



Frank R. Gamberdella M.D.

March 12, 1943 - July 23, 2019

Frank R. Gamberdella M.D. passed away peacefully at home with his loving family by his side on July 23, 2019. Frank was born on March 12, 1943, to Ralph J. and Caroline K. (Sale) Gamberdella in New Haven, Conn.

Surrounded by his large, extended Italian family, Frank grew up with his sister, Vivian, cousins who were best friends (and like brothers) as well as aunts and uncles who loved and doted on all of them. From his earliest elementary years both teachers and family said Frank was “college material” and sure to become a doctor. When Frank was 15 years old, the family moved to California and settled in Alhambra, Calif. The transition was tough on Frank and his sister. He always credited his family and his high school basketball coach for helping him reconnect and succeed in school and sports.

Frank became the first in his family to attend college, earning a full scholarship to the University of Southern California and embarking on his medical education. After three years at USC he qualified to enter Medical School at UC Irvine, and he later returned to USC for his Internship and Residency. Thus began a 40+ year career as one of the premier Obstetrician / Gynecologist / Infertility Specialists in the region.

While at USC Frank met the love of his life, Jacque Foley, at the Newman Club. Frank and Jacque married in 1966 and started their family during

medical school. Directly after finishing his residency, Frank began his service as a Major in the U.S. Air Force and moved his family to serve at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

In 1975 Frank returned to civilian life and once again moved the family across country. This time to join the Santa Barbara Medical Foundation Clinic as an OB/GYN. In 1978, Frank began his private practice where he would serve the Santa Barbara community until he retired in 2014. It was often joked that Frank probably delivered half the babies in Santa Barbara during his work as an obstetrician.

Midway through his career, Frank retired from obstetrics and focused his medical practice on infertility and gynecological care. As a faculty member at the USC School of Medicine, Frank was on the cutting edge of infertility medicine in Santa Barbara and Southern California. For over four decades Frank cultivated profound doctor-patient relationships with generations of women and families who were so appreciative of his compassionate and skilled care.

During the later years of his practice, Frank became involved in the governing bodies for his specialty as the President of the Pacific Coast Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and as Chairman of District IX of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology. Through many leadership positions, Frank fed his professorial passion for teaching and learning about his specialty. He was known as “the professor” among many of his colleagues.

While Frank’s mark on this community as a doctor is significant, perhaps his greatest love and passion was his family. Frank was the proud father of four and grandfather to eight. He was truly the patriarch of the Sale / Gamberdella family and a mentor to many cousins, nieces and nephews. He cultivated relationships with colleagues and friends that brought them into the

Gamberdella fold as family and their children raised together like siblings or cousins to his own.

When his family was young, Frank relished coaching Little League and Boys' Club and cheering from the stands at San Marcos High School. As a grandfather he became the Number One Fan at Little League, the Page Center, San Marcos, Santa Barbara and Dos Pueblos High Schools, intently following all of his grandkids' athletic exploits.

The home Frank and Jacque built in 1978 in Santa Barbara truly was his castle. The doors were always open to family and friends. His children's friends were always welcome for family parties, casual dinners or to watch a great USC Football game. Food and good cheer were abundant, and Frank loved to "hold court" and engage in "life talks" or just shoot the breeze about USC's chances in the National Championship.

A longtime member of La Cumbre Country Club, Frank's passion for golf took a close second to his passion for family. He spent countless hours on the fairways with his children, grandchildren and many friends and family. La Cumbre was his "home away from home". The Gamberdella family extends a sincere "thank you" to the members and staff at La Cumbre who treated him like family every time he was there.

Frank led by example and instilled in his family a strong sense of honor and integrity, an unrivaled work ethic as well as compassion and commitment to those you serve in whatever your chosen path.

Frank is survived by his wife of 53 years, Jacque; sons Marc (Renata) and Paul (MarLa); daughters Cara (fiancé Shayne) and Jennifer; eight grandchildren – Genaro (20), Gianna (19), Lia (16), Frankie (19), Ellie (17),

Vincent (15), Josie (12), Santino (10); sister Vivian (Joseph) and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Thank you for all you gave to us, Pop!! You will be missed! FIGHT ON!!

The Gamberdella Family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to all of Frank's medical team and the compassionate work of Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care.

A Rosary will be held at the Serra Chapel at the Santa Barbara Mission on Thursday, August 15, at 6 p.m. Funeral Mass will be at the Old Mission on Friday, August 16, at 11 a.m. with a reception at the Gamberdella Home directly after. Please e-mail Cara Gamberdella (cara@villagesite.com) with any questions.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Frank's honor may be made to the Devereux Foothill House (please e-mail Cara for link), the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table (sbart.org) or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care (vnhcsb.org).

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG **15**. 6:00 PM (PT)

Old Mission Serra Chapel
2201 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Funeral Mass

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Old Mission Santa Barbara
2201 Laguna St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Tribute Wall



“ *Jerry Shefren lit a candle in memory of Frank R. Gamberdella M.D.*



Jerry Shefren - December 10, 2019 at 07:01 PM

NR

“ *Thanks to Dr. Gamberdella we have 2 beautiful daughters that he delivered in 1985 and 1986....he retired before the 3rd one was born! Great experience, great Doctor and all of our deepest sympathies to the family! David and Nancy Rydell*

Nancy D Rydell - August 24, 2019 at 07:21 PM

BV

“ I'm a local psychiatrist, who never got to meet Dr G., which I especially regret now reading about his life in the Independent, where I see that I even missed the funeral mass at the Mission a week ago, that I understand was extremely well attended. From what I read and from what I've heard friends say about him, he deserved that honor.

As I arrived here in late 2000, and until 2016 was working mostly in the public sector (first with the homeless mentally ill, then for the County of S.B.), our paths didn't cross.

But I'm writing because I also was born and raised in New Haven; and though I moved to CA only after med. school in July'73, I trained in psychiatry at USC myself. And finally, my father Andrew Vollero, born in New Haven in 1903, was a General Practitioner in practice there for over 50 years, who -- for all I know -- may have delivered Dr G! If so, small world that he should have delivered an obstetrician-to-be!

Even if not, I wish we had met & had a chance to reminisce about his first 15 years in New Haven, especially as I have a brother, also born & raised there, who's less than a month older than he, who's now a (retired) urologist in Houston, married to a (retired) pediatric neurologist.

I'd appreciate it if someone would tell me what you can about his family & New Haven years, at wvollero@gmail.com. But I don't want to burden you at a painful & busy time.

Please feel free to forward this to whomever can fill me in.

My condolences for the loss to his family, of course. But I know you're proud of his life and legacy, as you well should be.

Bill Vollero

Bill Vollero - August 22, 2019 at 02:12 PM

RH

“ Our deepest sympathy to Paul, Marc, and the entire Gamberdella Family. We were so sorry to hear about your dad. During the time I coached you in Little League, your dad was always so interested and supportive to the Little League program for all the practices and games we had. He gave you a great role model to follow in life, and was loved and appreciated by all his family, friends, and acquaintances. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family at this time. Love, Russ & Karren Hagen

Russ & Karren Hagen - August 17, 2019 at 05:08 PM

AL

“ I am eternally grateful beyond measure for amazingly curing and saving my mother's life!
Thank you, Dr. Gamberdella and much love to your family.
Alex L.

Alex L. - August 16, 2019 at 10:53 AM

CW

“ We share in the sadness of Frank's passing. An incredible physician, a gifted leader, a loving husband and father, a mentor, a role model of integrity, a pinnacle of compassion, a trusted friend, a piece of PCOGS' central core....There aren't enough words to describe Frank in the wholeness of who he was and represents. He will be missed. Our condolences to Jackie and all the Gamberdella family.
Cinna Wohlmuth
Los Angeles Caucus
PCOGS

Cinna Wohlmuth - August 16, 2019 at 10:24 AM

AI

“ I met Mr Gamberdella and his family during Marc and Renata’s engagement party last year. I remember him being very warm and welcoming. I see in his kids his legacy of kindness, compassion and hard work. My sincere coundoloscense to his family and friends. I’ll keep you all in my prayers. RIP Frank 🙏

Ana Insuaste - August 16, 2019 at 02:59 AM

HF

“ Paul, Marc and the rest of the Gamberdella family. Sorry to hear the news about your father. I still remember him coming to see you guys play sports. I always looked up to your family as an example of what a strong family looks like and that came from your parents. Your dad did so much good for so many and his reward is to be with the Father in heaven. News got to me about this sad news in Colorado, so please know that someone is praying for you and your families from afar. May you be blessed knowing that you had an amazing dad that taught you so much. Especially praying for your mom during this difficult time. God bless the Gamberdella family! - Mark, Elizabeth, Casey and Tatiana Hernandez Colorado Springs, CO.

Hernandez Family - August 15, 2019 at 01:54 AM

BS

“ I was Dr Gamberdella's patient from 1990 until he retired. He was always so caring and kind. My condolences to his family, he will be missed.
Barbara Siegel

Barbara Siegel - August 11, 2019 at 04:44 PM

BB

“ Thinking of all of you at this time. I am Frankie's cousin Betty, Uncle Ralph's sister Angie's daughter. Keeping you all in my thoughts. Also to Vivian and family. Cousin Betty and family. We will keep you in our thoughts. I still have so many photos of your family that were sent to my Mom. The newspaper article shows he lived a wonderful life.

Betty Belbusti - August 09, 2019 at 02:10 PM

KK

“ Dr. Gamberdella was my doctor from the 1990's until he retired. A doctor visit with Dr. G was always more like visiting a friend that you see just occasionally. He was always caring, and compassionate with a warm smile and welcome. I missed seeing him as my doctor but was happy for him to be retiring. I hope there is a lovely golf course in Heaven where he will be playing with old and new friends.
Karen Kirkman

Karen Kirkman - August 08, 2019 at 12:20 PM

KK

“ Karen Kirkman lit a candle in memory of Frank R. Gamberdella M.D.



Karen Kirkman - August 08, 2019 at 12:16 PM

CA

“ My profound, sincere sympathies to this dear doctor's family and close ones.

I am one of those touched by this wonderful doctor. I was young, it was the late 70's. He helped me, and my dearest friend, greatly -- and not in his to-be specialty. Every patient of his was gifted to have such a sweet, gentle, caring and non-judgmental person as a doctor.

Cara, I've noted you in the local news for decades, and been happy for your dad. I'm so sorry that he, like some of my UCSB professors, are among those I have not sent thank you notes to for being in my life. Dr. G certainly deserves one! I remember him so warmly -- and gratefully.

Mrs. Jackie, you were fantastic in the office. You are wonderful; your family is a mark of that. Thank you too, so much. My warmest regards and great sympathy to all, Carla.

Carla - August 08, 2019 at 05:08 AM

CH

“ It's with great appreciation and also sadness that I say farewell to this good man, a great doctor and a kind friend who had such an impact on my life. Loving condolences to Jacque and their wonderful children and grandchildren. Cheryl Hilliard

Cheryl Hilliard - August 07, 2019 at 09:46 PM

MD

*Dear Marc and family,
I was so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. It's so hard to navigate the loss of a parent. Prayers and condolences to your whole family.
Michele DeYoung (Patchett)*

Michele Deyoung - August 08, 2019 at 01:07 AM



“ I was a patient of Dr. Gamberdella's from 1988 until he retired. What a wonderful doctor! I haven't found anyone that even comes close to his knowledge, compassion, kindness & professionalism. I always felt listened to, respected & very well cared for. My thoughts & prayers go out to his family.

Shay Seaman - August 07, 2019 at 07:45 PM

BM

“ I began Ob/Gyn practice in Santa Barbara in 1977 came to know and respect Frank and Jacque. He is the epitome of a classical loving physician. We are crushed by this unexpected news relayed to Tennessee. For 24 years after our move home they and the Corlettes have remained close to our hearts. I have lost a brother.

Bob Phillips M.D. - August 07, 2019 at 07:32 PM

JG

“ I worked with Dr. Gamberdella at St. Francis for many years. He was always such an elegant and gentle man. When my wife and I needed his help he was answered prayer. My son, Sunny was delivered by him. Sunny and his grandchild, Frankie, were both team mates as well as competitors growing up. I'd call him Grampa when I'd see him in the bleachers at football and baseball games cheering Frankie on. He remembered Sunny and was very kind in his words of encouragement even when one was a Don and the other a Charger. I will always be indebted to him for his professional skills and kindness

Jeff Graybill.

Jeff J Graybill - August 07, 2019 at 02:16 PM

SO

“ Dr. Gamberdella will forever hold a very special place in our hearts. He delivered both of our kids back in 1981 and 1985. He was compassionate and an absolute joy to know. We are saddened to hear of his passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Gamberdella family. Please find comfort in knowing that he touched the lives of so many people and we will forever be grateful for having the privilege of knowing him.
Sincerely, The Olivera Family



Stephen & Belinda Olivera - August 07, 2019 at 12:16 PM

MB

“ Thoughts and prayers to the entire family. Frank was a great man, father and coach. He will undoubtedly be missed. Lots of love from the Burrige family.

Marc Burrige - August 07, 2019 at 10:59 AM

ME

“ Sad to hear this news. Dr Gamberdella was such a kind man. I only knew him through brief golf encounters and my Mother Joan's memories of him as a nurse at St. Francis. My prayers are with the family for peace and joy through their grieving. God Bless.
Matthew Easterbrook PGA

Matt Easterbrook - August 07, 2019 at 10:48 AM

RP

“ What an unexpected and most disheartening surprise. I was Frank's "junior resident" at USC . He helped form the physician that I am today. He left us way too soon and will be missed

Robert Prins - August 06, 2019 at 06:24 PM

JL

“ I was shocked to hear of Frank's passing. Frank was an inspiration to me in many ways. He was my attending OB-GYN during my rotating internship at Andrews AFB in 1974 and was such an inspiration to me, that I decided to choose a career in OB-GYN. He challenged me and taught me and made me want to be a competent and caring physician just like he was. It has been great to reconnect with him over the last decade through the PCOGS society. He was humble, compassionate and always encouraging. He was the epitome of a caring physician and a great human being. He will be missed. My prayers and thoughts are with all of his family during this difficult time.

John Lenihan - August 06, 2019 at 04:01 PM

DL

“ David Lagrew lit a candle in memory of Frank R. Gamberdella M.D.



David Lagrew - August 06, 2019 at 02:48 PM

DL

I cannot think of anyone in my career who better embodied the most compassionate and caring physician, colleague or friend. He will always be one of my role models for professional and personal behavior. Love to the family and thank you so much for sharing him with us all...

David Lagrew - August 06, 2019 at 02:51 PM

JG

“ Frank always cared about everyone and always made me feel at home, asking about my family and my home country. I'll never forget him and his family. Sending all my love to all of you.

Julie Garcia-Hernandez - August 06, 2019 at 05:18 AM



“ Dearest Jacque, Marc, Renata, Genaro, Giana, Lia, Paul, MarLa, Frankie, Ellie, Vincent, Josie, Santino, Cara, Shayne, and Jennifer~



Javier, Kristin, Bryce and Kailey Quezada send our love and condolences in the passing of your husband, father and grandfather! He was a great man that loved and was so very proud of each one of you! I remember so many wonderful days at GVSLL, San Marcos High School, etc. He stood up and gave an amazing speech and helped to save GVSLL several years back- a place where he coached, watched his sons play baseball, and later his grandsons, and helped make better men out of his players! He was stronger than the storm for so long! He always had a smile and encouragement for Javier! You all are in our thoughts and prayers and hope you have many memories that will last a lifetime! We love you all and if there is anything that we can do, please do not hesitate to ask!

Kristin Quezada - August 05, 2019 at 01:07 AM

BM

“ I am who I am because of being a mother. I would not have my wonderful son and daughter and two granddaughters if I had not had a successful cutting-edge infertility surgery done by Drs Corlett& Gamberdella when I was in my 30s. he will forever hold a special place in my heart. with love and gratitude, Barbra Mousouris

barbra mousouris - August 04, 2019 at 07:32 PM

RW

“ The first family we met when we moved to Santa Barbara, as our boys played football at San Marcos. This connection continued as our grandsons played sports together and has grown through the friendship and our involvement at Old Mission Santa Barbara. Frank is a Renaissance man of no equal with his many contributions to the Santa Barbara Community, medically, socially, spiritually and particularly family. His legendary gifts are being continued by his family in every way. Grieve, but find comfort in his memories and know that we all surround our arms around the Gamberdella family with love and lifetime hugs and prayers. Pat and Rich Wotruba. Frank will be missed but not forgotten.

rich and pat wotruba - August 04, 2019 at 07:12 PM

CD

“ We send prayers to Jacque and the family. We will be with you in spirit during his services. We love you all.
Andy and Claire DeCusati

Claire DeCusati - August 04, 2019 at 01:30 PM

BJ

“ I echo all the wonderful comments that have been said and repeated about Frank over the past 60+ years since our first meeting in Latin class at San Gabriel High School. We quickly became best buddies, and even though the contacts have been few over the past 40 years since Sharon and I moved out of state, feelings for my friend were always the same, that is, tremendous love and respect for Frank and his family. May the Lord bless the Gamberdella family in the upcoming years. Sending all the love we have to Jacque and family. Bob and Sharon Johns

Bob Johns - August 04, 2019 at 11:09 AM

PB

“ Our dearest condolences to you all Jacque, Marc, Paul, Cara and Jennifer on the loss of Frank. He truly was a wonderful husband father and Grandfather and to all of us patients a God Send. He will be deeply missed and so lovingly remembered by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him. Loved by the whole Botto Family ❤️
Patrice and Mike

Patrice Botto - August 03, 2019 at 10:03 PM

PD

“ Sending love to the whole Gamberdella Family. Heart felt condolences to Jackie and all the Gamberdella children. Frank was a rock to you and his community. Blessings in Heaven, Frank! —
Ron and Pat Dugger

Pat Dugger - August 03, 2019 at 09:33 PM

JC

“ Frank and I started our friendship in HS in September 1958 and continued to get together until 3 weeks ago. He and Jacque have always been Special. A big void in our lives with his passing. Jim and Susie Cowen

jim cowen - August 03, 2019 at 05:24 PM

GP

“ So sorry to hear about Frank's passing. I always enjoyed seeing him at functions and the friendly nature by which he carried himself. While not knowing it, he inspired me to lose weight for health reasons (why would you not listen to a doctor.?) and to pursue my MBA at USC which I am grateful for. I wish Jackie and the family all the love as they go forth, not without but, with a guardian angel watching over them preparing a place in heaven. Eternal rest grant unto Frank O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

George Pobedinsky - August 03, 2019 at 04:10 PM

PM

“ All of Santa Barbara will miss Frank. We were so blessed to have him contribute to our Community in soo many ways. He delivered two of our kids along with so many of my friends'. We continue to be blessed by his big family and all they are doing for our Community in carrying on his legacy. His great memories will keep him with us forever.



The Menzel Family

Paul Menzel - August 03, 2019 at 02:54 PM

RS

“ Richard Dawn Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Frank R. Gamberdella M.D.



Richard Dawn Sanchez - August 03, 2019 at 12:45 PM

SR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Scott C. Reid - August 03, 2019 at 12:17 PM