



Frank Barraco

March 19, 1935 - May 30, 2026

Francesco Rocco "Frank" Barraco passed away peacefully on May 30, 2026, at the age of 91, in the Plymouth, Michigan home that had been at the center of his life for decades.

Born on March 19, 1935, in Santa Ninfa, Sicily, Frank never forgot the values and traditions of his homeland. In 1948, at the age of 13, he immigrated to the United States with his parents and brother, arriving in Plymouth, where he would eventually build a life defined by hard work, devotion to family, service to others, and pride in his Sicilian heritage.

Frank often spoke fondly of his roots and carried the spirit of Sicily with him throughout his life. Family, food, friendship, and hospitality were not merely traditions to him, they were guiding principles. He believed that no one should leave his table hungry, and he found great joy in preparing meals for those he loved. Whether cooking for family gatherings, community events, or hundreds of guests at Moose Lodge functions, Frank's kitchen was a place where stories were shared, friendships were strengthened, and everyone was made to feel welcome.

One of the most treasured connections in Frank's life was the extraordinary bond he shared with his mother, Pauline, and his eldest son, Paul. All three were born on March 19, creating a rare and cherished family legacy that spanned three generations. The shared birthday was a source of pride, celebration, and countless memories throughout the years.

Like many families, Frank's life included relationships that experienced

challenges over the years. Despite a long estrangement from his son Tony, he never stopped caring about him, speaking of him and holding onto hope for reconciliation.

Frank proudly served his country in the United States Army, carrying with him the same sense of duty and commitment that would characterize every chapter of his life. Following his military service, he dedicated more than 35 years to General Motors, where he earned the respect of colleagues through his strong work ethic, reliability, and dedication before retiring.

Service to others remained a cornerstone of Frank's life. He was a lifetime member of the Loyal Order of Moose and a founding member of both the Northville and South Lyon, Michigan lodges. He was also a lifetime member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in Plymouth, Michigan. Among the causes nearest to his heart was Mooseheart Child City & School in Aurora, Illinois. Frank believed deeply in helping children and families, and he generously supported Mooseheart's mission throughout his life.

Those who knew Frank will remember a man who rarely sought recognition for himself. He found fulfillment in showing up, lending a hand, preparing a meal, volunteering his time and helping wherever help was needed.

However, to know Frank was to understand that he was not a quiet man. On the contrary, he was extremely boisterous, opinionated, very direct and demanding, wickedly forward often without any filters, terribly sassy, and cantankerous to say the least. Folks knew they had to have thick skin when being around Frank. His generosity was measured not by what he had, but by what he gave. He understood that life's greatest blessings were family, friendship, and the opportunity to serve others.

Frank is survived by his two sons, Paul Joseph Barraco, born in Plymouth, Michigan (and Ignazio Grande), both now residing in Calatafimi-Segesta, Sicily; and Anthony "Tony" Todd Barraco of Wayne, Michigan; his grandson, Mason David Rocco Barraco of Sanford, Florida (Paul's son), his granddaughter, April Ferris Barraco of Battle Creek, Michigan (Anthony's daughter), his brother, Salvatore Giuseppe "Joe" Barraco and his wife, Marcia,

of Plymouth, Michigan; along with many nieces, nephews and relatives both in the USA and Sicily; friends and fellow lodge members who were fortunate to know him.

He was preceded in death by his former wife, Jessie Ruth Smith Barraco, the mother of his sons Paul and Tony; his father, Francesco "Frank" Paolo Barraco; and his mother, Francesca Paola "Pauline" Barraco.

From the hills of Sicily to the neighborhoods of Plymouth, Frank's life reflected the American immigrant story at its best, a journey built on courage, perseverance, faith, family, and community. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, loyalty, service, and love that will continue through the generations that follow him.

Though his chair at the table now sits empty, the lessons he taught, the meals he shared, the laughter he inspired, and the love he gave so freely will remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

May he rest in peace, reunited with those who went before him and forever remembered by those he leaves behind.

Visitation Wednesday June 3rd 3 PM to 8PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Rd. W, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth.

Interment will be on Friday June 5th at 10 AM at Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Moose Heart Charities 155 S. International Drive, Mooseheart IL 60539.

To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

680 Plymouth Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Burial

JUN 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Riverside Cemetery
680 Plymouth Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall

SE

“ Oh Franco!!! We spent breakfast at Cracker Barrel, Mason favorite place before he left for Florida. That's how I will remember you. Last words "Come in for Coffee... Don't forget stop by for coffee anytime.."

I know when I met him at the Y. He didn't like me because he met his match...oh Franco....Your in heaven I hope....Sandra Esparza

Sandra Esparza - June 08 at 04:42 PM

PL

“ Rest in peace my friend! I'll always remember you, as you would always ask me to stay in touch with you and don't forget me Phyllis. I going to miss talking to you on the phone. True friendship is hard to find. Peace be



Phyllis Lakes - June 03 at 01:48 AM

SH

“ We send our deepest sympathy on your loss of an amazing father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend in Frank. Thank you for sharing his life with the Moose Fraternity all these years. His wisdom, generous heart and spirit of service blessed so many, including the children of Mooseheart and seniors at Moosehaven. You remain in our thoughts and prayers as you walk through this difficult time.

Scott Hart - June 02 at 09:49 AM

FC

“ Dear Frank,

We never had the chance to meet, but I was looking forward to finally meeting you this September at the wedding of Ignazio and Paul.

It saddens me that life did not allow us that moment.

Through Ignazio's stories, I came to know a man who loved his family deeply, welcomed others with kindness, and left beautiful memories in the hearts of those around him.

Although we never met, I feel grateful for the love and support you gave to my son and to the family he found with Paul and Mason.

You will be remembered with affection, respect, and gratitude.

Rest in peace.

Francesca Coraci

Mother of Ignazio, Frank's son-in-law ❤️

Francesca Coraci - June 02 at 05:19 AM

“ *In Loving Memory of Frank*

Dear Frank,

From the very first day I walked into your home in Plymouth, you welcomed me with a smile that made me feel like family. Every time I arrived, it felt as though you had been waiting for that moment, and Paul would always tell me how often you asked when I would come back to visit. Knowing that I was welcomed and loved by you meant more to me than words can express.

Whenever I traveled from Sicily to America, I always tried to bring you a little piece of that island you loved so much. You never hid your excitement for Sicilian food—the sun-dried tomatoes, the aged cheeses, and especially those almond pastries that somehow disappeared early in the morning before anyone else had a chance to enjoy them. I still smile when I think about the Sicilian flat cap I gave you for Christmas. You wore it proudly and never seemed to stop wearing it after that, and knowing how much you loved it brought me so much joy. Thinking about all of these moments now brings both tears and a smile to my face.

With time, I became your handyman. Every time I came to Plymouth, it seemed you already had another little project waiting for me. And I always did those jobs with pleasure, with all my affection and gratitude. It was my way of saying thank you—for your kindness, for your trust, and for welcoming me into your family and making me feel at home. Through those small repairs and projects, I built precious memories with you, with Paul, and with Mason—the family that life gifted to me.

The thought of losing you fills me with deep sadness. Yet when I think of you, I want to remember your smile. I think of our last Thanksgiving together, when you laughed so hard around the dinner table that your joy filled the entire room. That is how I will always picture you: smiling, laughing, and bringing warmth to everyone

around you.

Frank, you were always kind, thoughtful, and caring toward me. And now, my wish for you is simple: that you suffer no more, and that you watch over us from above. I will still go back and do a few jobs around the house, and when I do, I will think of you nearby, already wondering what the next thing to fix might be. But perhaps life has fixed you now. It has finally brought an end to your suffering and given you peace, so that you can smile forever in heaven.

Thank you for your love, your generosity, and for making me feel like a son. Thank you for every smile, every laugh, every conversation, and every moment we shared. Although our time together was far too short, the memories you gave me will stay with me forever.

I will miss you deeply.

Love you always,

Ignazio ❤️

“Perhaps life has fixed you now. It has finally brought an end to your suffering and given you peace, so that you can smile forever in heaven.”



Ignazio Grande - June 02 at 02:25 AM

IG

“ Ignazio G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Barraco.

Ignazio G. - June 02 at 01:32 AM