



Frank Lepkowski

October 24, 1955 - October 28, 2014

Frank Lepkowski, 59, of Royal Oak, MI, died suddenly at home on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. Beloved husband of Annie; dear father to Karina and Frank; loving stepdad to Avery, Keelin and Cameron Greene; devoted son of Joanne Lepkowski and the late Frank Lepkowski; dear brother to Greg Linda, Sue Joe Delmar, Betsy Jeff Davis, Matt and the late Mark. A kind, thoughtful, learned and simple man, Frank was often seen with his nose in a book. Frank loved God, his family and friends, seeking knowledge, being a librarian and a career long Oakland University employee, Bobby D., Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys, space, bike riding, being in nature and living each moment in God's light. We love you so very much, and are so thankful for the time we had with you and the deep impact you have made on our lives. You will stay forever young. Visitation is Friday, October 31, 2014, 2:00-8:00 p.m. with a service, rosary and time for remembrance at 7:00 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI; funeral mass will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 1, 2014 All Saints Day, at National Shrine of the Little Flower, 12 Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak, MI. Please visit www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com to leave a personal message and additional information.

Tribute Wall

TC

“*Heartbroken to return home from extended travels and learn the too sad news about Frank passing away. My heartfelt thoughts of support and care, Annie, and family in this time of loss. Wishing you all best and sending love as you navigate the way through a world so changed without Frank by your side. I was very fortunate to have Frank as a dear and close friend since we met at Cornell in the mid 1970's. We shared the myriad changes in our lives through so many years. Frank was forever a source of intelligence, passion and inspiration for me. To meet Frank was to receive the most life affirming bear hug ever and to feel the friendship focus of being extra special in the best sense of what genuine friendship is all about. Frank so clearly loved life and the people in his life. His passions were all out pronounced and to hear him talk poetry and music was to be cast into a beautiful spell that was at once captivating and enlightening. It is staggering to think of Frank leaving way too soon and not being here in person but his spirit will always be with those he was close to. He made such a strong positive impression in so many ways!. I am very grateful for the beautiful friendship we shared. Rest in peace dear friend and know your spirit, your smile and your generous being are forever treasured and will be held close by all who love you. Your light travels far.*

Tom Clausen - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

AN

“*Thank you for your kind words Dennis and Patti. It has certainly been a shock for all of us.*

Annie - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

AN

“ Thank you Linda. We miss him so much.

Annie - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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“ Jackie, thank you so much for your kind words. Frank really did enjoy getting to know others and was an expert listener!

Annie - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

AN

“ John and Sheryl, thank you so much for this. He was a very good man. He had just recently starting venturing into posting more on Facebook and was having a lot of fun with it!

Annie - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

DK

“ Dearest Annie our heartfelt sympathy go out to you and the children. He finally met the woman to spend the rest of his life with .Life just isn't fair. Dennis and I knew him for the twenty plus years when we lived on this block. He was a great neighbor and friend. If you ever need anything please don't hesitate to ask. We just saw his obit in todays paper or we would of paid our respects. Please tell Karina and Frank Jr. whom we knew since they were children, they turned into mature adults due to having Frank as a wonderful caring father.

Dennis and Patti Kaczynski - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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Dennis and Patti Kaczynski - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

WA

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved Frank. A school classmate and friend, my memories of him include: his love of the science fiction genre, especially the work of Robert Heinlen, high school cross country practices on glorious autumn afternoons, playing cards pitch in the school cafeteria in 11th grade, the political play he wrote in 8th grade that our class proceeded to put on, and the time in 1980 when he bicycled from Ithaca to where I was living at the time-a 56 mile jaunt! Frank was a great guy, and just a very nice person. I am so sorry for your loss.--Bill Alexander

William Alexander - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

JK

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Frank's family. Frank was a wonderful man and we enjoyed working with him at Oakland. As a Facebook friend, I Sheryl was always touched by Frank's postings about his love for his wife and his family. We've lost a very good man.

John and Sheryl Klemanski - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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John and Sheryl Klemanski - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

JW

“ Frank was one of the kindest, gentlest, most caring people I have known. He always took time to connect with others. Just a lovely, lovely person. I have been Karina's mentor for many years now and, through our relationship, I also know that Frank was a wonderful, caring, loving father. Karina, my heart goes out to you and to all your family. Your dad will always be remembered as part of the soul of OU. Bob and I extend our deepest sympathies.

Jackie Wiggins - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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“ I am shocked. Frank was a really nice person. He will be missed.

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JV

“ I send love and heartfelt sympathy to Annie, his children, and his family. When I was at OU, over the course of a number of years I may have spent more time with him than anyone. We spent myriad hours talking about professional challenges, throwing out ideas, working through our differences, and encouraging one another. Beyond that, we spoke of our personal journeys, our ups and downs, our joys and sorrows. Life at OU could be stressful, but Frank and I always found ways to have fun. We argued politics, and shared poems and passages from books we were reading. We shared bootlegs of the Ramones and the Clash, and we engaged in the age-old question of whether John or Paul was the most gifted Beatle. Frank's intelligence, his often humorously creative communication style, his loyalty, his twinkle-in-the-eye sense of humor, and his heart-on-his-sleeve sensitivity are just some of the memories that will remain with me always. One of the last times we spoke, we laughed and shook our heads in grateful wonder that we both were in such content and happy places in our lives. He expressed his deep love for Annie, and I for Gayle. I was so very glad for him. Now I feel so sad. I was blessed with his presence in my life.

Julie Voelck - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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Julie Voelck - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

SE

“ Dear family of Frank, May God's gift of peace and light flood your hearts as you endure the shock and grief, the result of the death of your husband, father, son, who was "friend" to so many! You are in my prayers and in my heart. We, your faith family, are also saddened with his death, but we do not grieve like those who have no hope that Frank, created out of love, still lives, though no longer in his body. Peace be with you! Sister Noreen Ellison National Shrine of the Little Flower Church

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HP

“ Ann - We are so sorry for your loss. Still, days after hearing about Frank's death, we are profoundly saddened and can hardly believe it. Frank was a caring, sensitive, funny, generous person, and we have nothing but wonderful memories of him. We wish we could make more. His life and his death have moved us to make every day precious and care for those around us each time we can. Love and comfort and peace to you and to all the kids. Heather will attend the service on Saturday morning.

Heather & Acrisio Taylor Pires - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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“ Please accept our deep sympathy for you, Annie, and the rest of the family right now. We remember Frank's wit and love of poetry, history and music. He was a delightful man to talk with and we were really enjoying getting to know him.

John and Susan Feeney - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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John and Susan Feeney - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

JS

“ Shocked and saddend to hear about Frank's death. I only know him from the wonder pictures Annie posts on FB. What a beautiful, friendly face he had and I send my deepest condolences to Annie and the rest of the family.

Jill Sullivan - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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Jill Sullivan - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

MM

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Frank's passing. He was a kind and thoughtful person who was very much appreciated by all of those who had the good fortune to work with him at Oakland University. He will be dearly missed and certainly not forgotten. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Michael MacDonald - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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Michael MacDonald - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

AP

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Lepkowski's passing. I worked with his son Frank. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. May he Rest In Peace!

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RT

“ I'm so sorry to learn of your family's loss. Frank was a very special man, who I was honored to know, not well, but well enough to know how deeply his presence will be missed. My heart and prayers are with your family at this difficult time.

Rebecca Mercado Thornton - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

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Rebecca Mercado Thornton - March 25, 2015 at 12:01 AM

VM

“ My deepest sympathy to Frank's family and to our OU extended family at large. Frank was an honest, caring and no-nonsense colleague sensitive to the needs of people around him and those who worked with him. I found him most admirable, disciplined and professional in all my interactions. Given my respect for his integrity, I asked him, and he graciously accepted, several key administrative positions at the Kresge Library. We often talked off-line in pursuit of his desire to do the best for his faculty and staff colleagues. He maintained contact with me after I left OU for other opportunities. I am very shocked and feel a personal loss on his premature departure. I wish the Lepkowski family strength to deal with the untimely loss of a genuine sensitive and caring human being.-
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BZ

“ I am so sad to hear the bad news. Frank is such a kind and caring person. I got to know him just a year ago when he kindly offered me a ride to Traverse City for the Lilly Conference. We had nice conversations on the way and enjoyed the conference with other OU colleagues. I just can't believe that he is gone! My heart and prayers go with Frank's family. Frank, you will be deeply missed.

Beth Zou - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Gary Moore - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ My deepest sympathies to Annie, Karina, Frank, Avery, Keelin, and Cameron. Frank was not only my colleague, but a close friend who I worked with at the Library. He and I had such a great time working together, sharing stories, perspectives, ideas, talking about family, etc.. Frank not only helped hire me into my position at the Library along with Julie Voelck, but he helped to mentor me as I transitioned into the academic side of the university from student life. His wise counsel and advice helped me in so many ways. I used to call him my sensei. He made a dramatic impact on my life and I am thankful for the time that I had with him. I'm really going to miss my friend. For his family, please know that his memory will live on and that he had a dramatic impact on a lot of people's lives. Every time I hear a Bob Dylan song, see an astronomy picture, or hear a large word that I have no clue what it means, I'll get a smile on my face thinking about my friend Frank.

Brandon Bernier - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My sincerest condolences to Frank's family. I am deeply saddened to hear of this news. Praying for comfort for the entire family. Frank was a joy to work with at Oakland University and I will miss his smiling face.*

Krista Malley - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Krista Malley - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *Frank. Friend, philosopher, poet, raconteur, man of intellect and introspection, man of faith, father and husband, and so much more. I'm listening to Dylan's "Red River Shore" and thinking of you and the time we spent together. I thank God for putting you in my life. I thank you for all the help and guidance you gave me. I will miss you.*

Philip Stenger - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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LD

“ My husband and I are sending the most heartfelt condolences to Annie and the family on the loss of such a wonderfully kind and generous man. We have know Frank over the years through our family gatherings and his strong friendship with our son. His memory will be eternal and perpetual light will shine and a light in heaven will be brighter in his presence. Linda and Steve Kirksey

Linda Davis-Kirksey - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Linda Davis-Kirksey - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ Dear Lepkowski family...My deepest condolences go out to all of you. Frank hired me for my first librarian position and in turn became someone very special to me. He would often go out of his way to show support, to tell me what a great job I was doing and how much he appreciated everything I did. His encouragement and kindness was extraordinary. He was always smiling every time I saw him. I will miss him very much especially just knowing he was a phone call away and am so sorry for your loss. I pray that you all be granted peace and strength in the days to come.

Diane Vermette - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Diane Vermette - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Annie & family ~ I am so very sorry for your loss. Although I never met Frank, it warmed my heart to see the joy your marriage brought to you. Now my heart aches for you all. I hope the happy memories will sustain you & bring you peace. much love to you, Annie, from Laurie Easton Parker Wheaton '82

Laurie Easton Parker - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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RS

“ I send my deepest sympathies to Frank's family. Frank and I got to know each other when we both served OU as associate deans. Our best conversations were when the associate deans met monthly for lunch. After awhile the others started dropping out of the lunches and too many were being canceled due to lack of participation. This is when Frank and I started going to Buffalo Wild Wings to eat unhealthy and have a beer. We talked about our fathers at length. Then we talked about our siblings and our children. Eventually we got around to our mothers and our wives. We did not talk about Oakland, news events, politics, or religion. Just the things each of us instinctively knew were the most important parts of life and very difficult to share sometimes. I'm really gonna miss Frank. He was one of the most caring people I ever knew.

Robby Stewart - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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BV

“ The entire University of Michigan School of Social Work Field Faculty sends our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Words can't express how we feel about your tragic loss. We're here for you - Warren, Leigh, Oliva, Su, Stacy, Betsy, Lisa and Bill.

Bill Vanderwill - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Bill Vanderwill - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Frank’s passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his entire family. I worked with Frank on and off over the years at Oakland. He never changed - he never failed to engage people and he always made significant contributions. This is a great loss to the university and to all of us who enjoyed his company. I will miss Frank’s sense of humor and his eye for the beauty in things all around. His Facebook posts were always upbeat and seemed to come when most needed. Frank was a very special person and I was lucky to have known him. Thank all of you for sharing him with us. I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers.

Maura Selahowski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ My thoughts are with your family during this time. I met Frank while working at Oakland University and he was a wonderful friend and supporter to the Campus Recreation program. He was one of the first participants in the Shape Up OU program and always had a smile to share with us as he exercised. He was a fantastic person and I am so very sorry for your loss.

Mila Padgett - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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GJ

“ On behalf of the entire OU Rec Center student and professional staff, we extend our deepest condolences to the entire family. Frank used the Rec Center more than just about another person we know. He became one of the most recognizable faces in the Fitness Center. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Greg Jordan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Greg Jordan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VH

“ Allow me to join others in offering my condolences to Frank's family. Frank was one of my closest friends at Oakland University in the late 1980s and early 1990s. We often met to take walks we called them our "intellectual pathways" in the nearby fringe of forest surrounding campus. There, we mulled over ideas, both ancient and contemporary, on whatever topics came to mind. Frank was deliberate and kind, and when we disagreed which we often did, he was patient and forgiving. In the decades since those mindful outings, I have fancifully sent myself back onto those pathways with Frank at my side. I will sorely miss his wit, imagination, and generous soul.

Van E. Hillard - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Frank, my sincere condolences on the loss of your father. Knowing how talented, hard working, and caring you are, I know that your father must have been a really special person.

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ST

“ I am very sad to hear of Frank's passing. I was only just beginning to know him through our service together on the Oakland University Assessment Committee. He was a wonderful and generous colleague. I have known his son Frank for several years--he graduated from the Art and Art History program with a degree in graphic design. In our last conversation a few weeks ago, Frank spoke of his great pride in his son Frank's studies in design at OU, and his amazing new career in that field. I send condolences to you Frank, for the loss of your father, and to your entire family.

Sally Tardella - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Kevin T. Grimm - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Kevin T. Grimm - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Bonnie Detloff Zielinski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ One more item, I will not be able to attend the services due to being on the road returning home from Florida, but my thoughts and prayers will be with you.

Kim Northrup - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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