



FRANCIS "FT" TORZON

May 30, 1931 - December 2, 2025

Francis "FT" Torzon, known for the signature FT monogram with two hearts that he placed on all of his correspondence, passed away peacefully at 94 years old on December 2, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born on May 30, 1931, FT lived a life defined first by devotion to his family, then by the countless quiet acts of kindness he offered to others, and finally by his proud service to his country, all done humbly and without ever seeking recognition. FT was an original member of the 138th Fighter Squadron, established in 1947. As the unit evolved and later became the 174th Tactical Fighter Wing, it earned the nickname "The Boys from Syracuse." FT was the last surviving member of that original group, forever linking him to a historic chapter in New York's aviation and military heritage.

Alongside his National Guard service, FT worked at Crucible Steel, where he built an extraordinary 47-year career. At his retirement, he was honored as both the oldest employee at age 72 and the longest-tenured employee in the company's history. He was cherished by coworkers for the monthly dinners he and his beloved wife Barbara cooked for more than twenty colleagues and for his humor and lighthearted pranks that made long shifts brighter.

He was married for 54 years to his beloved wife, Barbara, to whom he remained faithfully devoted until her passing. He was also preceded in death by his daughter Jennifer.

For more than four decades, FT became a legend within his family and the Syracuse community through his cherished "graffiti letters." Each hand-

decorated, personalized, and never duplicated, these letters, more than 45,000 in total—were sent to family, friends, and strangers who needed a smile. His extraordinary dedication to uplifting others was so unique that local news stations featured his story.

FT's kindness extended far beyond his correspondence. He formed friendships with the Wegmans cashiers he saw almost daily for bottle returns and became a beloved regular to the McDonald's drive-through staff, ordering the same 2 hash browns every morning for years. The Solvay Post Office clerks looked forward to his daily visits, where his humor and warmth were as routine as his stacks of outgoing mail.

He also made it a point to appreciate people whose work often goes unnoticed. He routinely prepared sandwiches for local trash collectors, or snow plow drivers, left notes and gift cards for mail carriers, and—even when his family teased him—well into his 80s, he picked up trash along busy intersections to ensure his community remained clean and respected.

FT took joy in truly knowing the people around him. During the thousands of miles he walked inside Destiny Mall—he carefully recorded on paper—he befriended store clerks throughout the mall, learning their names, families, struggles, and successes even putting some on his "graffiti letter list". His gentle conversations and genuine interest brought comfort and connection to countless people.

At home and with his grandchildren, FT taught values through simple acts of kindness and humor. He created cherished memories by hiding money and coins throughout the mall, later returning with his grandchildren to see whether someone had been blessed by discovering one—small ripples of joy he quietly sent into the world.

FT is survived by five of his six children—Debbie Torzone, Andy DeLong, Michael DeLong, Sarah (Rob) Remhild and Stephen (Raelynn) Torzone—as well as 14 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren, all carrying forward pieces of his humor, gentleness, and generous heart.

His legacy is simple and extraordinary: a life of service, devotion, joy, and

quiet generosity—delivered one letter, one conversation, one smile, and one small act of kindness at a time. Though his physical presence is gone, FT's spirit will continue to live on in every life he touched.

Rest in peace, FT.

Your kindness, your humor, and your love will echo through generations.

Family and friends may call from 4:00 to 6:00 PM Monday, December 8, 2025 at BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, 2601 Milton Avenue. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 12:30 PM Tuesday December 9, 2025 at Holy Family Church, 127 Chapel Dr. Syracuse. The Rite of Committal and burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Syracuse.

Please share online tributes and memories at www.bagozzitwins.com.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

800 Grant Blvd.
Syracuse, NY
(315) 479-5826

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME
2601 Milton Avenue
Solvay, NY 13209
info@bagozzitwinsfh.com
<http://www.bagozzitwins.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 9. 12:30 PM (ET)

Holy Family Church
127 Chapel Dr.
Syracuse, NY 13219
(315) 488-3139

Tribute Wall



“ *Bagozzi Twins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON*



BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, INC. - December 08, 2025 at 11:07 AM

NS

*Our condolences to the entire family
We were cousins and always caught up at family Christmas Parties.
May he rest in peace.*

Nancy Sokolowski - December 09, 2025 at 08:50 PM

TW

“ *Tim and Colleen Whidden purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.*



Tim and Colleen Whidden - December 08, 2025 at 05:13 PM

TW

“ *Tim and Colleen Whidden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.*

Tim and Colleen Whidden - December 08, 2025 at 05:13 PM

TI

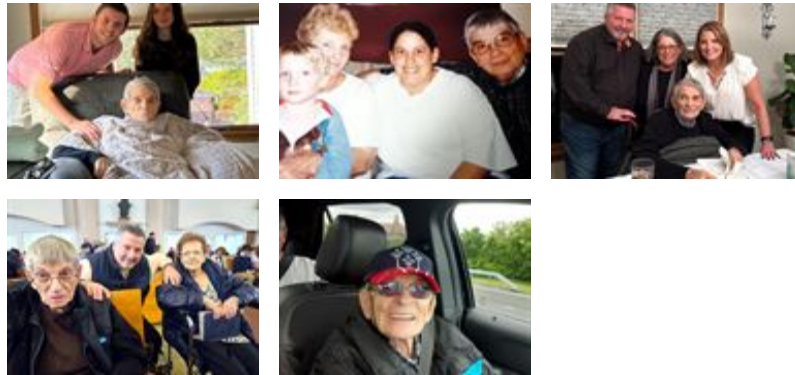
“ *The Ingersolls purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.*



The Ingersolls - December 08, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ *27 files added to the album Life Tributes*



BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, INC. - December 08, 2025 at 10:49 AM

JM

“ *John, Anne, Liz, Sarah & Mary McDonald purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.*



John, Anne, Liz, Sarah & Mary McDonald - December 08, 2025 at 10:46 AM

TB

“ The Remhilds and Berroyers purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



The Remhilds and Berroyers - December 07, 2025 at 08:05 PM

TB

“ The Remhilds and Berroyers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.

The Remhilds and Berroyers - December 07, 2025 at 08:05 PM

MA

“ Marcie purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



Marcie - December 07, 2025 at 04:47 PM

BF

“ Braun Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



Braun Family - December 06, 2025 at 10:50 AM

JB

“ Jackie B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.

Jackie B. - December 06, 2025 at 10:48 AM

NI

“ To the family of Mr. Frank and so I called him affectionately, he will be truly missed. I spent a lot of time over the years with him. And we have built a great relationship. He was full of life laughter and jokes that sometimes were good and sometimes were bad, but you always laughed at them. He will be truly missed. Love Nicole in what he used to call the pooch chewy. Thanks for sharing him with me all of these years. My prayers are with you and your family at this time

Nicole - December 05, 2025 at 11:28 PM

BH

“ Beverly hunt purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



Beverly hunt - December 05, 2025 at 10:57 PM

RF

“ Rice Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



Rice Family - December 05, 2025 at 10:55 PM

TF

“ The Robert Hutchison family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



The Robert Hutchison family - December 05, 2025 at 10:53 PM

TF

“ The Robert Hutchison family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.

The Robert Hutchison family - December 05, 2025 at 10:53 PM

ST

“ Torzon family, so sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy. We will miss our monthly letter. I have great memories working with FT. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. God bless our friend Frank.
🙏😭

Sam and Marie Terrinoni - December 05, 2025 at 10:09 PM

FT

“ From Bret, Brooke, Tatum, Teagan, Tomi T purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



From Bret, Brooke, Tatum, Teagan, Tomi T - December 05, 2025 at 08:31 PM

FT

“ From Bret, Brooke, Tatum, Teagan, Tomi T planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.

From Bret, Brooke, Tatum, Teagan, Tomi T - December 05, 2025 at 08:31 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of FRANCIS "FT" TORZON.



December 05, 2025 at 06:04 PM