



Frank Anton Orban III

October 10, 2024

Frank Anton Orban III died on Thursday, October 10, 2024, after a courageous battle with lymphoma.

He was the loving husband of Anne and father of his beloved children Sarah and Michael: Sarah O. Salati of New Rochelle, NY and her three children Lucian, Theodore and Mary, and Michael M. A. Orban of Sydney, Australia. He is also survived by his loving sisters, Michel Orban of Paoli, PA and Susan Eichler (Eric) of Malvern, PA.

Frank was an internationally recognized lawyer, businessman, academic and senior US diplomat. He was born in 1944 in Johnstown, PA, the son of Attorney Frank A. Orban Jr. and Mary Servicky Orban. Frank grew up in Somerset, PA and attended boarding school at The Hill School in Pottstown, PA where he earned the academic distinction of Head of School. He went on to Harvard University (BA Honors) and the University of Pennsylvania Law School (JD).

Frank will be remembered for his brilliance earned through intellectual curiosity and hard work, his integrity evidenced in all his personal and professional interactions, and for his generosity exemplified by the many times that he came unsolicited to aid people in need. Frank always found time throughout his busy professional life to mentor an impressive group of young

men and women who benefitted from his sage counsel and who have gone on to be great contributors to society. Those who knew Frank appreciated his warmth, wit and sense of humor.

From a very young age Frank was interested in the larger world and read voraciously about foreign countries and cultures. He had a classical education with five years of Latin and Greek which led to him winning one of his two scholarships to Harvard – one a competitive prize scholarship in Greek and Latin prose and poetry translation. At Harvard he majored in Political/Soviet Studies and the Russian language. His professors at Harvard included Henry Kissinger and Harvey Mansfield. In law school he concentrated on international and comparative law. During his legal career, he lectured on law and foreign affairs around the world and published numerous articles.

Frank liked to say he lived a fortunate life and part of that fortunate life was service to his country and the cause of peace. He lived the history of his time and made life-long friends wherever he worked and lived.

In 1968, as a newly minted law school graduate and after being admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar, he was recruited by the Peace Corps to work in the Attorney General's Office of the Kingdom of Swaziland (Eswatini) for King Sobuza II when this last British Colony in Africa gained its independence. During his time in Swaziland his work was to bring the laws of the Kingdom into compliance with its new constitutional status. Frank also realized the need for a national museum to preserve the country's history and helped to raise funds to hire its first director.

During the 1970s, Frank was active in Soviet-American trade with SATRA Corporation, an American global trading company through which, at that time, 90% of all Soviet-US trade passed. For SATRA, he advised on business opportunities from East Africa to Tokyo, and was present as a host and escort

for the first high-level delegation of Soviet Ministers to visit the United States -- the first concrete steps towards détente.

While attending an off-Broadway theatre in New York city he met the theater's manager, the blithe, multi-talented Australian, Gillian Anne Joseph. It was 'boy meets girl' over box office and they were engaged three months later. Their married life began in Hamburg, Germany where Frank served as Managing Director of SATRA's continental European operations. In that capacity, he found himself starting a car business that became very successful with the importation of Soviet Fiat 124 automobiles, called Lada, into West Germany and West Berlin. His wife said that he knew the names of all the parts of a car in German but had little idea what they meant in English.

Expecting their first child, Frank and Anne returned to the US where he had the opportunity to take up law again. He taught at the University of Virginia Law School and worked for a firm that, with his entrepreneurial initiative, did major legal policy studies for the US government including the first White House Study on Product Liability Law.

In 1980, Frank joined Armstrong World Industries at their global headquarters in Lancaster, PA to be international legal counsel. Over a couple of decades, Frank negotiated many overseas acquisitions and also Armstrong's joint ventures in the People's Republic of China.

In the mid-eighties, Frank was appointed by the Reagan Administration to a senior diplomatic post as one of the negotiators with the bilateral US-Soviet Nuclear Arms & Space Talks in Geneva, Switzerland. He ruefully commented that successful negotiations were "making the world safe for conventional warfare".

At the end of the Reagan Administration, Frank left Government and became

General Counsel of Rupert Murdoch's European holding company News International PLC until he brought his family back to the US and returned to US corporate legal practice and later to private international law firm practice in Washington DC with the firm of deKieffer & Horgan.

While working in DC, he was asked to become Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of the Institute of World Politics in Washington DC, a graduate school of foreign policy, where he led its successful accreditation as an independent degree-granting graduate school.

Following his retirement, Frank devoted his professional talents, primarily pro bono, to persons of limited income and to non-profits. Frank became a Knight Magisterial in the now nine hundred-and-eleven-year-old Catholic lay Order, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta. He became the first Secretary and General Counsel for its international relief agency branch, Malteser International Americas, in the Western Hemisphere. Supporting other Christian brethren, Frank was also a legal adviser for US projects for the Greek Orthodox Holy Great Monastery of Vatopedi in Mt. Athos, founded in the 10th century.

Frank was a Director and one of the charter members of the American Association of Corporate Counsel (now Association of Corporate Counsel) helping to lead its efforts to internationalize the Association. He also served as a Director of the Ethics & Public Policy Center, Washington, DC, as a member of the US State Department's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, and a member/officer of many other professional, cultural and business organizations.

An avid traveler, up until the last year of his life, Frank had visited or worked in circa 150 countries. He was a keen hiker, fly fisherman, cook and movie,

opera and Asian art buff; all pastimes he shared with his wife of 52 years.

Frank lived an exemplary life in striving for excellence in all that he did, in always seeking the good in people and in doing good himself.

The family will greet friends for a Viewing at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA on Friday evening, October 18, 2024, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Frank's Mass of Christian burial will be held at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 441 St. Joseph Street, Lancaster on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. with Father Allan Wolfe celebrating. Interment will follow immediately after the Mass at St. Joseph's new Catholic Cemetery, 170 Charles Road, Lancaster.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Frank's name to Malteser International Americas (<https://orderofmaltarelief.org>), 1011 First Avenue, Suite 1322, New York, NY 10022. Also, since the public library in Somerset PA opened Frank's mind to the world, please consider a contribution in Frank's name to The Lancaster Public Library (<https://lancasterpubliclibrary.org/donate>) or to your local public library.

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT **18**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
440 Saint Joseph Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Frank Anton Orban III*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 16, 2024 at 04:28 PM

LD

“ *For some reason I thought of Frank this morning just out of the blue. He was my first "boyfriend" in fourth grade and my best friend during childhood. We talked on the telephone almost every day after school. In sixth grade his mother made lunch for us on Halloween and then took us back to school for the parade. Then Frank left for boarding school and I didn't see him again for nearly 40 years when I visited him at his law office in Lancaster in a more-or-less professional capacity as a law firm management consultant. I corresponded with Anne for a short period. He was an amazing man. Weird coincidence: I was dx with lymphoma 25 years ago, but luckily my treatment worked. Rest in peace, dear Frank.*

Linda Diehl DeLia - May 05, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frank Anton Orban III.*



October 24, 2024 at 03:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frank Anton Orban III.

October 24, 2024 at 03:53 PM



“ Our deepest condolences go out to the family.
Frank lived a full and rich life.
Laszlo+Veronika



Laszlo Pribusz of Hungary - October 19, 2024 at 08:34 AM



“ Vineet purchased the *Your Light Shines* for the family of Frank Anton Orban III.



Vineet - October 17, 2024 at 04:01 PM



“ Vineet planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Anton Orban III.

Vineet - October 17, 2024 at 04:01 PM

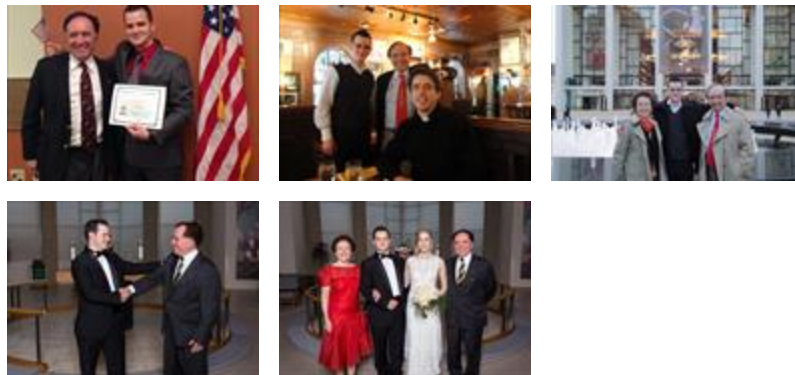
JK

“ *My sympathies to Anne and the family. I was a classmate of Frank's both at a boarding school and in college and ran him to professionally or otherwise a few times--though now it seems not often enough--in the ensuing decades. I remember trying to parse James Joyce's Ulysses with him--with little success--as a school boy, among many other earnest or not so earnest discussions. His thoughtfulness, sincerity and sense of perspective leavened with wit are in short supply these days and will be missed.*

Jim Kobak - October 17, 2024 at 09:20 AM

AG

“ *Frank was an amazing man and mentor. He made an impact on so many lives, including ours. He will be greatly missed. Lots of love to you now and always.*



Ashley Garcia - October 17, 2024 at 09:16 AM

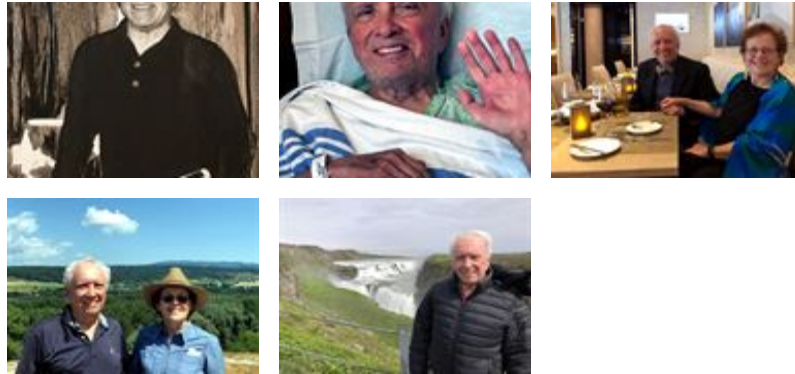
AB

“ *I bring my deepest condolences to all family of Frank, a great person and a friend. I was honored to know him, enjoying conversations with him about the world and Russia, my country that he knew very well. A very energetic and highly intelligent Frank was among my heroes. And I will always remember him with passion and joy. Sasha Bratersky*

Alexander Bratersky - October 16, 2024 at 12:29 PM



“ 130 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 16, 2024 at 12:19 PM



“ *Our deepest compassion in this sorrow and terrible grief. We are with you all with our sincere love and condolences..Hugging you.. We will keep the memory of this great loving and lovable person! Mizins*

Victor - October 16, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Frank Anton Orban III.*



October 15, 2024 at 08:41 PM

AS

“ Albert Spahija planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Anton Orban III.

Albert Spahija - October 15, 2024 at 08:41 PM



“ 146 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 15, 2024 at 04:58 PM

LA

“ Our time in Eswatini, provided the compass and compassion for a lifetime. May his spirit have fair winds and following seas, and may your memories give you and your family succor in the years to come.

Lee Alton - October 15, 2024 at 12:00 PM

PQ

“ Perrin Quarles purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Frank Anton Orban III.



Perrin Quarles - October 15, 2024 at 11:38 AM

MD

“ Matthew D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Anton Orban III.

Matthew D. - October 14, 2024 at 10:26 PM

SC

“ Anne, Sarah, and Michael, we remember Frank with such fondness and love during the youth days with our children. He was such an inspiring presence in his children's and others' lives. It was a privilege to have know him and his unselfish accomplishments in such a fulfilling life. Our hearts and sympathy go out to you at this difficult time. Sandy and Gary Cross

Sandy Cross - October 14, 2024 at 08:18 PM

RS

“ Dear Anne and Family:
Frank's list of accomplishments is unapproachable.
Yet he was so unassuming and understated.
You must be so proud.
With deepest sympathy and condolences.
Ron and Dee

ron smith - October 14, 2024 at 02:01 PM

SW

“ Steven & Denise Williams purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Frank Anton Orban III.



Steven & Denise Williams - October 13, 2024 at 05:32 PM

LK

“ Frank and Anne made us very rich by knowing them. They traveled the world over. This time, on the picture and in much happier times, they are in Nikolsburg (southern Moravia), not far from the Slovak town, which Frank's family came from. RIP dearLubomir



Lubomir Kostroň - October 13, 2024 at 06:37 AM

ML

“ My deepest sympathy for the magnitude of your loss. Frank was one of the most intellectually stimulating people, I have ever had the great fortune of knowing. I cherished the small fragments of time shared through the years, listening and learning about a myriad of topics on politics, religion, and cultures. He was a most fascinating and generous spirit. Eternal memory!

*Blessings to Anne!
Marlene*

Marlene LeVine - October 12, 2024 at 04:06 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Frank Anton Orban III.



October 12, 2024 at 02:03 PM