

Francis X. Martone Memorial Scholarship Endowment

This is my brother Fran's story. He was born in Westfield, Massachusetts on July 13, 1958 to Olga J. and Salvatore M. Martone. Fran was fifteen years and four months younger than me, so essentially, he was an "only child." He attended St. Mary's grammar school and later, Westfield High School, graduating in 1976.



Fran's interests and talents were diverse, he was very bright and equally talented. He was active in scouting and the YMCA where he excelled on the swim team and later, went on to become a counselor at Camp Shepard. He participated in school plays and was a member of the Westfield High School district chorus. While in high school, Fran was a member of the wrestling team. He loved winter sports as well, and was proficient in cross country skiing and was an avid snowmobiler.

During his last two years of high school, Fran joined the then Western New England Divers' Association and participated in a number of the club's underwater recovery efforts. He was the type of guy who was always there first to volunteer to help mitigate the misfortunes of other individuals. It became clear to our family early on that Fran was "a giver" and always with a smile.

He started college at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1976. Fran was pursuing a degree in the biological sciences when in early 1977, he tragically lost his life in Southwick's Middle Pond in an ice scuba diving accident. I have always wondered about the person he might have become, and what contributions to our world he would have made.

My parents established a scholarship in Fran's name in 1977 and each year since then, my family has given financial assistance to high school seniors who will be pursuing studies in the biological sciences. Since I wish to perpetuate my brother's memory, I established this scholarship with CSF Westfield Dollars for Scholars in May 2018 to continue this for the Martone family.

Written by: Dr. Jane F. Martone
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