



# Frank J Mortillo

MAY 25, 1925 - APR 4, 2023



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 4
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 5



## **Frank J Mortillo**

MAY 25, 1925 - APR 4, 2023

**F**rank J. Mortillo, 97, of Cape Coral, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2023. Born May 25, 1925 in NYC to Frank and Jennie (Medici) Mortillo.

He was a proud veteran of USMC who enlisted at 17 and served in WWII.

Married 68 years he and his wife “Nette” called Florida home since 1996 when they retired from the Bronx, New York. They enjoyed many days at the Cape Coral Yacht Club, where they made many new friends.

He enjoyed fishing, swimming, bicycle riding, walking, competitive running and completed the NYC marathon in 1992 at age 67. He also completed 9 marathons and numerous triathlons throughout his lifetime, winning trophies and medals.

He is preceded in passing by his wife Antoinette Mortillo, daughter Jennie Ann Greco, 2 grandsons and 8 siblings.

Frank leaves his loving memory with his survivors, son Frank (Kathy) Mortillo of Long Island, New York, daughter Francine (Paul) Grimaldi of Cape Coral, Fl. and grandchildren Vicki and Anthony.

Frank's family has entrusted Fort Myers Memorial Gardens with the care of his final arrangements. A private family service will be held at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens



# Tribute Wall

**Frank J Mortillo**

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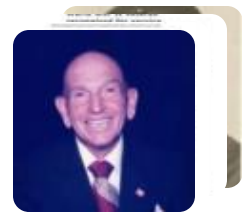
**Vicki Santini** posted:

Over the past 15 years, we were fortunate enough to become friends with Frank and his family. Over the years, we saw Frank with a great sense of humor and person who would help anyone in need and a terrific friend. He will be truly missed.

April 23 at 7:17 AM



**Fort Myers Memorial Gardens** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



April 22 at 7:24 AM



**Steve Mahlan** December 13 at 3:00 PM

I will always remember the kindness and friendship both Nettie and Frank shared with my parents Liz & Charlie while they were in Cape Coral. I hope they are all having a spirited game of "tiles" as we speak, one many great memories, along with fishing on my dad's boat. Frank was always hoping to catch a cobia!- Steve Mahlan



**Doreen Husted** April 26 at 6:10 PM

Thank you for leaving such a huge impact on my ❤️ I will always remember you, and remember our Popeye song we sang together. ❤️

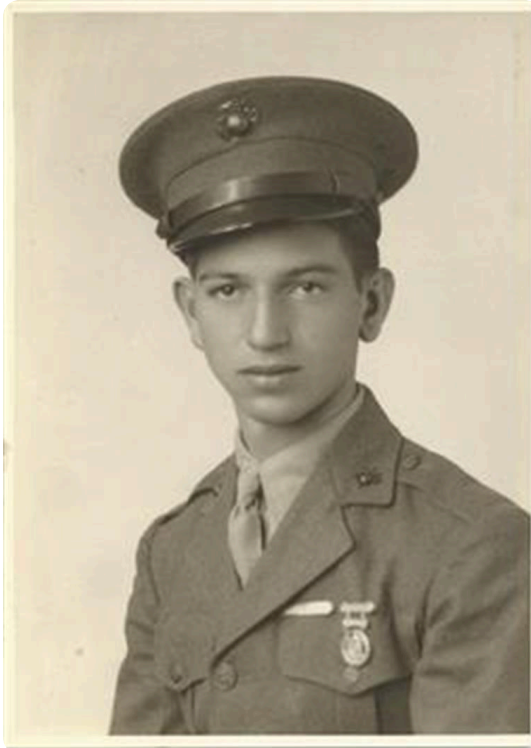


**Gerard Ferrara** April 22 at 3:52 PM

To a wonderful man. Thank you for your service and for helping us maintain our freedoms all these years. The greatest generation was a title bestowed upon you and your fellow members of the armed forces to acknowledge the heroic actions during wartime and for the hard work ethic that we all looked at with amazement. My Heart and Prayers are with Frank's Family ❤️🙏  
May Frank Rest In Eternal Peace 🕊️🙏



Fort Myers Memorial Gardens shared 4 photos to the Memories Album album. April 22 at 7:24 AM



### World War II veteran recongized for service

'Quilts of Valor' makes birthday presentation to Marine Corps vet

June 18, 2020  
By CJ HADDAD (@jhaddad@brazosnews.com) , Cape Coral Daily Breeze

A World War II veteran unable to celebrate his birthday and Memorial Day, which fell on the same day this year, was honored in a special way by local veteran organizations.

Frank Mortillo, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served in many places around the world, including Iwo Jima, turned 95 on a day the country honors veterans who lost their life while serving.

Mortillo, who has been staying in his Cape Coral home due to the coronavirus pandemic, was saddened to not be able to go out and honor his fallen comrades or to celebrate another year of life. That sadness vanished thanks to an organization called Quilts of Valor, as well as local veteran Dick Kennedy, a member of the area Vietnam Brotherhood.



Cape Coral resident and World War II veteran Frank Mortillo, along with his son, Frank Jr., proudly showing his "quilt of valor." Kennedy presented Mortillo with a hand-sewn, patriotic fabric quilt on behalf of the organization on June 7. Kennedy had also bestowed him with the Vietnam Brotherhood Challenge Coin as well as the National Veterans of Foreign War Challenge Coin on Memorial Day.

"His eyes sparkled and he was delighted upon receiving the quilt," Kennedy said. Mortillo draped the quilt around his shoulders and neck, smiling from ear-to-ear. His largest came thanks to Kennedy, as well as Quilts of Valor Central Florida and its representatives, Susan Shultz. Shultz saw Kennedy's Memorial Day interaction with Mortillo on social media and thought, "We must honor this veteran immediately." Kennedy, a Quilts of Valor member himself, was more than happy to deliver the quilt to Mortillo. "He was virtually homebound on the holiday and his birthday, so a few of his friends contacted several veteran organizations to see what could be done," Kennedy said. "We had already filed their submissions, so the Vietnam Brotherhood and I decided to honor him in a small way." That's when Quilts of Valor decided to join in Kennedy's plight to recognize Mortillo and all he has done to serve his country. Kennedy said Mortillo, who was joined by family, shared stories of his experiences in Bougainville, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and the Philippines. Quilts of Valor began in 2003, when founder Catherine Roberts had a dream after her son was deployed to Iraq. "The dream was as vivid as real life. I see a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his ear demurs (fluttered around), dragging him down into an emotional gutter," reads her online testimony. "Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and wellbeing. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: quilts equal healing." Roberts' idea was for these quilts to be awarded, not just handed out. They are also quality-made. She wants the quilts to say, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation in combat." Their mission statement is "to cover all those service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." The non-profit organization is now nationwide.





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Frank by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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