



Frank Sergent

November 22, 1940 - December 17, 2023

Orville Franklin Sergent was born on November 22, 1940, to M. Gene Sergent and Jeannette Elizabeth Maier at home in Fillmore, California. He passed away on December 17, 2023. He was the third of five children. He enjoyed an adventurous childhood with his family in California and making frequent trips back to Missouri. In 1951 the family moved to Halfway, Missouri. He graduated from Halfway High School in 1958 and then graduated from the University of Missouri. His first wife was Mary Josephine Gillum. To this union two children were born, Cindy Jo and David Anthony. After college he worked for the John Deere Company ultimately with the position of a territory manager. In 1968 he joined his brother, Ray, in business in Sergent Brothers Equipment. Sadly, his wife, Mary died, and he then returned to college to obtain his teaching certifications so that his working hours would allow time to raise his two children.

Frank purchased land first owned by his great-great grandfather, Andrew Jackson Canaday. He restored the home originally built by his great grandfather and grandmother, Charles F. and Viola (Canaday) Sergent. He was always content and happy to live there.

In 1981 he married Cay Vance and she and Kristal joined the family. In 1983, they began the adventure of raising two more children, twins: Jeannette Elizabeth and Jessie Marie. They enjoyed 42 years of marriage filled with travel, attending auctions and as Frank would say collecting “treasures”. Frank was an amazing father, always placing family above himself. As a husband he

was always supportive of Cay's projects and work.

Frank worked as a math and science teacher for 26 years. Educating students in the Skyline, Fair Play and the Dallas County R-1 Schools. He always hoped that he had made a difference in the lives of students.

Frank loved to repair items and make use of things that others discarded. He amassed a sizeable collection of stuff from cars to scrap iron. Perhaps his favorite activity was reading. He was an avid reader who could read a book a day.

Frank was preceded in death by his first wife, his parents, his son, David and a sister, Rosa Shantz. Surviving him are his wife Cay and daughters: Cindy (Larry) Hopke, Kristal (Sean) Watson, Jeannette (Tim) Reeves and Jessie. Also surviving are grandchildren: Mary Hopke, Patrick (Micole) Hopke, Rebecca Hopke, Kendall Watson, Dylan Watson, Oliver Reeves and another on the way as well as great-grandson, Jackson Hopke. Siblings who survive are Raymond (Betty), Linda (Burnell) Crain, Gerald (Veva). Many beloved nieces and nephews also survive him. Not to forget, his dogs: Rose, Harry, and Bessie.

Services will be at Cantlon-Otterness-Viets Funeral Home in Buffalo on Friday, December 22 at 10:00 AM. Burial will be private. Suggested dress for the service is casual.

The family requests no flowers be sent. A memorial will be established to provide books for a library.

Arrangements are under the direction of Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home, Buffalo.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo

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Tribute Wall

WB

“ I was a student of Mr. Sergent's at Buffalo High School. He was firm but fair and offered me extra assistance because math was not my forte. I offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family. He made a difference in the life of this student and the world is a little less bright without his presence.
Wendy Bailey (BHS, Class of 1989)

Wendy Bailey - January 22, 2024 at 04:27 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank Sergent.



December 22, 2023 at 11:25 PM

MP

“ Missouri Antique tractor pullers purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Frank Sergent.



Missouri Antique tractor pullers - December 20, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Frank Sergent.*



December 20, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ *My wife and I were students of Mr. Sergent at Fair Play in Junior High and High School. He was also the sponsor of our class for all four years of High School if I remember correctly. He indeed made a difference in his students lives, he would take time to work one on one with students who were struggling with something and showed a desire to learn. As teenagers we couldn't always understand his strictness, but as adults we appreciate his devotion to students and to his craft. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Bill & Phyllis (Wilson) Marszalek (FPHS 1982)*

William Marszalek - December 19, 2023 at 03:08 PM