

1. Frank the “Man”:

I have been privileged to know and work for Frank Newton for over 32 years.

Frank was the most “uncommon man” I have ever known. Uncommon because of the things he accomplished during his years on earth; and more importantly, for the people he touched and served.

I had the pleasure of working in the administration of the late governor of the State of Georgia, Governor George Busbee. Governor Busbee was elected under a campaign slogan, “*Elect a Workhorse, not a Showhorse.*” This phrase certainly described George Busbee and it personified Frank Newton.

Frank was never a “Brooks Brothers” kind-of-guy. I used to joke with Frank by accusing him of buying his suits from consignment clothing stores! He would just smile and nod his head as if to say: “*you are right, expensive suits do not make who we are...how we live our lives is the only thing that matters*”.

Here are but a few of Frank Newton's attributes:

- Ethnics & Morality based on a strong Christian faith were unmatched by anyone I have ever known;
- Frank Newton lived what he believed;
- Remarkably and unashamedly unpretentious;
- Frugality was a pillar of his being;
- Empathetic to all;
- His witty and informal demeanor was disarming to those who might disagree with him;
- Had a calming presence – a “steady-Eddie” type of guy;
- Rarely lost his temper, but always stood his ground on matters of principle;
- Optimistic - Glass always half-full/had 100% positive outlook;
- Ability to make instant friendships/never met a stranger;
- The ultimate “people person”;
- Corny jokes...The late comedian Henny Youngman was often the source;
- Endured health challenges in recent years with grace and dignity;

- Never a complainer, he always had an open door to consult with anyone who needed his counsel;
- Always had a smile for everyone.

2. Frank the “Professional”

- Rose from a modest family in Homestead FL to earn earning bachelors and master’s degrees from the University of Florida and the University of Georgia, respectively;
- Encyclopedic knowledge about federal/state/local government programs;
- Served State of Georgia as its Federal Relations Coordinator for the Governor’s Office;
- Served as Southeast Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for President Jimmy Carter;
- After leaving his post at FEMA, Frank started a consulting firm after leaving the Carter Adm. where he helped design state programs for the elderly in the Southeast;
- From a four person consulting business in 1983 serving only Cobb County, Frank and his leadership team expanded services to Gwinnett and Clayton counties and to other cities and counties all over the nation today.

3. Frank – “My Boss and my Friend”

- I first met Frank in of June 1983 – I sent a resume to the late Ernest Barrett, then Cobb County Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. I interviewed with Frank at a Waffle House and we talked for hours;
- We had similar educational backgrounds and common work acquaintances;
- I was the third overall hire for WFN in June 1983
- He was a Friend/Mentor/Colleague/Boss
- Voracious reader...friend of the copy machine industry
- Constant writer/editor – if it did not move, Frank would edit it!
- As Frank’s equivalent of a COO for many years, I would sometimes joke with Frank that he had used up all his supply of commas for that month as he used many in his written materials.
- Like all of us, Frank had some unique proclivities...and one was Newsletter editing
- When a newsletter arrived, Frank would devour it, then edit the syntax and grammar and pass it along to the remainder of his staff. I never saw a newsletter that Frank had not marked up!

- The cliché says “they threw away the mold” after Frank Newton arrived. No truer words were ever spoken.
- Frank, I will miss your warmth, your wit, your boundless knowledge, and your ability to make anyone and everyone feel important and at ease
- A portion of Matthew’s Gospel in Chapter 25, contains the parable about the servants...one squandered the owner’s money, another buried it, while the third invested the money. Verse 23 said, in part, “Well done good and faithful servant.” This piece of New Testament scripture seems to best describe Frank’s mission and his accomplishments on this good earth. He was a good servant of humanity who invested all of himself and his energy to improve the lives of the tens of thousands of people who were served by the programs administered by Frank and his staff.

Frank, I was a lucky guy to be your Assistant for over 30 years. You gave me opportunities that I never imagined would come my way.

- Farewell Frank, and Godspeed...and by the way Frank, tell St. Peter he needs to increase the budget for office supplies because William Frank Newton has arrived, and he will be needing a robust copy-machine and an extra-large bucket of commas!

Remarks made by Mr. Craig Goebel on October 28th, 2015, for Frank Newton's Memorial Service held at Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta, Georgia.