



Frank G. Tripepi and **Rhonda Tripepi** with baby **Samantha Susan Simpson**. The little girl was born on June 9, 1983, and Frank & Rhonda became her Godparents. Frank and Samantha's father Jack began working together in 1971 following Frank's return home from serving with the U. S. Army in Vietnam. Frank was in the Army from September 1969 to September 1971. He was with the 23rd Field Artillery Group. He broke both wrists falling some 40-feet from an observation tower where he was on duty when the tower was hit by enemy mortars.

Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

We lost our good friend and legendary City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**. Frank passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2022. Our hearts go out to his wife Rhonda, his daughter Nicole, son-in-law Ryder Smith and his granddaughter Reagan Smith, and the rest of the Tripepi family and friends. Here's a wonderful family picture:





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Rhonda Tripepi, Frank G. Tripepi, Ryder Smith, Reagan Smith and Nicole Tripepi Smith. A beautiful family picture. Retired City Manager **Frank Tripepi** was the Senior Vice President of Business Development for the *Willdan Group of Companies*. Ryder & Nicole are the founders of **Tripepi Smith**.

Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

Frank G. Tripepi, grew up in Norwalk in southeast Los Angeles County, and began his public service career, following U. S. Army service from September 1969 to September 1971. He was discharged following service in Vietnam. Frank initially took an Administrative Aide position in Hawaiian Gardens in 1971. After earning a promotion to Administrative Assistant, in 1972, he went to work for City Manager **Leland Gunn** in the City of Rosemead as Assistant City Manager. Frank was appointed City Manager in 1974. After Frank retired as the Rosemead City Manager in 2002, he worked as the President of Willdan Financial Services (2002-2011). He then served as the Willdan Group Senior Vice President of Business Development. During this time, Frank also served as a member of the Board of Governors for the Rose Institute of State and Local Government (2008-present). He was the Interim City Manager for the City of La Puente (2008-2009). Frank earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton. He also attended courses at Western State College of Law. Frank has participated in the "Proof of Life" lunch program. In 2001 Frank received a 30-year ICMA Service Award. Frank loved fast cars and drove the road racecourse at Willow Springs. He was a fan of NASCAR racing. He was also an Angels' Major League Baseball fan and enjoyed attending games at Angel Stadium in Anaheim. Frank maintained a classic Mustang Cobra-Jet and won many "Best of Show" awards at multiple classic car shows throughout Southern California. Frank believed in "servant management" to the point he assisted his staff people with their efforts to "get ahead."

"Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders."

--**Bob Moawad**

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Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)



Frank and his daughter **Nicole Tripepi Smith**. It has always been a point of pride for me that I was there in that Norwalk Hospital the night Nicole was born. I was able to join Frank's mother **Ruth Tripepi** and his sister Valentina. Frank was exceedingly proud!



Here are Frank and **Reagan Smith**, his granddaughter, at her recent high school graduation from Sage Hill School. She is Chief of Staff, a part-time position at **Tripepi Smith**. She is Co-CEO of Biologae. Reagan will attend Wake Forest University. Frank was "bust your buttons" proud of this young woman.



This is **Ryder Todd Smith**, Frank's son-in-law. He is Frank's daughter Nicole's husband and his granddaughter **Reagan Smith**'s father. Frank repeatedly told me how proud he was of Ryder. He and Nicole built a thriving business from scratch and it will continue to grow with its well-earned success.



Frank poses here with retired Long Beach City Manager **Pat West**. Here are two "big time" public managers. Both of these professionals are survivors in a jungle of group dynamics and ego-gratification. They worked through the people problems to repeated successes for the public.

Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)



Anthony D. Gonsalves and Frank at a city manager function. This picture appeared in a November 2010 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown. Anthony and his sons Jason and Paul work with the professional representation firm founded by his father, former Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**. Over the years, Frank and Anthony became family, working on a number of successful projects.

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Retired Fairfield City Manager **Kevin O'Rourke** of **PARS** with **Jack Simpson**, **Joe Tanner** and the late **Frank G. Tripepi**.

Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

By Jack A. Simpson

In 1997 Frank and I decided to drive to the Annual ICMA Conference in Salt Lake City. We took my somewhat new black GMC Yukon Denali that Frank had dubbed "The Italian War Wagon." Frank brought along his binder of Fats Domino CDs...yes, in those days new cars came with CD players.

We played the CDs most of the way there and back, so it is to be understood that the music did not stop with "I found my thrill on Blueberry Hill." As we travelled up Highway 15 through Las Vegas, St. George, Cedar City and Provo, we had Fats Domino music to keep us company. "I'm a fool to care." Many don't know that Frank was a big "oldies but goodies" fan.

Once we arrived in Salt Lake City and checked into our hotel, we met up with Indian Wells City Manager **George Watts** and his assistant **Troy Butzlaff**, and Palm Springs City Manager **David Ready**. We had a pleasant dinner that evening...without Fats.



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Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)



In 1983 we were in Kansas City for the ICMA conference. We were still jogging in those days and jogged in an old civil war battlefield. We borrowed a rental car from **Doug Dunlap** and drove to a racquetball club in

the suburbs. I remember sitting in the observation area with a group of students watching **Bob Dickey** give their instructor a lesson. **Joe Goeden** and **Larry Kosmont** were with us too.

These Salt Lake City and Kansas City Trips are mere examples of our many travels to annual ICMA conferences and other organizations like the National League of Cities, or the National Civil League. We started going to the annual ICMA conferences together probably with the 1974 Dallas venue. We visited the Space Needle in Seattle in 1975, and we jogged the streets of Toronto in 1976. We met **Bill Clinton** in a lounge in our hotel in Montreal in 1987 after jogging along the Lachine Canal in the wind and the rain. **Bill Clinton** joined us to watch a baseball game on television. He was there as a conference speaker, the former Governor of Arkansas.

In 1984 Frank and Rhonda brought Nicole, and Susan and I brought Cookie and baby Samantha to the conference in San Antonio, Texas. I think Nicole helped Cookie sit with Samantha as we attended evening events and dinners. Frank and Susan and I ran in the ICMA 5K Run that started and ended at the Alamo. It was at that conference when we saw actress **Barbara Eden** eating at a restaurant along the River Walk. Another celebrity sighting was in 2002 when we sat in front of **David Hasselhoff** at the Angels/Giants World Series.



Frank Tripepi and his sister Valentina



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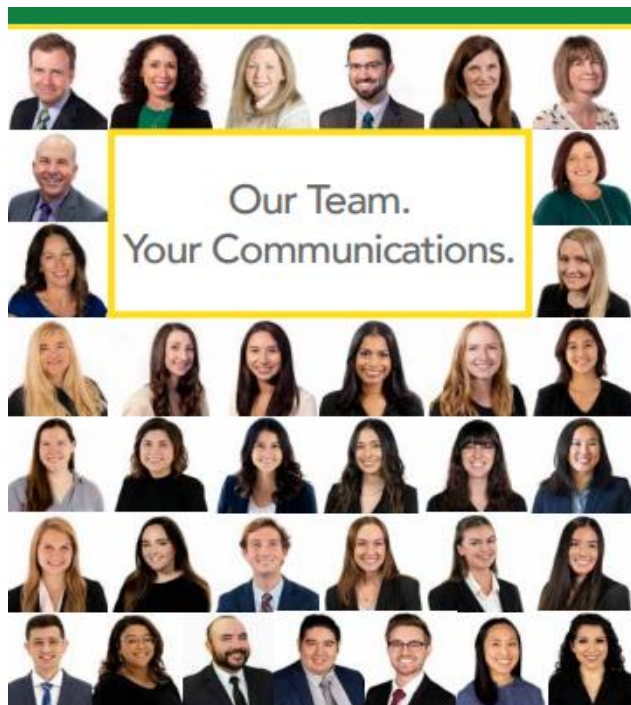


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Fran Mancina may be reached at 559-288-7296. Fran is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).



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--**Benjamin Franklin**



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Retired City Managers **Doug Prichard** of Rolling Hills Estates and **Frank Tripepi** of Rosemead and Willdan.

Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

We learned together that it is not the exotic venue that makes a conference successful. It is the program and the people you share the experience with that determines its success. We had city manager friends who refused to go to the 1989 ICMA annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa. That conference turned out to be a great experience. Not only was the ICMA content of value, but we found some memorable experiences outside the curriculum.

Frank and I and the late **Nelson Oliva** went bass fishing in a corn field own by **Milo Ferrari**. Milo was a good friend to my late father-in-law **Kenny Woodruff**, a Sprint Car Hall of Fame Crew Chief. I met Milo while attending World of Outlaws sprint car races. Always an Italian ally, Milo immediately became a supporter and cheerleader for Frank as we fished from his pontoon boat on a large pond with tall and tight corn stalks all around. We were catching and releasing good sized bass, and there were Milo cheers for every one of Frank's hook-ups. We had a great time. Team building at its best!

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Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

Nelson Oliva was with us again in 1991 when we were in Boston. Frank arranged for some tickets to the Boston Red Sox-New York Yankees game at Fenway Park. Originally built in 1912, Fenway is the oldest active ballpark used in Major League Baseball. Seeing a game at Fenway is on the "bucket-list" of most baseball fans. We walked to the ball field from our hotel and were there in plenty of time to get some amazing sausage sandwiches from the street vendors outside the entrance gates.

In 1990, the year before, when the ICMA conference was in Fort Worth, Texas, Frank and I and **Jeff Stewart** went to a Texas/Angels' game. We were about the only Angels' fans in the ballpark. When Angel Center Fielder **Devon White** made a circus catch going back towards the wall and reaching up under full gallop, we were about the only fans in our area than were happy about it.

In Philadelphia in 1985, Frank located an Italian restaurant called *La Familia Ristorante*. It was so good that we went there two nights while in town. I think that **Bob Gutierrez**, **Bob Hinderliter** and **Chris Rope** were with us the first night. The server, who I think was part owner, collected our menus and said, "Let me do my job!" He brought us the best leg of veal you could ask for anywhere. *La Familia* is a class establishment



where ladies and gentlemen gather to dine. Our beer drinking good friend Chris, drank the establishment completely out of beer for the evening, which wasn't much, but sounded odd when it was announced.



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This picture was taken at an early meeting of the "Proof of Life" lunch group following the passing of retired City Manager **William "Bill" Holt**. From left to right are: **Tom Robinson, Ken Bayless, Doug Dunlap, Gary Chicots, Don Wagner, Don Penman, Jack Simpson, John Bolan**, the late **Ray Harris** (holding a picture of **Bill Holt**), **Gary Sloan, Jim Barisic, Bill Crowe, Sam Olivito, Wesley Wolf, Frank Triepi, Greg Korduner** and **Andy Pasmant**.



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Joe Gonsalves said: "Lobbyist are like parachutes; you don't need them often but when you do, they had better work."

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Frank G. Triepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

Frank had a sixth sense for sniffing out good places to eat regardless of our travel destination. In California, from San Diego, through Southern California to the Central Coast, to San Francisco and Sacramento, Frank was spot on finding good places to eat. He could find a "top end" place like the *Sardine Factory* in Monterey, or a small quaint establishment with amazing food like the *Sandbar & Grill*, on Monterey Municipal Wharf No. 2, where the sanddabs are exceptional. More than a few times we even filled a car with city managers for the drive north of Monterey to Castroville, the Artichoke Capital of the World.

In Sacramento, we got to know the manager of the downtown Morton's Steakhouse and, of course, Mario at the Firehouse Restaurant in Old Town Sacramento. We visited both places many times for successful dinners.



This caricature drawing was presented to Los Angeles County Sheriff Chief **Paul Strohm** at his retirement. The 980 was a Bellflower "watering hole" for law enforcement personnel. The city managers here all chipped in to pay artist extraordinaire **Jack Moffitt** in 1984.

Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

Of course, these short stories and mentions are just the tip of the iceberg. There was Il Fornaio, Peohe's and Chez Loma and more in Coronado. Across the bay in the Gaslamp Quarter and beyond. What you find here are just examples of things we did and places we went together. In 1993, ICMA had its annual conference in Nashville at the Opryland Hotel. I had just been invited to leave Bellflower employment and Frank and **Roy Pederson** saw to it that I had a room at the conference hotel. We got to see **Dolly Parton** perform for the conference attendees on that trip. I remember the Doo wop singers at the Washington D.C. sessions in 1996. Frank loved oldies but goodies. We once went to an Oldies but Goodies concert at the La Mirada Theater and saw **Ron Holden** and the Olympics. Frank pointed out that one of the Olympics looked like our late friend **Robert Fleming**. Frank didn't drink and he didn't smoke cigarettes, but he loved music.



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Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

Frank went with me to **Robert Fleming's** funeral in Sacramento and to Robert's burial in San Diego County. Robert had worked for Hawaiian Gardens, Bellflower and Walnut among his city jobs. At his passing, Robert was a contract lobbyist for Boeing. Robert was also a cancer casualty.



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Roxanne Diaz is the City Attorney for Hidden Hills, Indio and Maywood. Roxanne is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). **Steven L. Flower, Kevin Ennis, Peter M. Thorson, Gregory W. Stepanich, Laurence Wiener, Serita Young, David Snow** and **Craig Steele** are among the many other City Attorneys on the **RW&G** staff.

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Historically, **Glenn Watson, Richard Richards**, and colleague **Robert G. Beverly** opened the **RWG** firm's first offices in downtown Los Angeles in the fall of 1954. At the time, the firm maintained its founders' focus on real estate and business litigation. The attorneys were joined from the first day and for the next 43 years by **Beth Donald**, who served as both a Legal Secretary and Office Manager. From the early 1970s until her death in 1997, she was the Municipal Law Administrator – responsible for assisting City Clerks in preparing their meeting agendas, assisting City Attorneys in drafting resolutions and ordinances, handling the billing for most of the Firm's cities and maintaining (in her head) an encyclopedic database of California municipal law.

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tem@rwglaw.com



Picking Up the Pieces: Fort Bragg City Manager **John H. Ford** has asked to be released from his employment agreement due to issues with his son's school. John previously served as the Planning and Building Director for the County of Humboldt, and he

held positions in Thousand Oaks, Roseville and the County of Monterey. Cupertino City Manager **Jim Throop** submitted his resignation just six months into the position. Jim came to Cupertino in January 2022 from Lompoc where he served as City Manager for 3-years (July 2018-January 2022). Prior to Lompoc he was the Chief Financial Officer in Oxnard (2016-2018); Director of Administrative Services in Paso Robles (2007-2016); and Director of Budget and Research in Pinal County, Arizona. Jim earned a BA from the University of Southern California (**USC**), and an MBA from Chapman University. Chino Community Services



Director Dr. **Linda Reich** is the new City manager in the City of Chino effective August 8. Linda joined the Chino city staff in 2002 and became the Director of Community Services in February 2013. Linda earned a BS from Michigan State University, an MPA from California

State University, Northridge and a DPA from the University of La Verne. She will take over from Interim City Manager **Anthony Arroyo**, who has been working in the position since City Manager **Matt Ballantyne** moved on to be the Fontana City Manager. Hemet City Manager **Christopher Lopez** resigned effective June 16, 2022. Hemet Chief of Police **Eddie Pust** is serving as Acting City Manager. Chris is the thirteenth person to serve as the Hemet City Manager since 2000. He was appointed in November 2019 after serving as Acting City Manager following the placement of City Manager **Allen Parker** on paid leave in March 2019. Chris joined the Hemet city staff in 2018 as Deputy City Manager. Chris earned a BA and MPA from California State Polytechnical University, Pomona. **John P. Thompson**, who earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MA from Occidental College, is a retired city manager turned fiction author. His book "Without Purpose of Evasion" is available through John's web page www.JPThompson1.com. John served as President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 2000-2001. John served as the Vacaville city manager from 1984 to 2003, and he was the Vacaville Assistant City Manager from 1979 to 1984. He worked in the State Legislative Analyst Office in 1974-1976.



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Debbie Smith, Executive Director

The **Independent Cities Finance Authority** is an unaffiliated Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with the goal of helping communities fund critical projects. ICFA has assisted funding more than \$500 million in critical community projects, from hospitals to charter schools, municipal utilities and housing.

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Ashley Cascio and
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Letters and Notes from Readers:

I am extremely sad to hear the awful news about Frank. I have had many heartfelt discussions with Frank about growing up, the Viet Nam war, his Purple Heart, and experiences as a cm. I can hardly believe this news. He is a tough guy and I only hope he didn't suffer. My good wishes are with him, his family and friends.

--**Joe Tanner**

Sincerely sorry to hear about Frank, he was a real friend to me over the years, helped me out a couple times when things looked bleak. Good man and great City Manager! Been a bad month. First Ray Harris, now Frank, I'll miss them both.

--**Doug Dunlap**

Wow, Frank's passing was a big shock to me. I didn't know he was even close at such a young age. Sorry to hear. We had something in common. Rosemead. He was manager there for a long time and I got my first job in the biz as Administrative Assistant to Milt Farrell there in 1960.

--**Roy Pederson**

Very sorry to hear about Frank's passing. He was a fine fellow, and I know he was a great friend of yours and many others.

--**Tom Robinson**



I sure did like Frank! I'm reading all the accolades as they come in on linked in. What a treasure to city government, his mentoring, guidance and pure fun and fine man. I feel for you too Jack,

you both brought such a wholesome package to California cities and all departments too.

--**Janice Mathis**

I am so sorry to learn of Frank's passing. I know how close you guys were. And I know what a great guy Frank was. He was always so positive and happy. He was a great contributor to local government both as a city manager and as a consultant to cities. He will be missed.

--**Louis Shepard**

I will miss him. He was a special friend and, of course, a mentor I truly cherished.

--**Marty Lomeli**

My wife Gloria & Frank spoke almost every day during his treatment...comparing notes I guess. We are both saddened to lose him. --**Don Wagner**



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President of Community Development

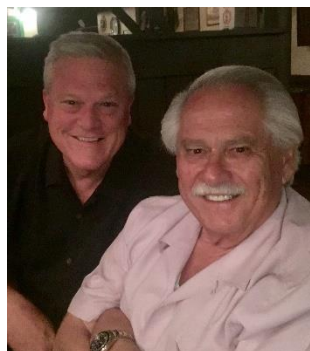
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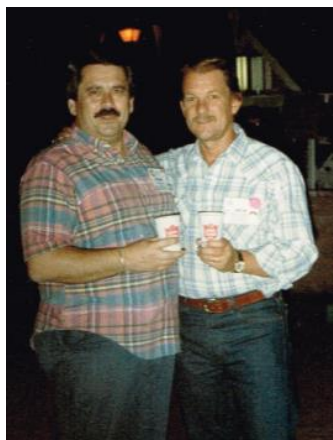
Here is Frank with former colleague and longtime friend **Jeff Stewart**, Bellflower City Manager.



Another one of the good guys! Retired Walnut City Manager **Rob Wishner** with Frank.

More Pieces Picked Up: Foster City has recruited former Fairfield City Manager **Stefan Chatwin** as its new City Manager. Stefan has been serving as the Interim City Manager in the City of Plymouth in Amador County. Stefan served in the United State Air Force as an officer from December 1993 to November 1999. After a quick stint in the private sector (1999-2001), Stefan went to work for Ogden, Utah as the Director of Community Services (2001-2003). He was hired as the Santaquin, Utah City Manager. In 2009 he took the Hayden, Idaho City Administrator position, and he moved to California in 2016 to be the City Manager in Imperial (2016-2019). Stefan was appointed City Manager in Fairfield in 2019 and served there until 2022. Stefan earned a BA in international relations from Brigham Young University.

SHORTS: *Los Angeles Dodger officials unveiled a special statue of all-time pitching great **Sandy Koufax** at Dodger Stadium on Saturday, June 18, 2022, and, among others, retired City Manager **Gregory Korduner** was there. *Maywood City Manager **Jennifer Vasquez**, who previously served as the South El Monte and Bradbury City Manager, worked with **Kosmont Transactions Services** (KTS) to reduce the cost of outstanding borrowings, including Pension Obligation Bonds. *In 2014 **Tony Olivito**, former Communications and Technology Manager for the *California Contract Cities Association* received the El Gran Matador Award from the CCCA group. *Word is that retired Vallejo City Manager **Joe Tanner** is temporarily laid up with a foot injury. ***Ray Remy**, former top aide to Los Angeles Mayor **Tom Bradley**, and who previously worked with the League of California Cities, passed away at 82 in December 2019. *Former Taft City Manager (1975-1977) **Michael Duncan Goyer**, who had previously served as an assistant in the City of Cerritos, became City Manager in Sierra Vista, Arizona in January 1980. *Fresno State graduate **Vincent G. Peterson** served as



the City Manager for the City of Hanford from March 1965 to June 1983, after he worked as the Hanford Planning Director starting in October 1956. ***George E. Morgan** was the Palo Alto City Manager (1966-1971) before serving as the Beverly Hill City Manager from November 1971 to June 1978. Frank and Jack; Friends forever! R.I.P.



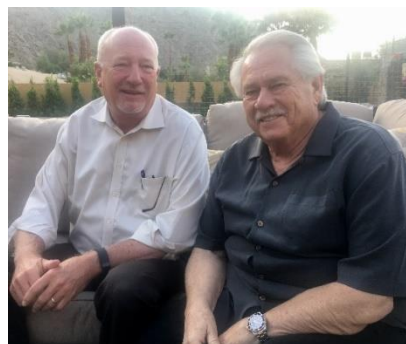
Frank Tripepi and his good friends **Dominic** and **Susanne Cortese**. Dom was the Chair of the Assembly Local Government Committee.



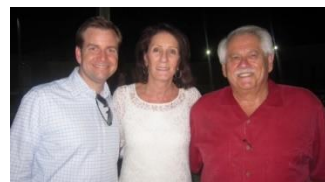
A couple of Italian stallions!
Sam Olivito showing his affection for Frank.



A circa 1980s picture of **Greg Korduner** and **Frank G. Tripepi**.



Two of the very best in California local government!
Wade McKinney and **Frank G. Tripepi**



Family picture:
Ryder Smith, **Rhonda Tripepi** and **Frank G. Tripepi**.

Frank G. Tripepi

(September 9, 1947 – June 19, 2022)

A Celebration of Life for **Frank G. Tripepi** is scheduled for Friday, July 1, 2022. Service at 9:00 a.m. at Rose Hills, 3888 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, California 90601. The service will be held in the Sky Rose Chapel. A graveside service will follow the funeral. A Celebration of Life gathering will then be held at 11:30 a.m. at the South Hills Country Club, 2655 South Citrus Street, West Covina, California 91791.

We are closing this issue out with some pictures. We apologize to those our pictures missed. It is easy to see that Frank has more friends and contacts than the available pictures depict. We first are showing Frank's classic car restoration. Greg Korduner bought Frank's first effort and then he brought his 1970 428 Cobra Jet Mach 1 to life. Frank had a great team for this restoration, including **Robert Nagle**, **Wally Rust**, **Steve Johnson** and **Neal Polen**, who did the body work and paint.



Here is retired City Manager **Greg Korduner** with the 1965 Mustang Frank originally restored. Greg drove the car to the June 23 "Proof of Life" lunch in Frank's Memory.



This picture was taken at Rhonda and Frank's Goddaughter Samantha's 16th birthday. She is the baby shown on Page 1.



This was a special group of friends that would periodically get together. They called themselves the Certificated Urban Managers. From left to right are **Jack Simpson**, **John Jameson**, **Ray Harris**, **Frank G. Tripepi**, **John E. Maulding** and **Dan W. Heil**.



Here Frank makes a presentation to Assembly Member **Sam Farr**, the new Chair of the Assembly Local Government Committee. Frank was important to California city government.