



Francis Charles Dlubak

January 29, 1942 - November 25, 2017

Frank Dlubak,

Age 75, of Freeport, Pennsylvania, died on November 25, 2017.

Frank was born in Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania on January 29, 1942 to the late Charles and Helen Dlubak. At the age of 12, Frank started working with his father designing stained glass windows for churches. By the age of 21, he was already leading large projects, such as crafting and installing 24 windows in the St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church in San Francisco.

Frank spent his life as an inventor and entrepreneur who owned multiple patents and companies. He preferred describing himself as a "tinkerer." His business cards simply read "Frank Dlubak, Worker."

Frank started the Dlubak Corporation in the 1970s, where he turned his creative talents to developing techniques for bending and strengthening architectural glass. Although Frank had no formal training in engineering or material sciences, he possessed an intuitive understanding of how machines operated and an encyclopedic knowledge of the properties and applications of materials.

Frank had a remarkable technical mind. He could fix just about anything, but

he also had the aesthetic sensibility of an artist and the imagination of an explorer. He could draw, paint, and bake, he loved boating, fishing, flying airplanes, and scuba diving, and he told captivating stories.

His unique combination of talents guided his illustrious career. It allowed him, time and again, to take on industry-wide problems, imagine ground-breaking solutions that others did not think were possible, and create markets for them where they hardly existed.

Frank set the standard for the architectural curved glass industry. He customized curved windows for buildings, but he also invented glass-bending machinery to make unique designs and angles possible. His designs and products are found in some of the most iconic locations, including the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, the Sears Tower in Chicago, the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, Rockefeller Center, the Prada Store in New York, the Smithsonian space exhibit, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, and the cylindrical glass columns at the entrance of the Disney Stores, among many others. Frank also designed and produced the engraved glass paper weight favors that were handed out to guests at the first President Bush's inaugural ball.

Frank also created a special laminate for hurricane and bomb-resistant windows that protected against shrapnel. His windows were installed in airports, military vehicles, and American Embassies around the world. He was proud of the letters he received from military personnel thanking him for making products that saved their lives.

Throughout his career Frank received numerous awards and recognitions, including Glass Magazine Entrepreneur of the Year, the Pittsburgh Humanitarian Award, the Pennsylvania Small Business Association Innovation Award, and in 1998, he was inducted into the Glass and Metal Hall of Fame

for his contributions to the industry.

Frank embodied a spirit of generosity, warmth, optimism, and curiosity in everything he did. He had an appreciation for the moment and a special gift for connecting with people of every walk of life and of every age. He would strike up lively conversations with strangers and would invite anyone in for a cup of coffee. It was common for Frank to leave a restaurant knowing more about the family of his waiter or waitress than he did about the food he was served.

More than anything else, Frank was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend whose contagious enthusiasm and sense of humor made him an uplifting and inspiring presence. Frank is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Ave Maria (Bazzano) Dlubak; his sister, Delores (Dlubak) Joyce; his children, Alyssa Dlubak Bodiford (Rick Bodiford), Amy Dlubak Kim (Sunghoon Kim), Alana Dlubak (Andrew Deener), and Damon Dlubak (Rocio Martinez Dlubak). He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Cole Bodiford, Basil Kim, Azalea Deener, Chloe Bodiford, Calabria Kim, Astor Dlubak, Echo Deener, and Alella Dlubak, all of whom cherished their time fishing in the pond and taking off-road ATV "mule rides" with their Pap Pap.

At Frank's request there will be no viewing. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Melanoma Research Foundation, www.melanoma.org.

Tribute Wall



“ Francis Charles Dlubak

October 09, 2023 at 09:55 AM



“ Francis Charles Dlubak

October 06, 2023 at 11:36 AM



“ So sorry for your loss Ave, my prayers are with you and your loved ones.

Beth Ann Brendlinger - November 29, 2017 at 10:30 AM



“ Ave and family, my sincere condolences on the loss of Frank. I only had the opportunity to meet him once at the reunion a few years ago but I am glad to have had that brief time to get acquainted with him and the rest of the family. May he rest in peace and you be comforted in knowing he accomplished much good during his time here.-Mike Werries

Mike Werries - November 28, 2017 at 03:36 PM



“ I would like send my sympathy and condolences to Frank Dlubaks family . I had the pleasure of working for Frank for over 30 years.
Frank Cushey

Frank Cushey - November 27, 2017 at 09:35 PM



*Had the pleasure of going on a couple SCUBA trips with Frank and Damon. Sending our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.
David & Anna-Rita Webb*

Dave Webb - November 27, 2017 at 11:47 PM



It was an honor to have worked for Frank in his many businesses. Ave & Frank made a great team. They made the world a better place. Frank will be missed.

Marilyn & Al Schoener

Marilyn Schoener - November 28, 2017 at 09:54 AM



I met Frank in 2015 when I sought his help to refurbish the brass wall clock for the chapel at ACMH. I am a chaplain. He graciously renewed the cross for no payment. He asked me to pray for him for one year because he "needed prayer." Little did I know. I was glad to pray for him. Now I pray for his family. May God bless you. Rev Hester Shick

Hester Shick - November 30, 2017 at 09:06 PM