



# WNY engineer

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## ENGINEER SPOTLIGHT

# Loss of Great Local Engineer Philip F. Frandina (1928-2013)

Phil Frandina is remembered by the Western New York Community as a great friend and highly-respected colleague. He was a gentle, soft-spoken man that personified integrity and the true meaning of being a Professional Engineer. Phil was a dedicated family man and encouraged his children to become engineers as well. They often accompanied him to meetings and jobsite visits.

His foray into construction began as a boy working alongside his father in the family concrete construction business. Following several construction jobs, Phil enrolled at UB's Millard Fillmore College in 1956, attending night school while holding daytime employment as a welder, City of Buffalo Engineering Inspector, and an Erie County Highway Department Engineering Assistant. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering in 1964 followed shortly by his Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor licenses.

Phil worked up the ladder within the County Department of Public Works, holding every engineering title including Deputy Commissioner for Highways. In 1982 he was appointed Commissioner of Public Works by then County Executive Edward Rutkowski. Managing a workforce of over 1,000 employees, Phil was responsible for all county highways, bridges and buildings.

He was a very active part of the local engineering community, serving as President of the Buffalo Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in 1972. He also served as President of the Erie-Niagara Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE), the Technical Societies Council (TSC) and founded the WNY Chapter of the Association for Bridge Construction and Design (ABCD)

in 1978. Through ABCD, Phil led the effort which secured funding to repair the region's failing bridge infrastructure.

Phil was selected by NYSSPE's Erie Niagara Chapter as their "Engineer of the Year" in 1987 and was named a candidate for the "Top Ten Public Works Officials" by the state chapter of the American Public Works Association in 1988. He was also awarded the Basinski-Wohler Distinguished Service Award in 1995 and the State Meritorious Service Award in 1997. In 2001, Phil was presented with the UB Engineering Alumni Association's Engineer of the Year Award along with sons Joe and Frank, and daughter Rosanne.

In 1988, opportunity knocked and Phil established the consulting firm, Frandina Engineering, P.C., with his son Joe; his daughter Rosanne joined in 2000. Through the years, Frandina Engineering was responsible for designing several highways, bridges and buildings, including the luxury suites at Ralph Wilson Stadium.

Phil is survived by his wife Mary Lou, daughter Rosanne, sons Joseph and Frank, many brothers, sister, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Frandina family during this difficult time.

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