



## William Frank Suddeth

August 31, 1945 - January 21, 2010

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William F. "Frank" Suddeth, Jr., age 64, passed away peacefully on Jan. 21, 2010, at his home in the loving care and comfort of his family. Frank, a native of St. Augustine and graduate of St. Augustine High School Class of 1962, was a well known and honored local historian, teacher and artist. Having served in the USAF from 1963 to 1967, he later graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Education from the University of Florida. Between 1971 and 1996 he taught history in St. Johns County schools. During this time, he expanded his passion for history by working as a part time park ranger at the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, continuing in his grandfather Matthew Suddeth's footsteps, the elder having been a guide at the Castillo in the 1920's. In retirement, Frank continued as a volunteer at the Fort, and worked as a licensed city tour guide, serving as an ambassador of goodwill to all who met him on the streets of the Ancient City. In his spare time Frank drew and published several historical children's coloring books and books on military uniforms. In addition, he created a Florida History Educational Series used by school groups visiting the city. A member of the St. Augustine Historical Society and the Spanish Garrison of St. Augustine, Frank was a local re-enactor of both the Spanish and British Colonial periods. In 1994 Frank was honored by his nomination and induction into the Company of Military Historians. Frank's enthusiasm for life and endearing love for his family,

friends and St. Augustine will be fondly remembered and cherished by all those fortunate enough to have been touched by his warmth and gentle kindness. Frank is survived by his loving mother, Elsie M. Suddeth, St. Augustine; his brothers and sisters-in-law; Robert and Judith Suddeth, St. Augustine and Thomas and Diane Suddeth, Houston Texas; his sister and brother-in-law Deborah and Richard Manley, Reston Virginia; and by his fourteen loving nieces and nephews, and a large extensive family of friends. He is sadly preceded in death by his father William F. Suddeth, Sr. and by his daughter Jennifer Suddeth. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 27th at Anastasia Baptist Church with Rev. David Moore and Rev. Ron Moore officiating. Interment with military honors conducted by the St. Augustine Garrison will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. A visitation of family and friends will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26th at St. Johns Family Funeral Home. Flowers will be graciously accepted and/or donations given in his memory to St. Augustine Garrison, 1960 US Hwy 1 South, PMB 193, St. Augustine, FL 32086. St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ I used to volunteer as a cannoneer at the fort in the late 1980's. I remember the drawings and art he did. In fact I have a stack of that artwork I found recently while cleaning my basement. I'd like to return them to the family if they would want them as a cherished memory. Reach me at [sfchawk@gmail.com](mailto:sfchawk@gmail.com)

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**David C Hawk** - February 21, 2024 at 05:11 AM

RD

“ When I first met Frank Suddeth on our first trip to St Augustine, in 1968 - How well I remember! - We came upon Frank sitting in the doorway of the Spanish Posada on St George's St. He had overheard me asking my wife, "I wonder what's the difference between a Posada and the then restaurant, Posada Menendez?" Frank said, "Would you like to know?" He told me and that began one of the most interesting and long conversations of my life! And 'twas but the first of many conversations I have had with this extraordinary man. Frank imbued me with an instant fascination of Spain, both there and here in the New World. Now begins a saga! When my wife and I returned home to Gainesville, GA, where I was working with Sears Roebuck, a copy of the Sears annual report awaited us. There on the front cover was a picture of Sears' first Spanish store, in Barcelona they had just opened. - Another followed shortly afterward in Madrid. - I clearly remember saying to my wife, "That's a great looking store! One of these days, I'm going to be working there!" Guess what happened, just six months later! Right, Spain and that store in Barcelona! I was but 31, and then passed four of the happiest and changing years of my life! My only child, Jamey, was born in Madrid and he was baptized in the font at the old cathedral at Barcelona. That to me completed a full circle, as this font was the exact one they used to baptize the Indians the Spanish bought back from the New World! For years and years, whenever I had the chance, I'd return to St Augustine, look up Frank and chat, literally, for hours and hours. He always held me spellbound! Today, August 31, 2010, would have been Frank's 65th birthday & I called to congratulate him. His number was no longer good, and I feared the worse! Every year I'd call Frank on his birthday to congratulate him and thank him again and again for all the great lessons of Spain and Florida he had taught me. Years later, there were times I would fly back to Madrid to visit, and the most strange thing would happen to me. As I began to land at Barajas, my eyes would unexpectedly fill with tears and I'd choke up. Imagine my surprise when just recently I discovered a part of family tree, unbeknown to me, had ties with Phillip II of Spain's court! Go figure! My experiences with Spain have had many

*coincidental happenings, too many to recount. All this wonderful part of my life opened up by my dear friend, Frank Suddeth. Now, with tears dimming my vision, I can only say, "Thank you, Frank! Thank you! I shall miss you terribly." Reg Doherty 8-31-2010*

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**Reg Doherty** - August 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ *I was sad to hear of Frank's passing. I only found out two weeks ago. I met Frank in the early 1990's while I was on special detail as historic weapons supervisor at the Castillo. Frank was very friendly and helpful during my visits and duties at the fort and he was very generous to share his historical expertise and artwork with me. He was a special person and I pray that God will give you His grace during this time of mourning. Sincerely, Eric Williams Chief Park Ranger, Historian (ret) Ninety Six National Historic Site 115 Curl Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649*

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**Eric Williams** - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *I was so saddened to hear about Franks passing. He was my history teacher back in 1989. He was one of the BEST, and always will be. He taught me so much about the history of St. Augustine. He actually coaxed me to do a spanis military drill for extra credit. That experience is something I will never forget. Frank you are and will be missed by thousands!! Thank you for all your service to the great city of St. Augustine!!*

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**Jeremy C. Hawyer** - January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM