to resume his dental career in February of 1946, where he met Bette Lou Duvall in a graduate history class at the University of Michigan. So begins one of the greatest love stories that can ever be told! They met at a Graduate school class on the Civil War and Reconstruction. Frank and Bette went out for coffee at "The Parrot" when the class had a cancellation and a beautiful woman from Ponca City, Oklahoma fell in love with a fabulous man from Monroe, Michigan! Frank and Bette were married on November 22nd 1946 and they have been residents of Ann Arbor since 1946. Frank resumed his education at the University of Michigan School Of Dentistry, earned his DDS in 1950, his MS on operative dentistry in 1955. He began as a clinical instructor, rising to the rank of professor in 1967. He was named Director of Clinics in 1969 until retiring in 1984. Frank's accomplishments were many at the School of Dentistry, but his most proud accomplishment was being part of a 5 person team that completed the major project of the building of the new Dental School that

took place from 1957 to 1971. Frank remained a professor emeritus in good standing with the University for an additional 10 years and often collaborated with colleagues at the University, a career with the University spanning over 40 years!

Frank and Bette raised 10 children. Jeffrey Comstock, (Susan Henderson) Christine Langer (William) Clare Comstock, Mark Comstock, Gordie Comstock, Connie Comstock, Julia Wallace (Tony) Timothy Comstock (Sandra) Genevieve O'Bryan and Margaret Comstock. Frank is Grandfather to Wayne Dante Comstock, Heather Comstock, Meredith Sandoval (Chad), Lisa Talbot, (Sean), Jeffrey Robert Comstock, Tori McQuiston (Ken) and Shelby Yaranga (Alexio) as well as 13 great grandchildren! Frank and Bette were married for 58 years until Bette's passing in 2004. They were the embodiment of a great marriage and they never lost the love of simply being alone together even while raising such a multifaceted family and with challenging teaching careers. Frank served on the board for the Ann Arbor Public Schools Recreation Department, Washtenaw Community College and was a contributor to many local charities. Frank was an outstanding athlete who excelled at many sports. He was a state champion swimmer at Monroe High School and played hockey, tennis, volleyball and golf, shooting a hole in one at both the U/M Radrick farms golf course and the "U" course! Frank also was an accomplished sailor having grown up on the shores of Lake Erie. He taught all of his children to swim and to skate by creating skating rinks in the backyard that were shared by all of the Brookside neighborhood children. Many of his children also went on to become multi-sport athletes. Frank also sang in a Barbershop Quartet for years and was an avid gardener teaching his children how to grow many kinds of vegetables. After his retirement from the University and Bette's retirement from teaching at the Ann Arbor Public Schools, the couple overwintered in Myrtle Beach, SC where they enjoyed great golf and long walks on the beach, truly the best of both worlds! Frank and Bette were both true teachers who raised their children in Ann Arbor and taught them the value of education, diversity and truly imbued them with a desire to learn and contribute to the world around them.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Bette and Brother John and John's wife Vernajean, and their children Chuck and Howard... Frank's youngest brother Howard and his wife Polly and Frank's Sister Hildreth Mary and her husband William Braunlich. Frank's Son Mark's wife Wendy and Son Timothy's wife Kathy.

Survivors include all 10 of Franks children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, Frank's Brother John's youngest Daughter Allyn who at age 73 is now the oldest living member of the Comstock family! Brother Howard's five children Howard, Curt, Frank, Christopher and Paula Jean sister Hildreth's four children Barbara, Marcia, William H and John, in addition to all of the spouses and the many grandchildren of Frank's siblings!

In Lieu of flowers, memorial Contributions can be made to the University of Michigan Rackham graduate school, the School of Dentistry, Arbor Hospice, and the Glacier Hills Foundation.

A memorial service will be held at the Nie Funeral home at 3767 West Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor on Friday, May 18 with visitation from 5 PM until 6 PM and the memorial service starting at 6:00 PM.

Events

MAY **Memorial Service** 06:00PM

18

Liberty Road Chapel

3767 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103

MAY **Memorial Gathering** 05:00PM - 06:00PM

18

Liberty Road Chapel

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Comments



“ Dr. Comstock was one of the first faculty members to welcome me to Ann Arbor and the School of Dentistry when I joined the faculty in 1970. Later on we served together on several committees always with an eye on how we could make the school serve the best interests of patients, students and staff. I always enjoyed his stories and good humor. On this occasion we join others in offering our prayers and condolences to Frank's family.

Dr. Paul and Linda Loos

Dr. Paul J. Loos - May 18, 2018 at 05:15 PM



“ To everyone in the Comstock family, I am deeply sorry for your loss. May the prayers of those who care for you comfort you in the days ahead. Your Dad loved you all so very much. Rest in peace Dr. Comstock.

Colleen Pierce - May 13, 2018 at 02:39 PM



“ I want to send my condolences to The Comstock family your father raised amazing children and I was blessed to be able to be the stepmother of his oldest grandson Wayne Comstock you guys are blessed to have such a wonderful father my love is with all of you Wayne and Terri Williams



Wayne and Terri Williams - May 05, 2018 at 04:45 PM



“ Thank you daddy for your love and the great strength that you gave me. You were and always will be my ROCK. missing you but know you are in heaven with mom now luv you puddie

Julia A Wallace - May 03, 2018 at 09:05 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank William Comstock.



May 03, 2018 at 08:59 PM