



## Frances M Horn

November 30, 1928 - June 21, 2022

The popular song, "You Light Up My Life", could have been written about Frances Horn... "Frannie", as she was lovingly called by those who knew her. Her smile truly lit up any room she entered. Behind the smile was a most extraordinary woman – an instant friend to everyone she would meet, often through a simple encounter like a casual conversation in line at the supermarket.

Born Frances Marie Marec on November 30, 1928, she grew up on the south side of Chicago where she lived with her parents, Frank and Anna, and sister Anne ("Honey"). While attending a dance during her years at Gage Park High School Frannie was smitten with the drummer in the band. From across the bandstand, the feeling was mutual. Bob and Frannie were married on August 16, 1947, after he returned home from service in the Navy after WWII. They first settled into the old neighborhood where they started a family that would grow to six children – five boys and a girl. Frannie was elated when a baby girl, at last, entered the mix. The growing family moved into a new home on the southwest side of the city at 62nd and Merrimac Ave.

Such a large family kept Frannie, the homemaker, incredibly busy. All the while Frannie, the mother, excelled. There were long school semesters with homework, projects, and attending school performances and games. She balanced that by arranging extended summer family vacations in a rented cabin on a lake in Gobles, Michigan. Much fun for kids, and a lot of work for mom. Frannie's complete devotion to each of her children shaped them into

caring adults who would carry her compassion forward.

There was a remarkable soundtrack to all of this. Daily tasks were filled with melodies – not from records or radio – but by Frannie, herself. She was gifted with the sweetest singing voice that filled the home each day. In those times of open windows (before air conditioning) neighbors later related how they would stop what they were doing to listen for a while, unbeknownst to her. Around the age of 50 years, the children having moved on, Bob and Frannie bought a small summer cottage on 3rd Street in Lake Villa, a favorite location for weekend getaways. This charming dwelling would soon become their permanent home as they embraced the community centered around the bar at Jack & Lydia's Resort on Deep Lake. The heart of activity at the bar was – and remains – music. Co-owner Jack Krupka and a multitude of patrons were accomplished musicians and everyone was welcome. Life at the bar was an ongoing jam session featuring the widest variety of musical styles imaginable. Into this mix came Frannie, very shy by nature. She was finally coaxed onstage at one point to sing a single tune. In that moment she became part of the band, playing at venues near and far. Thus did Frannie begin an entirely new chapter in her life. As her reputation grew she was proud to be called upon to open village holiday events and pageants by singing The Star-Spangled Banner, standing shoulder to shoulder with dignitaries on stage. Shortly after celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, her beloved Bob passed away. Frannie and Bob had a long-time friendship with Tom Bayro, a highly skilled musician and WWII veteran.. Over time after Bob's passing Frannie and Tom's bond deepened and they spent the next many years together until Tom's death in 2015. Long into her golden years, she continued to sing when called to the stage – and even became a bit of a celebrity during a recent stay in a nursing home when she was cajoled into singing from her wheelchair. Throughout her 93 years, her family continued to grow – adding more grandchildren and great-grandchildren, bringing her much delight. She loved being Grandma to so many!

Frances Horn passed from this world to eternity on June 21, the first day of

summer. Her last words – “I love you” – were to her sister... so appropriate for someone who showed much love to everyone. She is survived by her sister Anne “Honey” Zacek, her children – Robert (wife Gerry), Dennis, Kenneth (wife Patricia), Thomas (wife Linda) and Debra (husband Jeff), 15 wonderful grandchildren, and 18 lovely great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert W. Horn, son David A. Horn, and grandson David D. Horn. Visitation will be held Monday, June 27 from 4 - 8 pm at Damar Kaminiski Funeral Home, 7861 S. 88th Ave, Justice, IL 60458. Additional visitation will take place at 9:30 am until time of mass for the celebration of Frances’s life on Tuesday, June 28 at 10 am at St. Patricia Parish, 9050 S. 86th Ave, Hickory Hills, IL 60457. Burial will follow at Resurrection Cemetery Justice, IL.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Damar Kaminski Funeral Home  
7861 S. 88th Ave.  
Justice, IL 60458

## Funeral Mass

JUN 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patricia Parish  
9050 S 86th Ave  
Hickory Hills, IL

## Burial

JUN 28 (CT)

Resurrection Cemetery  
7201 Archer Avenue  
Justice, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Frances M Horn*

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Frances M Horn*

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM



“ *Horn family, please accept my sincerest condolences on Frans passing. She will always be remembered as a beautiful person in many lives, always smiling and gracious. Throughout the many picnics and gatherings at Jack & Lidia's Fran was always there to complement our family picnics throughout the many years. I remember all the beautiful christmas cards she sent me with the most beautiful handwriting. I am sorry i will not be able to attend the wake and mass service. Paul Kielbasa*

**paul kielbasa** - June 26, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. lots of memories of her here in Lake Villa prayers*

**Joyce Frayer family** - June 24, 2022 at 03:36 PM