

International Days Grand Marshall 2024

Frank Ori Jr.

If you had to describe Frank Rocco Ori using only two words, they would be: Fighter & Survivor. He was born on Friday October 18th, 1974 to Frank Angelo and Janet Marie Ori in Price Utah. He is the oldest of four kids. Shani Marie 47, Tami Jo 44, and Nicholas Jon 42. At a young age he developed a strong love for sports. In particular baseball and basketball. This would become a driving force for his career.

He attended Price Elementary, Mont Harmon Junior High School, and was a 1992 graduate of Carbon High School.

Following graduation he worked two part time jobs. First as a part time custodian at Carbon High and a second part time job for Carbon County Recreation. He also enrolled at The College of Eastern Utah, graduating with an associates degree in Spring of 1995.

Frank decided to continue his education in Grand Junction Colorado at Mesa State College. In addition to his passion for sports was a desire to become a professional broadcaster. He continued to work at Carbon Rec on weekends while in College. He also worked part time as a program assistant for Grand Junction Parks and Recreation. Also for fun Frank became a high school sports official. He refereed football. Basketball and baseball games in Grand Junction schools that helped pay for college tuition.

He graduated from Mesa State in The Spring of 1998 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications with an emphasis in Broadcasting and public relations.

Following graduation he returned home to Carbon County working for Carbon Rec, he also helped to coach baseball at CEU, first for Coach Eric Madsen, then for his younger brother Scott. He learned so much about the game from those men. In addition to coaching he became the voice of CEU basketball on 98.3FM Kickin Country.

In October of 2000 Frank was promoted to Assistant Director of Recreation. A position he held until his promotion to Director of Recreation in 2014.

Frank was never afraid of working. He became The Voice of The Carbon Dinos in 2001. Broadcasting football, basketball, and baseball games for Carbon. When he wasn't working he enjoyed playing golf, watching and playing Recreation sports, endless episodes of Friends, The Office, and Scrubs were his favorites.

In August of 2007 Frank started teaching Fitness For Life at CEU. This class was held on Tuesday evenings at The BDAC. Hundreds of students took his class. He took great pride in his students and failed very few.

In 2010 Frank gave up coaching baseball to become a morning radio host on FM 100 KUSA, first with Kieth Mason and Corina Norried. He then hosted the show with Taylor Warnock. Their show was rarely scripted but always very entertaining.

The most proud day of his life came on February 4th, 2015 when his only child Addison Marie Ori was born at Mount Timpanogos Hospital.

Frank was promoted to Recreation Director in August of 2014. As employees left or retired, the county kept adding responsibility to his job title, including event center manager, fairgrounds Director, and manager of The North Springs Shooting Range.

He flourished in this job. He brought in concerts such as Sawyer Brown, Pam Tillis, Collin Raye. Diamond Rio. And more. He ran a variety of successful youth softball tournaments drawing teams from Utah, Colorado, Idaho, and California. He had portable batting cages installed at the event center too. The most rewarding part of his job was his ability to help kids. He never refused to let a child register for a program, even if they missed the deadline.

Frank's life changed forever on December 3rd, 2017 when he suffered a massive stroke. The illness affected the left side of his body. He was completely paralyzed for nearly three months on his left side. The illness was so severe it required six brain surgeries and he lost usage of his left hand. He returned home on May 29th, 2018.

He was wheelchair bound for a few months and began therapy at Pro Rehab in June of 2018.

Frank retired from Carbon County in March of 2021 with a career spanning nearly 28 years.

He currently continues his healing process at Pro Rehab. He is forever grateful for Mike Gagon and the staff at Pro Rehab. You truly come in as a patient and leave as a friend.

He has a bucket list to visit all thirty major league baseball Stadiums. He is a huge New York Mets fan but is saving money to go see The Braves play in Atlanta next season.

Frank spends a lot of time at Notre Dame Catholic Church. He attends mass weekly, volunteers in The RCIA Program and really enjoys Bible Study with Father Daas.

He would like to give a special thank you to his parents, family, siblings, and his daughter for their never ending support of his recovery. Being named Grand Marshal for International Days is an honor he will cherish for the rest of his life.

You have a few choices when faced with a life threatening illness or disease. You can either give up or you can work as hard as possible and attempt to recover as completely as you can.