



James Donald Lentz

August 27, 1936 - September 18, 2019

James Donald (Frank) Lentz, 83, of Orlando, passed away on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at his home after a brave battle with cancer. He was the beloved husband of Juanita “Nenet” Petersen Lentz. Frank or Frankie as he is known to everyone, was born August 27, 1936 in North Wilkesboro, NC, the eldest son of Frank B. Lentz and Juanita Bauguss Lentz.

He graduated from Cedartown High School where he excelled in all sports. He went on scholarships to Piedmont College, the University of the South (Sewanee) where he played football & basketball & received his degree in Oglethorpe University where he played basketball. He was inducted into the Oglethorpe University Athletic Hall of Fame in its 100th anniversary. Frank later earned an MBA degree from the the Crummer Graduate School of Business, Rollins College. He was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and True Blue.

Frank began his professional career as a math & chemistry teacher and football, basketball, and track coach at Briarcliff High School in Atlanta, Georgia. He was awarded Coach of the Year twice in Track in 1964-65 by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Region IV, Class AAA. He entered the plastics industry after teaching and worked for Sewell Plastics, Constar International CKS Plastics and later formed his own company, Lenpak Inc.

An avid sportsman, Frank continued to play tennis and golf throughout his life. He also loved fishing in Lake Conway, Mosquito Lagoon and the waterways of the south. Frank later developed a love for travel and traveled all over the United States and abroad along with his beloved wife, Nenet.

In addition to his loving wife, Nenet, Frank is survived by his children: Joel Lentz Gilmer (Debora Chen), Atlanta, Ga, Amy Lentz Layden (Tom) Apopka, FL, Julie Lentz Gordon (Doug) Orlando, FL., stepsons Ian Eric Petersen, Norway, Ernest Norman Petersen, Argentina; 7 grandchildren Tommy Layden, Matt Layden, Justin Layden, Chase Layden, Doug Gordon Jr., Katie Gordon, Lizzy Gordon and a great- granddaughter, Julianna Minerd. He is survived by a sister, Rebecca Crawford (Doug) Denton, TX, and two brothers, William D. Lentz (Linda)Hiram, GA, and Michael Lentz (Carolyn) York, SC.

Memorial services will be announced later – to allow the most of family and friends to celebrate his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society:
507 N New York Ave Suite 100, Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall



“ Coach Lentz was one of my favorite teachers at Briarcliff High School. I knew that he was a great teacher, mentor and motivator whether he was in the classroom teaching math or coaching. He was one of my favorite teachers and I am so sorry that he has passed on. My condolences to his family.

Alan Malkoff - April 18, 2024 at 01:00 PM

LM

“ I was very fortunate to have Mr. Frank Lentz as one of my favorite customers at the bank. He was soft spoken, respectful and nice to deal with. I met him and Juanita over lunch and bank activities several times throughout the years and I really enjoyed our conversations. You surely will be missed! Praying for strength and comfort for Mr. Lentz’s family and friends during this difficult time.
Liza Melvin

Liza Melvin - October 05, 2019 at 10:07 AM

DU

“ Dear friends & family, Early on September 18, 2019 A true Sothern gentleman passed away .He was my brother . We called him Frankie He was the glue that joined my family..He was the world to me .Ever since our Father died back in 1979.Frankie has been the person that I have looked to in good times and bad..He always came thru=He never skipped a beat.. Tonight I am sad for our loss but so glad that he is free from pain. Rest in peace.. Rest in peace dear brother I love you , forever... Dudley

dudley - September 25, 2019 at 04:51 PM

HC

“ Frankie Lentz.....Outstanding Coach!!!!!!
Thanks Coach Lentz.....Henry Cates BHS1962

Henry Cates - September 23, 2019 at 10:16 PM

BJ

“ The memory of that kind & gentle man, Coach Lentz, will remain with me forever. As a nervous new Freshman at Briarcliff High school rushing to class, I slipped & began sliding on my backside, down a flight of stairs. Coach Lentz bounded up from the landing, & pulled me upright, steadying me til I had my balance. He surely saved me from what could have been a painful “trip down those metal-edged marble stairs! The only thing really hurt was my pride...teenage embarrassment. From that day forward as we passed in the hallways, he’d give me a knowing nod, wink or thumbs up. What a kind man.

Babs Kalvelage Johnston - September 21, 2019 at 10:53 PM

JN

“ I was on the Briarcliff High track team in ‘64 and ‘65 as a freshman and sophomore. Coach Lentz was a great leader and motivator. He made each of us feel special with his encouragement. He was highly respected and loved by all his athletes. I treasure the metals that our team won and memories of the large Relay Meets that we entered. I have very fond memories of Coach Lentz. It is true that he impacted many young people. God bless you as you mourn his death. You are not alone.

Jimmy Nicholson - September 21, 2019 at 06:33 PM

HH

“ Coach Lentz made an impression on me and many others during his time at Briarcliff in the early 1960s. I have always appreciated him counseling me and the encouragement he offered.

To his family and friends, I extend to you my condolences. Know that Coach touched the lives of all in positive ways.

Harry Hendrix

Atlanta, GA

Harry Hendrix - September 21, 2019 at 05:41 AM

PD

“ Frankie, say hello to Gardner and Frances when you will see them. It was a blessing to have you as a friend for all my adult life.

Philippe Derathé - September 20, 2019 at 06:09 PM

MD

“ Frankie was a really nice guy in Cedartown High School. Active in all sports and well liked by the Student Body.

We were not personal friends but we were Classmates.

He always had a good word and a smile for everyone.

I also remember never seeing him mad or upset. He seemed to be in control in any and every situation.

My prayers for his family.

Marlin L. Dollar - September 20, 2019 at 04:01 PM

MC

“ *The only man so far who succeeded in taking me out for fishing
And he gave me the memory to see wild dolphins.
Thank you Frank, that I had the preveledge to know you.*

*"The winds that take something we love, are the same that bring us
something we learn to love. Therefore we should not cry about
something that was taken from us, but, yes, love what we have
been given. Because what is really ours is never gone forever."
Bob Marley*



May Clabbers - September 20, 2019 at 12:44 PM

MC

“ Dear Nenet, family Lentz, Family Petersen;

(Dutch)

*Soms is het minder erg iets moois te verliezen;
Beter verliezen dan nooit gehad te hebben.*

*Sometimes it is less bad to lose something beautiful;
Better lose than never having.*

St. Anthony of Padua

We wish you all strength to carry the lost of Frank.

Mia & Harry Clabbers

Reuver (The Netherlands)



Mia & Harry Clabbers - September 20, 2019 at 08:30 AM

AL

“ I am who I am today because of you. Live you, Dad. 💜

Amy Lentz Layden - September 19, 2019 at 08:03 PM

ML

“*Brother Frankie Lentz...so special...one of a kind...generous...a bright, shining light for our family...super smart...great smile & a hearty laugh...loving...very handsome...hard worker!*
“You got that right, Mike!” (FL) We will love you forever! Michael & CC Lentz



Michael Lentz - September 19, 2019 at 03:22 PM

MM

“*Millie Mehaffey lit a candle in memory of James Donald Lentz*



Millie Mehaffey - September 19, 2019 at 02:49 PM

MM

“*I remember waking up after sleepovers and your dad playing Waylon Jennings. He is the only man that had enough courage to try and teach me to water ski lol. He was funny and always made me feel at home! By far the best parents of any of my friends growing up! May God Bless you all during this difficult time.*

Millie Mehaffey - September 19, 2019 at 02:48 PM

AL

Waking up to Waylon and Willie blaring from the stereo on weekend mornings is one of my favorite childhood memories! (Though not so loved back then, LOL)

Amy Lentz Layden - September 19, 2019 at 08:06 PM

MM



Millie Mehaffey - September 20, 2019 at 12:38 PM

RT

Frank and I spent most weekends fishing at Oak Hill Florida around mosquito lagoon. We had the best time and Frank was and is my best friend. I want to thank Nenet for taking great care of Frank. He never felt alone. I miss him

robert traister - September 21, 2019 at 04:23 PM

LI

Life is a timed test ..There is a deadline .. GOD is going to say 'Pencils Down 'His test was over ... He is at peace now ...What a wonderful man .. We sure will miss him ...

linda - September 22, 2019 at 08:33 AM

JM

Frank is special, he never had an enemy,we will all miss him.

john mayes - September 22, 2019 at 12:40 PM

JM

The world will miss you

john mayes - September 22, 2019 at 12:43 PM

PS

Please accept our heartfelt condolences

Peter stephens - September 23, 2019 at 09:13 PM