



## Margaret Frances "Frankie" Zittel Lienau

January 26, 1960 - July 10, 2009

NORTON, VT – Margaret Frances “Frankie” Zittel Lienau passed away on Friday, July 10, 2009, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was at home, surrounded by her friends and family.

Frankie was an educator with degrees from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, a Master’s degree from UVM, and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies from Castleton State College. She was the recipient of the prestigious Golden Apple Award in 2006. After more than 20 years of teaching, she was honored to serve as the Special Services Coordinator for Essex North Supervisory Union in Canaan, VT.

She is survived by her husband Mark, and two children, Donny and Becky; her brother John, from Golden, Colorado; her Aunt Dorothy and cousins Jandi Olmsted, Charles Dubois, Barbara Bertram and Andrea Crowley, and their loving families.

She is also survived by an attitude. Those of you who were her students knew her attitude. She believed that you could accomplish any task set before you. She wouldn’t show you the way, but she showed you how to find it for yourself. She approached her illness the same way. She knew the odds, but she fought to beat them and encouraged all those around her to do their best to help her beat them. That was the way she lived her life.

Her family thanks all those who were with us in these trying times. From the Beecher Falls firemen, who helped us put up our wood last fall and helped transport her, to our friends from The Balsams who cooked so much food for us, to all our friends and neighbors and our colleagues who donated time, food, gas money, and lent us an ear as we worked through this.

Thanks also to all the workers at North Country Hospital, and at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center North. Thanks to her doctors, Josh Gliener, Dr. Trembley, Dr. Lockridge, Dr. Marshall, Dr. Meredith, Dr. Sisson and Dr. Peck, and to all the doctors who were there for us and took those late night phone calls and eased our fears. Thanks to all the nurses, those in the ER, the OR and recovery room, the third floor nurses, and especially the nurses in Oncology. Thanks to all the lab technicians and diagnostic imaging technicians, and the radiation therapy technicians who we got to know so well. And thanks especially to all the people behind the scenes, from nutritionists and chefs to the housekeepers who always asked if they could do anything more for us. Their professionalism, support, love, and skills are without equal, and Frankie believed in them all the way to the end.

A short memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 18th, at 11:00 am, in the meadow behind the Lienau house in Norton, VT. Bring a lawn chair and wear your walking shoes--it may be muddy.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Frankie may be made to the Two Rivers Ride for Cancer, c/o Rosemary Mulliken at The First Colebrook Bank, 132 Main Street, Colebrook, NH 03576.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to [www.jenkinsnewman.com](http://www.jenkinsnewman.com).

Assisting the family is Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

# Tribute Wall



“ *It's been almost a year, and we still miss you so very much.##imported-begin##Everyone who knew you##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2010 at 02:51 PM



“ *Old Hellebergh Chapter NSDAR mourns the passing of their longtime member. Our sincere sympathy to her family and all those who knew and loved her.##imported-begin##Susan Fabiani##imported-end##*

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August 24, 2009 at 09:40 AM



“ *I have often thought of Frankie during the past few months and of the afternoon we spent together in Vermont when Donny was about my Rebecca's age. Frankie talked that day about the mother she wanted to be--adventurous and strong. From what I read here, she was that and more.  
My love to all of you, Suzy##imported-begin##Suzy Blumenthal Allen##imported-end##*

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July 20, 2009 at 03:00 PM



“ Mark, Donny and Becky...I will dearly miss "Miss Frankie" as I used to call her and she would call me "Miss Nicky". She was a wonderful person and a person who touched so many lives she will never be truly gone. When I came back from leave last year taking care of my parents and especially being there with my Dad while he died of cancer, I can appreciate what you all did and went through...both the blessing and the pain. My love and thoughts are with all of you..Nicky###imported-begin##Nicky Wyman###imported-end##

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July 20, 2009 at 09:17 AM



“ To Frankie's family:

*I want to express my sincere condolences to your family. I have worked with Frankie over the last several years as the school's psychologist. As such, I only got to Canaan a few times a year, but I always looked forward to my trips and the chance to see Frankie and talk with her. I have held her in the highest esteem. She was a truly gifted educator and one of the kindest people I've ever met. Her battle last year was inspirational. She will be greatly missed, but remembered forever.*

*Tamra Eastman###imported-begin##Tamra Eastman###imported-end##*

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July 17, 2009 at 08:19 PM



“ *Mr Lienau & family-*

*I am very sorry to hear of you loss. I didn't know your wife but you talked alot about your "college girl" in Science class.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Jon Collins*

*Class of '89*

*Canaan Memorial High School###imported-begin##Jon Collins###imported-end##*

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July 16, 2009 at 07:22 PM



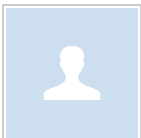
“ *Mark, Donny, and Becky,*

*We are thinking of Frankie and her love of life and positive way to live it. We will all miss her and are thinking of you as well.*

*Love, Patty and Michel###imported-begin##Patty and Michel Pariseau###imported-end##*

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July 16, 2009 at 07:11 PM



“ *Mark, please know that you, Donny and Becky are in our thoughts and prayers. May Christ be with you.###imported-begin##Sandy Frizzell###imported-end##*

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July 16, 2009 at 04:40 PM



“ Mark and family: We were so very sorry of read of Frankie passing. Mark and Frankie met as two staff members in the Johnson State College Upward Bound outdoor education program, where Jack also worked. When the two of you got together, I thought no two people could better suited for each other than the two of you. Both of you are such positive peope, loved education and teaching, and your coworkers and students benefitted greatly from each of you. You both were love by those who you taught. A minister friend of mine told a mother who lost her child at the age of 22, she should look at the quality of her child's life and understand that quality of life might even be better than quanity of life. From my few years of interacting with Frankie and Mark, I can assure you that Frankie's life of giving to others made her life of the highest value and quality anyone could ask for. For those of us who knew her, we were enriched by her, as some noted, great attitude...and what a gift that was and is. Please accept our heartfeld condolences. Jack and Sharon Anderson##imported-begin##Jack and Sharon Anderson##imported-end##

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July 16, 2009 at 03:25 PM



“ Mark, Donny, Becky,

*I remember sitting with Frankie on your back porch late last summer. The sunshine, the fresh air. We were taking in the beauty of the woods on the hill. The trees were just beginning to turn though one of them was way ahead of schedule - it was a splash of red amongst all the dark green.*

*Frankie was unique and left us all too soon. Her passion for life, teaching, her humor - she made the world a better place. I am thankful she and her family are a part of my life.*

*Love,*

*Homer##imported-begin##Homer Frizzell##imported-end##*

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July 16, 2009 at 11:18 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Frankie's passing. She was a beautiful person and will be dearly missed by all. Our deepest condolences to you Mark and your family.##imported-begin##Suzelle & Walter Noyes##imported-end##

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July 15, 2009 at 08:55 PM



“ Our hearts and prayers go out to you at this time of such sorrow. We are friends of your father and Sharon here in Sun City.##imported-begin##Forrest and Elaine Brown##imported-end##

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July 15, 2009 at 04:07 PM



“ Mark, Donny, and Becky: Whenever I saw your mother, she greeted me with such love and enthusiasm-she was one of the most genuinely kind people I have ever known. If it weren't for her support (and Mark's), I doubt I would have completed high school, much less college. She was gentle and encouraging, yet strong and fierce, and always supportive. I am so grateful to have known her, and I am sorry that she is no longer with us.##imported-begin##Maria Coviello##imported-end##

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July 15, 2009 at 12:09 PM



“ Mark, Donny, Becky, family and friends. Frankie was such an amazing person. My favorite memory of her was when I would see her in the halls at school and she would always have the biggest smile on her face with the cheeriest voice no matter what. She appreciated life with everything she had. She was very blessed to have everyone around her. I remember when Donny and Becky would skip out on their lunchtime with their friends to spend that time with their mother. I believe that each and every one of you that was there for her through her good and tough times made it that much easier on her and knowing if she couldn't take care of things, someone would be honored to. Frankie, Mark, the kids, family and friends are always in my thoughts and prayers. You are very missed Frankie. You've touched so many people's lives and it's good to know you are in a better place now and just because we can't see you, we know you will always here be with us.

Much love.##imported-begin##Amy Horton##imported-end##

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July 14, 2009 at 09:27 PM



“ Dear Mark and family,  
We are so saddened to learn of Frankie's passing. She was a lovely & vibrant person. Our hearts go out to you all. There are no words adequate to express how we feel--- we hope that time will help you to heal. Take care.  
love, Joan & Charlie###imported-begin###Joan & Charlie Tetzlaff###imported-end##

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July 14, 2009 at 08:18 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad and difficult time. May you find peace and strength in your many memories of special family times, lovingly shared moments, and joyous events. Jayne and Nat###imported-begin###Jayne and Nat Huggins###imported-end##

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July 14, 2009 at 11:54 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. The kids and I prayed for her often. I know that we haven't seen each other in a long time, but the memory of your family at Aunt Maureen's funeral is one of our favorite ones! Our prayers continue to go out to you and your family.  
Love,  
Laura and kids###imported-begin###Laura Ross###imported-end##

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July 14, 2009 at 10:19 AM



“ I am so sorry about your loss. Frankie was a wonderful asset to me while I was in Canaan. She was always patient with my questions and an incredible asset to the school. She will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her. - Lisa###imported-begin##Lisa Kelley###imported-end##

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July 14, 2009 at 09:52 AM



“ Mark, Donny and Becky- Our thoughts and prayers have been with you. I have thanked God many times that she was in our lives. She did so much to assure me and give me support. I know that she is a big reason that Dana is the young man that he is because Frankie was there for him, as she was for so many. I know she is still with us in our hearts. Good thoughts to all of you.  
My Best-  
Sue Chappell###imported-begin##Sue Chappell###imported-end##

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July 14, 2009 at 09:36 AM



“ Dear Mark,  
I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. Although I never had the opportunity to meet Frankie, I have heard so many wonderful and amazing things about her from your dad and Sharon. My heart, thoughts and prayers are with you and your family now.  
All my best  
Christi Clancy###imported-begin##Christi Clancy###imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 09:28 PM



“ We're are keeping Mark, Donny, and Becky in our thoughts and prayers in the loss of Frankie (mom). She was such a unique person and shared so much with those whose lives she touched. We would like to be with you to celebrate her life;however, we'll be at Mike's family reunion in CT next weekend. I've sent a rose and remembrance with Matt and Nicole to bring to the service. We'll be out to visit later. Much love and warm hugs to you. Katherine and Mike###imported-begin##Katherine and Michael Veilleux###imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 08:17 PM



“ Mark and family, I believe that when you connet with people in your life that you know fit,you may not see them all the time, but they are always in your heart. Frankie was like that and I will carry her on. She has taught me so much. I love her, will miss her, though I know she is always on my shouder.###imported-begin##Jean Switser###imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 08:14 PM



“ Mark, Donny, Becky & John - Frankie was the best & always the teacher...for while she was facing her struggles with cancer head on, she was teaching all of us how to love and appreciate life - and not too sweat the small stuff so much! Love you guys lots & long distant hugs all around.###imported-begin##Cousin Andi###imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 07:45 PM



“ Know that we are grieving with you, and relish those moments when we spent time with Frankie at the three family weddings, yours, Jane's and Leah's.##imported-begin##Liz and Dick Blumenthal##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 07:01 PM



“ Mark, Donny and Becky  
It was a sad day on Friday when we learned of Frankie's death. She was a remarkable teacher that I got to witness first hand when I returned to school as an adult student. She will live on in all of her student's hearts. You and your family will be in our prayers.##imported-begin##Gilles & Robin Houle##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 06:26 PM



“ Frankie had the brightest eyes and the most welcoming smile. I will always remember her smiling.

Mark, Becky, and Donny: I am thinking of you.

Love, Leah##imported-begin##Leah Flickinger##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 05:16 PM



“ Frankie and I met 3 years ago when she started her new position as a special ed. director in canaan. I do the same job in Danville and we often talked on the phone to give each other support. Right before she was diagnosed we took a course together at LSC and had a lot of fun in the class. Frankie talked so much about her children and husband and how you loved to ski together as a family. I am a skier too so we had some things in common. She was a special person and will be missed by her students, teachers and friends. I am so sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Judy Eklund##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 02:03 PM



“ Mark and Family-  
Our deepest sympathies for you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.  
The Cobbs##imported-begin##Jeff, Amy, Hannah, Isaiah, and Thomas Cobb##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 01:49 PM



“ On behalf of the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators I wish to offer my sincere condolences for your loss. Frankie was an active member of our organization and a respected and valued contributor to all of our efforts. We will forever remember her contributions and smile.

Sincerely,

Tom DeBalsi

President, VCSEA##imported-begin##Tom DeBalsi##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 12:39 PM



“ *Mark and Family,  
What a sad time for you all. As an educator, I know we find so much of our time/energy is directed towards serving others..Frankie did that so well- she touched so many lives over all the years in education. She will be greatly missed by you and the kids and so many others.*

*I will see you this weekend-Jody is away and sends her love.  
Peace-Scott###imported-begin##Scott Cole###imported-end##*

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July 13, 2009 at 12:15 PM



“ *We love you!###imported-begin##The Brady Family###imported-end##*

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July 13, 2009 at 12:12 PM



“ *Mark, Donny and Becky, I am so sorry for your loss. Your wife/Mom was a great person who was cherished by everyone and she had the gift of helping children. She will always be with you.###imported-begin##Stephanie Beauregard###imported-end##*

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July 13, 2009 at 11:19 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I will never forget Frankie's infectious smile and kind heart. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.###imported-begin##Karen Pond Henry###imported-end##*

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July 13, 2009 at 09:33 AM



“ My sincere condolences to you; please know that you are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Pat Beauregard##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 08:42 AM



“ Mark, Donny and Becky.

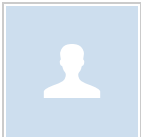
*Heartfelt sympathy to you all, your mom was loved by many people. She had a positive influence on the world. She shared deeply in everything she did.*

Love,

Wally##imported-begin##Wally Robinson##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 07:37 AM



“ Our thoughts are with you - Connie and Roland##imported-begin##Connie and Roland Yandow##imported-end##

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July 13, 2009 at 06:59 AM



“ *Mark, Donny and Becky*

*What a beautiful picture of Frankie.  
I wish I had known her then,  
in the good years of that great attitude she had as a teacher,  
as a mentor and most important of all ,as a loving wife and mother.  
I met Frankie last September at Canaan H.S. and even though she  
was already but a frail copy of herself  
she had not lost her sense of humor. Munching on a muffin, after an  
in-service-day meeting ,I remarked that I did not need those extra  
calories, and she replied: “ Eat my dear and enjoy that muffin, just  
stand close to me and maybe your calories will put back some fat  
on my bones.” And we had a good laugh.  
That is my first memory of Frankie. I miss her and I miss not having  
known her for a longer time.*

*Take care of each other, that was part of her message to us all.*

*Bon courage.*

*Mrs B*

*Dorothee Bertrand-Mineau,*

*French Teacher,*

*Canaan High Schools###imported-begin##Dorothee Bertrand-*

*Mineau (Mrs B )###imported-end##*

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July 12, 2009 at 04:19 PM



“ Mark:

*We were saddened to read in the Free Press of Frankie's death. We have been aware via Don of her lengthy struggle with cancer; we know he had spent significant time with you, probably until Gael came down with her own ailment.*

*Our sincere condolences to you and your children on the loss of Frankie. Our best also to both Janes, your mom and your sister.*

*Our love to you,*

*Anne and Peter###imported-begin###Peter and Anne  
Kreisel###imported-end###*

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July 12, 2009 at 01:58 PM



“ Mr. Lienau and family,

*i am so sorry for your loss. Frankie was an awesome person and teacher while i went to school (as you were) and am so sorry that you have to go through this pain. words can't express how much she will be missed by everyone who knew her.###imported-begin###lorraine gregoire henry###imported-end###*

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July 12, 2009 at 01:40 PM



“ Dear Mark, Donny, Becky and John:  
Frankie lives in all of us. I am so happy and grateful she came into my life and shared her special love, caring and wisdom. I reveled in her regard for me as "Uncle Don" and I will always treasure our close, honest relationship. She will be missed - but in you her gracious, loving legacy continues.  
With love - Uncle Don###imported-begin##Donald Steffens###imported-end##

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July 12, 2009 at 11:19 AM



“ Mark,  
My thoughts are with you and your family...  
Bonnie###imported-begin##Bonnie Tuscany###imported-end##

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July 12, 2009 at 09:18 AM



“ Dear Mark,  
We are so sorry. Reading the obituary reminded me of how wonderful you were to Aunt Maureen, and how you remembered all those who had helped her. We are so sorry.  
Bob and Lynn###imported-begin##Bob and Lynn Mazzarella###imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 11:15 PM



“ I just wanted to say how sorry that I am for your loss. I owe great thanks to all the help that Mrs. Lineau provided to me. I am glad that she is not in pain anymore and that she is in a peaceful place. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Zachary Couture###imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 11:10 PM



“ To Mark, Donny and Becky- You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I am so sorry for your loss. Frankie was a remarkable woman who touched many lives. She was a woman to admire and respect. She has touched the lives of so many children and their families. If there is anything that you need please do not hesitate to ask. She is at peace now and I know that she will always be watching over us all. ##imported-begin##Shelley Lapoint-Jones##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 11:07 PM



“ Dear Mark, Donny and Becky,

*I came into your family so recently that I never had the opportunity to know Frankie as well as so many other fortunate people have. However, from our first time together at Donald and my wedding to that terrific weekend in Saranac Lake, I knew I was in the presense of an exceptional family. And certainly Frankie's strength, caring and peace at the core has been so much a part of that. I am so very, very sad she is gone but think I will always be able to see a bit of her that she gave to and lives in each of you. My love to you all. Dale##imported-begin##Dale Nichols Steffens##imported-end##*

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July 11, 2009 at 09:53 PM



“ *What a beautiful tribute to your dear soul mate and mother. She was quite a wonder.*

*Will be with you in spirit on Saturday and then will see you at the lake.*

*God bless you and comfort you.*

*Much love,*

*Auntie Do###imported-begin##Dorothy Howes###imported-end##*

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July 11, 2009 at 09:39 PM



“ *For the rest of my life, I shall hold Frankie as a model and mentor of courage and strength. I feel fortunate to have known her.###imported-begin##Jane A. Lienau-Rowe###imported-end##*

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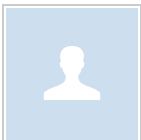
July 11, 2009 at 06:00 PM



“ *Thinking of you, Mark,Becky and Donny. Blessings to your souls, and Frankie's.  
Susan (Frankie's mother-in-law's sponsee)###imported-begin##susan eastman###imported-end##*

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July 11, 2009 at 05:43 PM



“ *It was a pleasure working with Frankie at the school. She worked with my children and is a sweet sweet lady. You all are in my heart and prayers. She will be missed dearly by all###imported-begin##Rhonda###imported-end##*

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July 11, 2009 at 03:53 PM



“ I am a friend of Frankie's mother-in-law, Jane Lienau, and with sadness have followed Frankie's struggle from afar (Oregon). My deepest condolences to the entire family.##imported-begin##Elizabeth Kaplan##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 03:50 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Janey and all the family of this wonderful woman.##imported-begin##Peggy Heinrich##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 03:40 PM



“ Frankie, dear, you were my "favorite daughter-in-law" and there's no way I can express my gratitude to you for making such a happy life for my son, nor for giving Donny and Becky such strong "roots and wings." I love you.  
Granny/Janey##imported-begin##Jane McManus Lienau##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 03:19 PM



“ You put so many people at peace Frankie, now it's your turn to rest. We will miss you dearley. Thank you so much for all you did in your life to help my son. He always told me you was his second mom. When I couldnt help him, all I had to do was call you. Together we could always figure it out. I know your in a wonderful place now. Have fun dancing with the angels. I love you. Judy ox##imported-begin##Judy Boutin##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 01:49 PM



“ Hello Mark, Donny and Becky. I was so sad to hear the news. Frankie was such a delightful person and an inspiration for many. You are in my prayers. May God Bless You. Hugs to you all.##imported-begin##Danielle Hunter Welch##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 01:20 PM



“ you were my second mother and will always be in heart and prayers, you helped me in so many ways, i love you frankie##imported-begin##zachary boutin##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 12:51 PM



“ Dear Mark and kids:

Frankie was the best. I was privileged to know her. You are absolutely right about her attitude - her encouragement in my teens helped me on my way. You're in my thoughts.##imported-begin##Sharon Rancourt##imported-end##

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July 11, 2009 at 12:15 PM