



# Captain Frank Roger Speigel

DEC 12, 1958 - NOV 8, 2021



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# Captain Frank Roger Speigel

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**C**aptain Frank Roger Speigel, age 62 of Milton, DE, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 8, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on December 12, 1958, in Cape May Courthouse, NJ, son of Sandra R. Sharp and the late Frank C. Speigel.

Frank attended elementary school in Wildwood, NJ and moved to Governors Island, NY for a short time. While living on Governors Island, he and his brother Rick would fish at every opportunity, providing many dinners for family and neighbors from a day's catch.

Frank descended from a long line of fisherman, and it was no surprise that he was an avid and successful mariner and celestial navigator. He worked commercial fishing all along the east coast, including on his grandfather's boat, the "Thunderbird" and his father's "Miss Chris" fleet. He moved to Alaska and was a king crab fisherman for a time, then traveled to Louisiana, where he began his career as a Merchant Marine. Frank traveled the world, calling home from Djibouti, Norway, Russia, Egypt, and countless other countries. During his travels, he met and married the love of his life, Hien, and they settled in Vung Tau, South Vietnam, where they raised their son, Erik.

Frank's time at sea was difficult for his family, but he always said the sea was his home. His children loved to hear stories of his adventures, particularly when he was kidnapped in Africa and talked his captors into taking him back to his hotel, or of one Christmas Eve in Russia, when he became the guest of honor at a mob gathering, for giving the boss' son a chocolate bar.

Frank retired in 2018 and the family moved stateside to Milton, DE. Even after retirement, his love of the sea remained, and he knew the best fishing spots from Cape May to Lewes.

A legend until the end, Frank selflessly saved the lives of two people through the gift of organ donation.



## Obituary

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Frank is survived by his wife, Hien Truong Spiegel of Milton, DE; his children: Jennifer Spiegel (Thai Duong) of Abington, PA, Kristy Spiegel Berringer (Michael) of Annapolis, MD, Meghann Spiegel Kellaway (Chris) of Cape May, NJ, and Erik Spiegel of Milton, DE; his grandchildren: Ella, Weston, Gavin, Damian, and Clark; his mother and stepfather, Sandra (Hitchner) and Richard “Sharpie” Sharp; his sister, Sherri Penuel (Mark) of Milton, DE; his brother, Rick Spiegel of Vietnam; his former wife, Suzanne (Dietz) Spiegel of Cape May, NJ; many nieces and nephews; and his extended family in Vietnam.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Beebe Hospital, for their compassion, knowledge, and guidance.

Services are private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Margaret H. Rollins School of Nursing at Beebe Healthcare, 902 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE, or [www.beebehealthcare.org/donate](http://www.beebehealthcare.org/donate).

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



## Tribute Wall

## Captain Frank Roger Speigel

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BS

**Bob (Uncle Bob) Speigel** posted:

As Roger's uncle, brother of Frank Speigel, who was his dad and owner of the Miss Chris boats, I am thankful that Roger and I bonded when he moved back to DE from Vietnam. Having visited him, Hien, & Erik, driving from my home in Vineland, NJ to DE, we shared many stories of "back in the day". I was so very proud when I learned first-hand of the career he chose by dedicating his life to the sea. Roger was a good person and I, along with other family members am deeply saddened that we lost him at such a young age. Life is about making memories...Roger made many. RIP, my nephew. Uncle Bob

December 6 at 1:50 PM

ME

**Matt Emerick** posted:

I was only able to meet Frank for a very short period of time at a difficult time in his life, but I am so grateful that I was able to meet him and his wonderful family! I will always remember the short time that I knew him and his family for and they will all remain in my thoughts for a very long time to come. Mr. Matt

November 18 at 3:23 AM

MK

**Meghann Kellaway** November 21 at 8:39 AM

Mr. Matt!! You've done a fantastic job, as well as your teammates. I'll always remember you staying late "because your kids would be sleeping anyway when you got home". Your bosses are very aware of the extra effort you've put in, and I'll am forever grateful for caretakers like you. You're one of a kind.

JB

**Jan Benstead** lit a candle in honor of Frank.



November 13 at 6:32 PM

CD

**Cathie & Debbie** posted:

Our Hearts and Prayers go out to you and your family. We are so sorry for your loss..Cathie & Debbie

November 12 at 11:16 AM



# Tribute Wall

## Captain Frank Roger Spiegel

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**Peg Cox** lit a candle in honor of Frank.



November 11 at 9:43 AM

**PC** **Peg Cox** November 11 at 9:44 AM  
R.I.P. Frank 🙏😞💙



**Meghann Speigel Kellaway** lit a candle in honor of Frank.



Dad, I will never ever forget what you've taught me (your fishing tricks especially) and to always stand up and do the right thing. Me, Chris, Gavin and Damian will forever have a piece of you with us and I can only hope my boys will be the best fishermen, just like you. I wish you were here to teach them. Life will be the worst without you, but we will make it work. You were one heck of a Father. Achtung, Achtung. "Drop 'em". "Hey Chris, we have work to do today". I'm so sick over this, and I hope you are happy wherever you chose to go. xoxoxoxoxo

November 10 at 6:27 PM



**Frank Garretson Step Brother** lit a candle in honor of Frank.



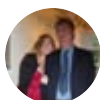
November 10 at 4:00 PM



**Lucille Speigel Schubert** posted:

Even though we have lost contact we were still family. RIP Roger. Condolences to aunt sandy and his family

November 10 at 3:35 PM



**Randy Birdsell** posted:

Worked for Roger as his 1st Mate on the little Chris and later on his Lobster Boat Shearwater. He was a good friend and mentor to me during this time and I am truly saddened to hear of his passing. Sail on my friend.

November 10 at 1:54 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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