



Mr. Daniel Birmeli Dingman

April 5, 1924 - September 10, 2013

Loving husband, father and devoted follower of Christ, Dan was born to Charles and Monna Dingman in Palmer, Massachusetts April 5, 1924, youngest of nine boys and was followed by one sister. He is survived by one brother, Dr. Paul Dingman of Texas and his sister Bette (Jacques) Fauteaux of Massachusetts.

His father was an engineer and construction estimator with several books published on construction subjects by McGraw-Hill. Dan began working with his father at an early age and construction estimating and management was his life career. He began his college education at American International College in Springfield Massachusetts and completed his Bachelor's degree forty years later at University of Southern Florida.

Dan was a committed pacifist and followed his older brother Gerald into Civilian Public Service during World War II. He worked all his life to promote peace and offer love where there was hate.

In 1947 Dan married Frances Coutu and together they raised a family of six children. They moved to California in 1953.

In the 1970's Dan worked as Chief Estimator for WED Engineering, a division of Disney and was transferred to Florida as Disney World began to be built.

He was always proud to be a part of it and was honored with his name on a Main Street window.

When his division was closed he formed a company that built Rosie O'Grady's.

While in Orlando he served a term as President of the Orlando branch of the Cost Engineers Society.

He then went to work for Tampa Electric.

In 1976 to honor the Bi-centennial, Dan worked out a way to fold tissue paper and then cut it with one snip of the scissors to produce 13 stars in a circle. He used this to end a talk on the history of the American Flag for the Tampa Electric Company's speaker's bureau. He was one of their most requested speakers. He also served two years as President of the Tampa Regional Artists Association.

After retiring from Tampa Electric Dan volunteered as a Guardian ad Litem for children in the court system until illness caused him to move to be with his children.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years Frances (Fran) and his children Craig (Denise) of San Luis Obispo, CA, Monna (Anne) of Los Alamos, CA, Teresa (Paul) of Orlando, FL, David (Cindy) of Taos, NM, Martha (John) of Lewisville, NC and Carol (Sam) of Los Angeles, CA; Grandchildren; Scott (Marnie), Rhonda, Naomi, Danielle (Gary), Monica (Terry), Jenna, Ericka, Kadie, Henry, Hailey, William; Great Grandchildren- Daniel, Wyatt, Shelby, Cybelle, Kylie, Dakota, Keon, Athena, Isobel, Kaitlynn, Vincent; siblings Paul of Houston, TX and Bette (Jacques) of Hubbleston, MA

Because of his belief and practice of gentility, peace and social justice the

Daniel B. Dingman Scholarship for Peace & Justice has been established by the Los Alamos Foundation in Los Alamos, California. Donations in his memory to "The Los Alamos Foundation" would be welcome and may be sent to The Los Alamos Foundation, PO Box 477, Los Alamos, CA 93440.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 9001 N. Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida 32751. (407) 695-CARE(2273).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **15**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Reception

SEP **15**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Daniel Birmeli Dingman.*



September 17, 2013 at 03:26 PM



“ *Fran & Dan had moved to California before I began going out with Fran's younger sister, Joan. It did not take long before I began hearing the name "Danny." It was always in connection with some kind deed, talent or accomplishment. It quickly became obvious that this "Saint Danny" fellow was going to be a very hard act to follow. Joan's parents kindly accepted me as I was, even without a halo or any nifty napking tricks. However, Joan's father continued to call me "Danny". I have often wondered if Jimmy and Russell who followed me were called Dave or if Al stuck with Danny.*

Years later I finally met him and I came to see why he was able to charm the Coutus as he made off with their pretty oldest daughter. Dan was a rare combination of brains and charm -- a thoroughly nice fellow. He had the knack of putting people at ease. Like all successful people he had an ego, but he kept it in his pocket, out of the way of his relations with others.

Proof of his worth as a man lives on in his family and many friends. Yes, and without realizing it, all those people walking down Main Street at Disney World!

We salute a life well lived.

With love, Joan & Dave Smith, Old Saybrook, Connecticut

David E. Smith - September 16, 2013 at 10:57 AM

JJ

“With all true respect, and sadness that we felt about Shelly's Uncle Dan's passing, I would like, to offer these thoughts. I want to thank, Debbie Coutu Joyce for letting me know about his final days.

I was most impressed by these traits, his easy smile, his gentle, gentleman atmosphere, that surrounded him, and his true wisdom and intelligent, I met Dan, during one or more of the Coutu Family reunions, and extended families, that the Smith's of Olde Saybrook, CT, hosted for years, on their wonderful, property. in the past.

One sunny day, while talking to Dan & Fran, he had noticed, that I was wearing a Boy Scout shirt of some type, that was common, then since I was a professional, for the BSA, for over 13 years. He was interested in the Northeast Region emblem, that I was wearing. The design of a compass circle, pointing to the Northeast with thirteen stars, in the design, was something, he wanted to show me. The next thing, I knew, he was folding a paper napkin, into something, and he had me interested now.

He said he could duplicate the design, and just made one small cut. Well, he did that, and unfolded the paper napkin. Well Voila, I was presented a duplicate of the Northeast Region design. Well, I was dumbfounded and impressed! He did not get the colors correct, because the compass point, was actually red. I brought that to his attention, without being condescending, or with any trace, of negative attitude.

Dan was simply undaunted, he found another, red paper napkin, he added it, to another, white napkin, (his engineer mind was working, sharply, even relaxing, at the reunion). He made the same, small cut again, but now, through the two napkins. I think he was eating lunch, simultaneously.

This time, the Northeast Region BSA design was duplicated exactly. He tried, in vain, to teach me the folding technique, so I could impress others, but to no avail. He even, gave me the cut napkins,

but I could refold them, in a similar way. I thought that, I had met The Amazing Kreskin or somebody, like him. I learned a little bit about his back ground, then and at, other times.

I learned that they were living, in Florida, then. I became an instant fan, right then.

We never visited them down south, or in California. Finances have never permitted much travel, anywhere, and children, added complications, when we did.

But rest in peace, Dan, we will miss you.

With love, and respect,

Joseph "Joe" Di Mauro Jr. & Michelle "Shelly"(Boulette) Di Mauro

Joseph Di Mauro Jr. - September 16, 2013 at 12:07 AM

PC

“*Paul & I will always remember our visits with Fran & Dan. We've told so many people about his name in the window on Main St. in the Magic Kingdom because we are so proud to be related to him. Of course, we will never forget the "star" that he tried to teach us and our son, Ron, how to make. Unfortunately, none of us were ever able to master it. Even Ron, couldn't do it! He is a "one of kind" man and that is so sad. We will all miss him dearly. Praying for Fran & family.*

Paul and Evelyn Coutu - September 15, 2013 at 11:46 AM

SJ

“ *Martha and I are very saddened to know of Dan's death which is part of life and life's living was always evident when in his company...many an interesting conversation was entailed with him and his gentleness and Christian fellowship was always in evidence...*

it was a real pleasure to have known Dan and each time we visit the earthly "Magic Kingdom" we will continue to pause on the circle at the head of its' "Main Street", look at the façade window bearing his name, and mention "Dan the Man"...

our thoughts and prayers are for Fran's sorrow of losing her most intimate life companion...

rest in peace, Mr. Dan...

Steve (and Martha) Jaros, Temple Terrace, FL.

Stephen Jaros - September 14, 2013 at 10:30 AM

PE

“ *Paul And Evelyn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Daniel Birmeli Dingman*



Paul and Evelyn - September 14, 2013 at 10:22 AM

DJ

“ *Debbie Joyce lit a candle in memory of Mr. Daniel Birmeli Dingman*



Debbie Joyce - September 13, 2013 at 03:53 PM

 Danielle Dingman

“ *Danielle Dingman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Daniel Birmeli Dingman*




Danielle Dingman - September 13, 2013 at 03:02 PM

 Danielle Dingman

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Danielle Dingman - September 13, 2013 at 02:58 PM

 Danielle Dingman

“ *My Superman, All the times he never let me down, He picked me up and put me back on sold ground. He never gave up on me and never look or spoke down to me. you are always my positive role models, my guardian angels, my super heroes, my favorite people. I luv you Grand Fran and Grand Dan*

Danielle Dingman - September 13, 2013 at 02:50 PM

JS

“ I always heard stories about the Edwards daughters amazing grandfather Dan and was very happy to have been able to spend some time with him. I went to Disney with the family when they came down and I'll never forget his sense of humor and how much he told me about his time with Disney. I remember we were at the Treehouse for Swiss Family Robinson and Ericka and Vincent went up the tree while Dan and I stayed down below. He began to tell me the story of when the tree was brought in. So I asked "Has this tree always been here?" I'll never forget the look he gave me, so confused and said "You know its not a real tree right? Disney built it!" and he just started laughing so we both laughed and he went on to tell me more about his time at Disney. This is one memory I will always cherish with such an amazing man which I now know how the Edwards girls turned out so amazing and with so much joy, because of this man.

Joshua Sweeney - September 13, 2013 at 12:57 PM

EC

“ Dan was always known as the "Star Man" at TECO. I knew him from being on the Speakers Bureau and from his presentations at meetings. The Board of The Electric Employees Benefit Association (TEEBA) wishes to extend their condolences to the family. He was a great co-worker and friend to many. Sincerely, Eva E. Collette on behalf of the TEEBA Board of Directors.

eva collette - September 13, 2013 at 10:31 AM

EB

“ Gran Dan as I always knew him was one amazing man. It showed in his relationships with his family. He had an individual and important relationship with each child and grandchild. He has built a beautiful legacy with a family that follows in his example. I love you all and am so sorry for your loss. (Friend of the Edwards grand children.)

Emily Belcher - September 13, 2013 at 09:20 AM

JM

“ Dan was simply the nicest person that I have ever met. Our deepest condolences to Fran, Martha/John and the girls, and all of the extended Dingman family.

John, Debora, Ryan, and Emily Mohr

John Mohr - September 13, 2013 at 08:54 AM

DJ

“ We went to visit Aunt Fran and Uncle Dan in Florida shortly after Uncle Dan had gotten out of the hospital.....he was bound and determined to show my son Austin his tissue paper star and he did it! I still have it to this day! I will treasure it always! Uncle Dan I hope to see you again! My heart goes out to my family for their loss. Love and prayers to you all.

Debbie Joyce and family

Debbie Joyce - September 13, 2013 at 07:08 AM