



Mr. Frank Joseph D'Anna

March 18, 1933 - March 1, 2025

Frank Joseph D'Anna, 91, of Denton, TX, passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2025, in Denton. He was born on March 18, 1933, in Chicago, IL, to John and Carol (Cecola) D'Anna. Frank lived in Southern California for over fifty years before moving to North Texas, where he resided for the last thirty years. He married Terry Ueno in Japan in 1955; she preceded him in death in January 1974.

A proud United States Navy veteran, Frank served during the Korean War. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a minor in English from UCLA and later received a Master's in Music from Long Beach State University.

Frank was an accomplished musician, proficient in piano, clarinet, accordion, flute, and guitar. He performed as both a jazz and classical musician. Throughout his career, he made a lasting impact as a music educator, teaching choral and piano students for over six decades and directing various musicals in colleges and local schools. His choirs and ensembles won numerous state and national competitions. Frank mentored countless students who earned accolades, scholarships, and awards, achieving great success in competitions and showcases. He remained close with many of his students throughout the years forming friendships that have stood the test of time and distance.

An entrepreneur at heart, Frank pursued various business ventures, including

a tile business, a florist, a motel, a piano studio, and a private school, where he served as headmaster.

Frank's lifelong passion for sailing became a reality at the age of 75 when he became an avid sailor, spending many years enjoying time on local lakes with his personal sailboat. He had a zeal for the arts, spent much of his free time at the theater, frequently attended musicals and the symphony, and loved supporting his beloved Dodgers and UCLA Bruins.

Family was at the center of Frank's life. He cherished time with his loved ones and dedicated years of his life teaching his children and grandchildren how to play piano, creating a generational legacy marked by his love for music.

A devout Christian, Frank's faith was a cornerstone of his life. He was deeply committed to his church, First Baptist Parker, where he faithfully played the piano every Sunday for 30 years. He loved reading his Bible and was devoted to the Lord.

Frank is survived by his son, Michael D'Anna and his wife, Sallie, of Riverside, CA; daughter, Dorise Nall and her husband, Justin, of Denton, TX; six grandchildren, Thatcher, Piper, Paisley, Bennett, Jason, and Jennifer; four great-grandchildren, Theodore, Benjamin, Sadie, and Sienna; cousins, Terri Cecola of Chicago, IL, Linda Cecola of Cerritos, CA, Gloria Vulakovic of Bullhead City, AZ, Janice Cecola of Huntington Beach, CA, and Anthony Cecola of Seal Beach, CA; and close friend and former wife, Gloria Balke of Denton, TX.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, John and Carol; his wife, Terry D'Anna; his son, Andrew D'Anna, and his brother, Tony D'Anna.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00PM, Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Valley

Creek Church, 2221 S. Loop 288 in Denton, TX. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

Valley Creek Church
2221 S. Loop 288
Denton, TX

Tribute Wall

SM

“ 1 file added to the album Frankie



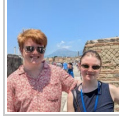
sandra mackenzie-cioppa - September 20, 2025 at 03:58 PM



“ I have searched for Frank over the years. I can't believe I've found him after he passed. Frank was the piano player at my parent's dance studio in Montebello CA. He was a kid, and I was a kid 11 years younger than he. When he went away to war, he was sorely missed. But he returned with the most wonderful gift, baby Michael. I adored that little guy. Terry would let me spend the day with her and Michael. I supposed I was a mother's helper. It gave Terry some free time and I loved every minute with that newborn. I went on to become a nurse midwife. I'm so very sorry to have missed both Terry and Frank. I have thought so much about them over the years. If anyone sees this who can tell Michael about the roll he, his dad and his mom had in my life (and my parents, Mildred and Mac), please do. I can be reached at macknona2two@gmail.com.



Sandra MacKenzie-cioppa - August 02, 2025 at 08:03 PM



Frank was a nearly daily presence at my parents' dance studio. I'm sorry to have missed him, but gratified to know he was not only a great kid, but a successful and well loved man.

Sandra MacKenzie-cioppa - August 03, 2025 at 12:15 AM



“*Mr. D. inspired me more than any other teacher I had. Perhaps because I never learned to completely read music, and learned everything by ear, I can still remember almost every song we sang in choir. Including the little "It's Friday" song he taught us one Friday morning just to warm up our voices. It was on a tiny piece of music paper removed from a little book. Then once we sang it all the way through he tossed it aside telling us it was just a silly song he found. We all laughed. Who knew it would still be in my musical library in my head? My senior year I was in Concert Choir and I elected to stay in Girls Choir instead of singing in the mixed choir like most of the other CC members did. Mr. D. asked me why and I told him I didn't want to abandon the girls choir. He seemed so pleased by my decision that I still feel proud. He also introduced me to musical theater. We performed "Sweet Charity" as the musical at Bolsa Grande in my sophomore year and I got cast along with a couple other kids from Bolsa in the musical "Showboat" (at I think Santa Ana College), for which he was the musical director the summer of 1975. Performing in musical theater filled many happy years of my life. My thanks to Mr. D. for all he did and gave to all of us. Our lives were and are so much richer because of him.*

Denise Power - Bolsa Grande H.S. class of 1976.

Denise Power - May 08, 2025 at 05:43 PM

SD

“ Frank was a very special and influential person in my life. He and Gloria came to Michael and I’s wedding in Nevada and they both accepted me unconditionally.

Frank was the best father like figure in my life. He always took an interest in mine and my children’s activities and was immediately happy to be known by my kids as “grandpa Frank” and continued until his passing.

Frank would travel to California to stay with us annually and to attend choir performances with his high school choir students and also enjoy Dodger Baseball games at Dodger Stadium with us.

Frank’s high school choir performed at schools and once at the beach. It was obvious how much love and respect his now senior students had for him. Their music was so beautiful and their songs and brought tears to my eyes.

I will always be thankful to God for sending Frank into my life.

The best part about Frank visits to California or our visits to Texas was the early morning music.

I would sometimes record his music with my phone in the morning. It was simply beautiful.

I miss the wonderful conversations Frank and I had as I often learned something new from a mature and loving perspective.

I will miss Frank but know that he is in the presence of our awesome God and is at peace.

Sallie D’Anna - April 30, 2025 at 03:06 PM

SM

Do you happen to know what happened to Terry? I was hoping to hear from Michael. Terry and Michael had such special places in my heart and my life. And Frank, well he was there from the beginning... just a kid, but older than I.

sandra mackenzie-cioppa - September 20, 2025 at 03:52 PM

SW

“ *Sharon W. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Mr. Frank Joseph D'Anna.*



Sharon W. - March 08, 2025 at 04:59 AM

KW

“ *I remember so many people because of this man. My most important person and most influential person was a young woman I shared most of my high school time with because of the choir we were part of together. I miss Mr. D and his acceptance of all our lives as part of the singing family we are all in harmony with.*

Kenneth weir - March 07, 2025 at 10:33 PM

MH

“ *Mr. D'Anna was my Bible teacher during my Senior year at Trinity Christian. I remember how he almost always had a smile on his face. When he didn't it usually meant someone was in trouble :) He was a source of encouragement to me and so many others during our formative years in High School. He loved the Lord and the Scriptures, and that was evident in how he taught. It was a privilege to have known him and I look forward to worshiping with him in heaven in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Matt Holst - March 07, 2025 at 12:20 PM

LM

“ *I am class of 1967 Bolsa Grande alumni. I was a vocalist, a soloist, and a soprano in our Bolsa Grande concert choir. In my senior year 1967, while on Spring break we were invited to sing for the California Congress in the rotunda. We flew to Sacramento, my first time on an airplane. We sang in front of the state congress at the state capitol building, and toured all the way back down the state of California on a school bus, back home to our High School school in Garden Grove California. There's not a day that I don't think about our wonderful concert choir teacher, Mr Frank D'Anna, our tour during spring break with the concert choir and what he taught us about music. It has carried through with me even at 76 years old. May you rest in peace kind sir you will never be forgotten.*



Lynn Merker - March 07, 2025 at 11:39 AM