



## Francis F. Sibenaller

June 16, 1922 - June 8, 2014

Francis Frederick Sibenaller, 91, passed away peacefully June 8, 2014, at Alden of Waterford in Aurora, Illinois. He was born June 16, 1922 to Peter Frederick Sibenaller and Helen Besch Sibenaller. He was married to Elizabeth (Jacobs) Sibenaller who preceded him in death after 35 years of marriage. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by daughter, Jane Mason, Peoria, Arizona; brothers, Robert (Dorothy), Walter (Mary), Richard (Pat), and Jerome (Jean); and his sister, Dorothy (Bart) Mahoney.

He is survived by seven children, Henry (Jane) Sibenaller, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Joan (Ed) Retterer, Montgomery, Illinois, Peter (Lauren) Sibenaller, Vancouver, Washington, Rose (Clint) Maxey, Lewiston, Idaho, John (Nancy), Naperville, Illinois, Diane, Peoria, Arizona, Barbara (Dave) Smith, Elburn, Illinois; son-in-law, Dale Mason, Peoria, Arizona; and one sister, Marianne (Joseph) Reier, Aurora, Illinois. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Francis was a life-long resident of Aurora, and the Pigeon Hill neighborhood of the City.

He attended St. Joseph Grade School and East Aurora High School. He was a member of St.

Joseph Catholic Church where he was a past member of the choir and served

on the

present church's building committee. A World War II Army veteran, he served as a first lieutenant while stationed on the west coast of the United States, New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan. Shortly after his 90th birthday he was proud to fly to Washington D.C. on an Honor Flight. Francis worked in the building trades as a skilled carpenter, tile and flooring installer, eventually retiring from Aurora Federal Savings as building superintendent, housing appraiser and new construction supervisor. He was one of the founders of the Lehnertz Avenue Christmas Light Display and a member and officer of many clubs and organizations including Phoenix, Luxembourger, Knights of Columbus, Loyal Order of the Moose and VFW. For nearly 50 years he was a member of the Aurora Lamplighter Barbershop Chorus and the Ol' Styles Quartet with which he competed in statewide competitions. Up until a month before his death he was an avid and competitive bridge player as a member of the Aurora 16 and Holy Angels bridge groups, among others. He also enjoyed teaching bridge to the residents of Alden Gardens Assisted Living Facility where he resided. Over his lifetime, Francis was an accomplished harmonica player, photographer, hunter, bowler, pool player, golfer, fisherman and gardener.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13 at the DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora. 630-631-5500. A Liturgical Wake Service will be at 4:00 p.m. Funeral Services will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 14 at the mortuary, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 722 High Street, Aurora, IL with the Rev. Jerry Leake officiating. Interment with Military Honors will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery. Please visit [www.daleidenmortuary.com](http://www.daleidenmortuary.com) to leave condolences for Francis' family or to sign the guest book.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to S.B.E.P.S.Q.S.A. Barbershop Organization, Aurora Chapter, and 468 Crane St., Aurora, IL

60505 or to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 722 High Street, Aurora, IL 60505.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

Corner of Rt. 25 and Indian Trail Road.  
Aurora, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **13**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary  
220 N. Lake Street  
Aurora, IL 60506  
(630) 631-5500  
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com  
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

## Funeral Mass

JUN **14**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Church  
722 High Street  
Aurora, IL 60505  
1-630-844-7380

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ We have missed Fran at the Phoenix club. Enjoyed having lunch with him and reminiscing about the old days. Our prayers to his family for comfort and strength at this time. God be with you all. Rita Bretthauer and Judy Bretthauer Harvey

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**Judy Harvey** - June 15, 2014 at 06:42 PM

CL

“ Fran will be sorely missed, but his energy and love for life will always be remembered. He is up there getting heaven better organized for the rest of us and enjoying his Bacardis.

*Charlie & Cynthia Laurx*

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**Charlie Laurx** - June 14, 2014 at 07:15 PM

BH

“ Dave and Sandy Hipp are so sad to see such a wonderful man pass on to his reward. They send their regrets from overseas and regret their inability to attend the visitation. Fran was a wonderful man who I had the pleasure of getting to know over a card table. He was a very kind person who I will miss in our Bridge league.

*Brian Hipp*

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**Brian Hipp** - June 14, 2014 at 06:22 AM

TL

“ Fran put his heart into everything he did! I met him in the 70's at East High as a stage crew kid who had fun working on the Lamplighter shows. (Assisting with the Lamplighter Shows was addictive, I continued assisting Fran for decades after.). He was very proud to participate in the annual Christmas display on Lenertz Ave. he often joked he had the entire town of Bethlehem stored in his garage. Thank you Fran for your years of freindship and sharing your carpentry and vocal skills with others. To say you will be missed by many is an understatement. Doing my annual trip down Lehnertz will feel differently now knowing that one of its creators is niw viewing the display from heaven. It has been a blessing to know you.

Tom Lorenz - June 11, 2014 at 11:36 PM

MK

“ Dear Uncle Franny, being one of your many godchildren I had the special pleasure of coming over to your house during the Christmas holidays. I always felt very proud of you participating in the Lehnertz avenue Christmas lights but I never knew you were one of the founders. When ever I drove down the street I would always say that's my uncle Franny's house. You did many things to be proud of and now is your time to take it easy. Enjoy the afterlife with all your family, friends and God. Say hi to my mom and dad for me won't you. Lov ya Mary Sibenaller Korp

mary korp - June 11, 2014 at 01:42 PM

NP

The last time I saw Fran, he told my husband and I the story of the beginning of the Lenertz Ave Christmas Lights. After growing up in Aurora I didn't know he was instrumental in it's beginnings. I had known him all my life because he was my uncle's brother. The Sibenaller family was quite the group, and he will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace "Uncle Fran" and say hi to Uncle Bob and Aunt Marg for me. Love you- Nancy Bretthauer Pierce

Nancy Bretthauer Pierce - June 20, 2014 at 06:36 AM