



## Don "Frank" Hudson

August 1, 1950 - March 1, 2022

Don "Frank" Hudson, 71, passed away peacefully at home in Ocoee, Florida on March 1st, 2022. Frank was born August 1st, 1950 to Don F. Hudson and Joan Robson Hudson of Pawnee, Oklahoma.

After graduating from Pawnee High School, he married his high school sweetheart Vicki Lou Brien. They lived in Edmond, Oklahoma for a few years where they both attended the University of Central Oklahoma and he obtained a Degree in Broadcast Journalism. Frank was always adventurous. During high school he and friends discovered a fun pastime involving strapping on a parachute in a large pasture, tying one end of a long rope to the parachute harness, the other end to the car bumper and taking off. One of his brothers found the flight exhilarating and even more so when the rope broke.

Amazingly and without injury, a barbed wire fence stopped him from being wind swept across the county and made for a lasting memory.

Frank rocked the local radio stations as a disc jockey while attending college and upon graduation went to work on his television broadcasting career as an anchorman at KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City. He later moved on to WNYS-TV in Syracuse, NY and then on to the sunshine state as a news anchor at WDBO now WKMG-TV in Orlando, FL, where his hair fell out and forced him off the air. He continued as a news director while he experimented with hair transplant technology which wasn't well developed in the late 70's. The results

were less than stellar and during this time he observed the lifestyle of a friend who was a Landman in the oil and gas business and liked what he saw. After a week or so of job shadowing his friend, a favorable reference, an embellished resume and with a fake-it-till-you-make-it philosophy he was hired by C.E. Beck & Associates as an experienced Landman. He was told to report to Somerset, Pennsylvania where he joined a large crew of genuinely experienced Landmen. Frank's introduction to the crew at breakfast his first day included a question asking about his experience with heirships to which he replied "I usually fly Delta". Although he didn't get why they were laughing, he was quick on his feet and laughed right along with them. Fortunately for Frank, that was a great crew and they quickly helped get him up to speed. Frank excelled and went on to work as a Landman for over 30 years, made many lifelong friends and along the way introduced and helped a lot of others get into the profession, including his two brothers. His generosity, sense of humor, kindness, big heart and desire to help others was beyond compare and was his gift to all who knew him. He ultimately figured out how to get his hair back and returned to broadcasting for some of those 30 years and worked as an anchorman at WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge, LA. and then at WHAS-TV in Louisville, KY.

Frank is survived by his two younger brothers, Joe Pat and Tom and lived with his girlfriend Arlene Noble. Frank and Arlene traveled together until he retired and returned to live in Ocoee, Fl. where he was a board member and treasurer for his Condo Association. He enjoyed time with friends and family, Arlene's Cajun cooking, cruising on his pontoon boat or in his classic 2005 Jaguar XJ8 L bucket list money pit, 'The Lady in Black'. Frank was a natural athlete, excelled in college diving competitions and was a barefoot water skier all the way into his 40's.

Frank's final resting place will be at the family's burial plot at Highland Cemetery in Pawnee, Oklahoma. No formal services are planned at this time

and no flowers please but please feel free to leave a comment, share a good story, memory or photo. He certainly enjoyed a good story.

# Tribute Wall

TO

“ *Hoosier Lottery show 1990 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYzMNGtkN-M>*

Tom - November 08, 2022 at 08:47 AM

TO

“ *1 file added to the album Baton Rouge*



Tom - November 08, 2022 at 08:21 AM

TO

“ *1 file added to the album Frank & Mike - Frank & Bob*



Tomhudson - March 21, 2022 at 09:56 AM

TO

“ *1 file added to the album Frank & Mike*



Tomhudson - March 21, 2022 at 09:54 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album *Frank*



---

**Tomhudson** - March 21, 2022 at 09:47 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album *Kevin, Frank, Daisy & Tom*



---

**Tomhudson** - March 21, 2022 at 09:45 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album *Frank & Faye*



---

**Tomhudson** - March 21, 2022 at 09:43 AM

MP

“*My o’So Dear Uncle Frank, I will forever miss and love you for the rest of my time. You hold a special place inside my heart. So so so many wonderful memories we got to share together with family and friends which you also held so dear.*

*I will keep those memories fresh inside of me and share with others.*

*There is always always that one memory that just stands out... We were all at this restaurant when I saw the kitchen staff come running and screaming out of the back. First thought I had is what is Frank up to now? I looked around and you were slinging this life-like raccoon. It was the funniest, most exciting, and one of many eventful days when we gathered together. All of those around ended up filled with JOY that’s what you were always full of.*

*Most of the best memories I have you were there. I mean your thumb : 1: trick and that snatch a dollar trick at the parties is legendary, just as you are. I could go on and on...*

*The fact I knew you is Blessed, Uncle Frank you’ll be one of my hardest goodbyes. I’ll keep your light on and always shining through. You will always have a piece of my heart, never to depart and so many others that knew the loving, kind, and generous man you are.*

*You’ll forever be my beloved Uncle Frank.*

*I Love You!*

*Love Michelle,*

*P.S. Jade will never ever forget the love you gave and the talks you had thank you for it all! It forever instilled a flourishing seed inside of her. She loved you so much and was so proud to call you her Uncle Frank and you knew it.*

*“My tears of sorrow...*

*will be better tomorrow...  
cause' memories we shared  
I'll reflect on and follow" kRp*

**Michelle Pittman** - March 18, 2022 at 02:12 PM

TP

“*Frank's little brother, Tommy, was my best friend when we were little. They lived 2 houses away from us. They all moved away from Pawnee when I was about 5 or 6 when their Mom and Dad divorced and Mom and kids moved to Arkansas. Mike Stafford and his other little brother Joe Pat were best friends too. I remember Mike and I were standing in our yard watching them drive off to Arkansas. Mike said "well, that's it, they're gone". That was a sad day for us. Frank came back to live with his dad, Don Hudson during his high school years. That's when I remember Frank. He and my brother Kenny were best friends. He was one of the "coolest" guys I've ever known and someone I idolized back then. He was a leader. He had a drum set in his bedroom. That was the first drum set I got to play on. Frank was the quarterback on the high school football team. He liked to do crazy stuff. I remember one time when he was going across the very steep 2nd story roof on their house (just for the thrill of danger) and his girlfriend (later wife) Vicky was in the yard...scared he would fall & yelling at him...."FRANK...GET DOWN!!". He hist laughed! Lots of other memories...he will be missed by many.*



**Tommy Privett** - March 13, 2022 at 12:44 PM

KH

“ Frank was more than a friend he was like family. He was always ready for a Big laugh and loved to joke around. I have many memories of Frank but one that stands out is a trip to Breckenridge Co. skiing. I've never been skiing before ever and the three brothers were talking and forgot to get off gondola lift. We ended up on the Black Diamond. Frank took me all the way down I was holding onto his back with my eyes closed. Never will forget that and I will always remember Frank with a Smile.

*Rest in Peace*

*Kitty Hamilton*



---

**Kitty Hamilton** - March 12, 2022 at 07:22 PM

KP

“ *Our Dearest Frank,*

*We will miss you greatly! Many special times together., the holidays, river cruises, birthday parties and sometimes for no reason at all... just togetherness with family and friends. The wonderful memories we keep will be cherished. The one on one time you gave to us we're grateful for. You always expressed genuine love and gave sound advice to us and many others in times of need. Your smile so contagious, your benevolent ways we could never repay. Your wisdom, humor, generosity and style we'll always admire. Frank, We always wanted to be seated at your table. This earthly life is short lived yours was full of light. We lost a Sooner here but we know His Kingdom is awaiting your arrival. Our lives are better forever because you were apart of it. Thank you Jesus for Blessing us with Frank for the time he was fulfilling Your will.*

*We Love You*

*Kevin, Michelle, Jade, Dottie & Baylee*

---

**Kevin Pittman** - March 10, 2022 at 09:45 PM

TG

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



---

**Tipp Green** - March 09, 2022 at 10:55 PM

CH

*Love this photo! Miss them both dearly!*

---

**Carolyn Harris** - March 10, 2022 at 10:53 AM

TG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Tipp Green** - March 09, 2022 at 07:24 PM

CH

*Love these pics!*

---

**Carolyn Harris** - March 10, 2022 at 10:54 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Tomhudson** - March 09, 2022 at 06:17 PM

JP

*Hi Tom, I hope you're doing well.....Joe Privett*

---

**Joe Privett** - March 13, 2022 at 03:51 PM

TO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Tomhudson** - March 09, 2022 at 06:16 PM

KP

“ Frank was and is my best friend from the neighborhood and in life . We camped and hiked and fought and swam and played monopoly and football and watched Looney Tunes and Little Rascals and Superman. We would attempt to fly off the roof of my house with towel/capes like Superman . My mother would yell at us to get off the roof .

We lived out in Berry's Pasture in the summers camping out , cooking our meals , burning the bacon , having acorn fights with sling shots , and eventually passing out in our sleeping bags totally covered with mosquito bites . We swam in the creeks and ponds in the summer and winter .

Frank got his Dads playboy magazines. I remember that these models were beautiful and mysterious! We were 8 years old at the time .

I was in Franks wedding and he was in my wedding. Frank , I'll miss you . I love you man .

Adios , Ken Privett

---

**Kenneth Privett** - March 09, 2022 at 12:56 PM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album WNYS Syracuse Promo



Tomhudson - March 09, 2022 at 12:22 PM

TF

WNYS Syracuse Eyewitness News: Weathercaster Steve Newman; anchorman Solon Gray; and sportscaster Frank Hudson.

Tim Fox - March 09, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ While I never actually worked alongside Frank in the landman portion of my career, his status was legendary among my friends who did. I assume this was the case no matter his job at the time. I did spend a weekend with him and he actually stayed at our home on the way South after a play had fizzled out. You only meet a few legends in your lifetime and he was one of them. May he RIP.

Stephen Woods - March 09, 2022 at 09:41 AM

DD

“ Frank was a good neighbor and friend. Always friendly and kind. Enjoyed our time together on the boat with Arlene and other Sleepy Harbour neighbors. They will both be missed. May they Rest In Peace.



Dana Durham - March 08, 2022 at 12:03 AM

CH

“*Frank was our neighbor and good friend for many years and Tim and I will truly miss him. He was kind, thoughtful and had a great sense of humor – Rest in Peace Frank.*

*Tom and Joe Pat, we are so sorry for your loss and extend our heartfelt condolences to both of you. Wishing you peace and comfort at this time of deep loss.*

*Love & Blessings,  
Carolyn & Tim (Harris)*



---

**Carolyn Harris** - March 07, 2022 at 07:48 PM

MR

*Frank was a real asset to our board at Sleepy Harbour. He seemed to really want to help us resolve some important issues. Years ago, when my son, Mike, lived here for a time, Frank would stop and visit with him. Mike had an interest in broadcasting and Frank shared some of his experiences with him. He stopped and took time with my son and made his day. God bless you, Frank, for all your kindness and help. My deepest sympathy to his family.*

---

**Margaret Rushing** - March 09, 2022 at 02:25 PM

KW

“ I also worked for CE Beck, I was the front desk girl and the one who got to talk to all the brokers first. I could let them know what Charlie’s mood was for the day and maybe tell them to report back later. I loved the job and I became friends with more than 80 brokers over the phone. Doing this I formed a vision of what each guy looked like because of the tone of their voice and what their phone personality was. Eventually each of them would have to come into the office and I would get to meet them in person and most of the time they didn’t look anything like I pictured but Frank, because of his very outgoing personality and his radio voice was exactly as I pictured him. When he walked into the office and CE introduced me I said WOW, you look just like I thought you would and I can remember clearly the big smile on his face and he said “that’s great” so I guess he liked that a lot. He was a great guy, a little crazy at times but I have some really good memories of Frank. We will all miss hm 😊

---

**Kay Woods** - March 07, 2022 at 09:24 AM

RM

“ I feel very fortunate that I could call Frank a great friend for the past 45 plus years. We worked together, on air at WDBO-TV in Orlando and then on the road as landmen in the oil and gas business from North Carolina to Upstate New York. We went thru some tough times, a lot of good times but never a dull time. Frank was a good and generous individual always there if you needed him. He will be missed by all of those whose paths he crossed, he was truly one of the good guys. I will miss you be at peace my friend.  
Red McCreary

---

**Red McCreary** - March 06, 2022 at 12:12 PM

MB

*My deepest sympathy to Joe Pat and Tom. The news of Frank's passing saddens me so much. I had not seen Frank since he was a young boy, but I have enjoyed keeping in touch with him thru e-mail. Reading these stories about him made me laugh at how adventurous he was.*

*I can remember taking him to Lake Nixon when he lived in Little Rock.....gosh that was a long time ago!*

*Rest In Peace, Frank. We will always keep you close in our hearts.*

*Mary Bentley  
Austin, Texas*

---

**Mary Bentley** - March 06, 2022 at 08:34 PM

TM

*Frank was a my neighbor and friend. He was a very generous and kind man and will be missed. His girlfriend Arlene and dog Mattie were loved as well and will be missed. Frank lived his life well.*

---

**Tink Mathews** - March 07, 2022 at 10:33 AM



*I have an amazing memory of him. I was the State Director of Migrant and Farmlabor programs in Florida. I was holding a state-wide conference in Orlando and the news people were there in large numbers. The second day Frank walked up to me with a huge smile and said, "Fred Staff I can't believe it is you. I was in the newsroom and heard your voice and immediately knew that I knew the person behind it. Sure enough, it was my neighbor from down the street in Pawnee, Oklahoma." He was much younger than me but had seen me play and talk many times just a block from his home. We had a long visit and then he did a personal interview with me on TV. It was a shocking and wonderful time and somewhat of a strange experience, as I would have never expected anyone from Pawnee to ever see me, much less visit with me in Orlando.Florida.*

---

**Fred Staff** - March 07, 2022 at 09:58 PM

GH

*I didn't know Frank very well but enjoyed our few conversations. He took great care of Arleen as her health declined, even though not in great health himself. He was always friendly. He will be missed. He had a great life.*

---

**Glenn HasBrouck** - March 08, 2022 at 04:52 PM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album *Pontoon Cruise*



---

**Tomhudson** - March 06, 2022 at 10:52 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album *Frank & Maddie*



---

**Tomhudson** - March 06, 2022 at 10:51 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album *Frank & Arlene*



---

**Tomhudson** - March 06, 2022 at 10:50 AM

BR

*I remember taking this shot in PA.*

*It was a beautiful day, we were all together.*

*Frankie you treated me like your son and I'll always hold that dear to my heart.*

*I miss you guys.. so much, it really, really hurts.*

*The grandkids miss thier Meemaw and Peepaw.*

*I love yall. I know I'll see yall again one day. Until then please watch over us 🙏.*

---

**Brandon** - March 09, 2022 at 10:59 AM

TG

*Beautiful trip we had here... I miss and love you both.*

---

**Tipp Green** - March 09, 2022 at 10:58 PM

WL

“ *A good friend and neighbor, he will be missed!*



---

**Wynston Lynn** - March 06, 2022 at 08:15 AM

DA

“ I am so sorry to hear of Frank's sudden passing and send condolences to Joe Pat and Tom. I was one of those guys Frank met in Somerset and he made a lasting impact on my life. I have so many memories of working and traveling with Frank, most of which, due to good timing and good fortune, also include Tommy. Looking back, the work seems incidental compared to the fun we all had on our trips to NYC, the Bahamas, Atlantic City, New Orleans and more. Although I hadn't seen Frank in years, I still feel a sense of profound loss that I'm sure is shared by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed.  
With sympathy,  
Dirk Anderson

Dirk Anderson - March 05, 2022 at 02:06 PM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album Syracuse



Tomhudson - March 05, 2022 at 10:09 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album Louisville



Tomhudson - March 05, 2022 at 09:55 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album Baton Rouge



Tomhudson - March 05, 2022 at 09:51 AM

BR

*I love this shot of him.*

Brandon - March 05, 2022 at 11:11 AM

ME

*I still say he looks like Trump in this one!*

Mel - March 05, 2022 at 12:49 PM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album Baton Rouge



Tomhudson - March 05, 2022 at 09:50 AM

TO

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Tomhudson - March 05, 2022 at 09:50 AM

TO

“ 1 file added to the album First Job KOCO-TV in OKC



---

**Tom Hudson** - March 05, 2022 at 09:47 AM

MC

“ To my good friend of 47 years. You will be missed by many. Frank was always a person who saw the good in people. He was a genuinely a truly nice, nice human being. Love you Frank. See you on the other side.

*Mike Crowston*

---

**mike crowston** - March 04, 2022 at 07:40 PM

CL

*So sorry to hear about your loss. Frank was one of a kind. I hadn't seen him for quite a few years, but the times we all worked together are some of my favorite memories. From him trying to teach me to waterski in Florida to digging his Camaro out of the snow in northern Wisconsin. He'll be missed.*

*Cole Lee*

---

**Cole Lee** - March 09, 2022 at 06:33 AM