



## Frank Canon

January 5, 2024

Frank Lynn Canon of Magnolia, Texas, was born in Alpena, Michigan. His parents, both native Texans, were Gordon Stutts Canon and Myrtle Ruth Graham Canon. Frank passed away peacefully on January 5, 2024.

Frank was raised in a loving home in Pearland, Texas. After graduating from Pearland High School in 1965, he attended Sam Houston State University where he earned a degree in Theatre Arts and met the lovely Mary Ann.

On July 19, 1969, the couple married in Plantersville, Texas. Their first son, Barrett Canon, arrived in 1973 followed by Jared Canon in 1977.

In 1975, Frank began work for Baroid as an oilfield mud engineer. He showed up for his first day of work in a lime-green polyester suit, which he soon traded for his trademark red jumpsuit. The family relocated to the Rocky Mountains, where they lived in New Mexico, Wyoming, and then Colorado.

When he began with Baroid, Frank had no idea that he was to become a pioneer in the emerging Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Industry. In 1991 he returned to his roots in Houston, working in the newly established Baroid Industrial Drilling Products Division. By the next year, his role became entirely devoted to trenchless technology execution and education.

In a career spanning over 40 years, Frank solidified legendary status in the HDD industry. In addition to practical expertise put to use in the field, he is remembered as an outstanding educator and mentor. He travelled extensively, training thousands of people a year in the best practices working with drilling fluids. He travelled the country and the globe, working on sites and teaching mud schools on every continent except Antarctica. His teaching style has been described as homespun, humorous, folksy, and memorable.

He was deeply humbled by every professional accolade he received. In 1999, he was named the Trenchless Technology Person of the Year. He was also named the Texas Water Well Association's Man of the Year in the early 90's. In 2010, he received the North East Trenchless Association's Founder Award. He was inducted into the North American Society for Trenchless Technology (NASTT) Hall of Fame in 2012. He served on the Board of Directors for NASTT and was a reviewer and author of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) publications. Frank retired in 2015, but continued in his roles as consultant and mentor. Frank's most recent award was his induction into the HDD Hall of Fame in 2022.

Above all, Frank was a loving husband, father, and uncle. He prioritized family always and enjoyed even more time with them in retirement. He treasured the company of all of his family members, encouraged them in their pursuits and adventures, and reveled in his own ability to beat them in games.

Frank is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Canon, sons Barrett Canon (Thera) and Jared Canon, nieces Anne Kish (Don) and Rosie Botkin (Ron), great-nephews Henry Botkin-Henderson and Avery Botkin-Henderson, and great nieces Audrey Kish and Norah Botkin-Henderson, two special schnauzers Seamus and Clancy Canon, and many beloved friends.

Frank was predeceased by his parents, Gordon and Myrtle Canon.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, January 10 at the Magnolia Funeral Home. Visitation will be at 9:30 a.m. followed by a service at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow immediately after the service at the Plantersville Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Plantersville Baptist Church, PO Box 279, Plantersville, TX 77363.

The Addison family and staff of Magnolia Funeral Home extend condolences to the Canon family during this difficult time.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 10. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Magnolia Funeral Home  
811 South Magnolia Blvd.  
Magnolia, TX 77355  
(281) 356-3363  
magnoliafh@yahoo.com  
<https://magnoliafunerals.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 10. 10:30 AM (CT)

Magnolia Funeral Home  
811 South Magnolia Blvd.  
Magnolia, TX 77355  
(281) 356-3363  
magnoliafh@yahoo.com  
<https://magnoliafunerals.com>

## Burial

JAN 10 (CT)

Plantersville Cemetery  
Plantersville, TX 77363

# Tribute Wall

PE

“ *The Canons were my second family growing up in CO. I probably spent the same amount of time at their house as I did my own. Frank was stoic, kind, and had a subtle sense of humor that a 10 year old doesn't fully appreciate. I wish I had the opportunity to be around him more when I was an adult! I remember how you always called me "tiger". It gave me a sense of strength and pride. I wish Max would have had the chance to feel that same way. Thank you for letting me be a part of your family. Love, Phil*

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**Phil Eichhorn** - January 12, 2024 at 10:16 PM

MW

“ *So long Frank! Thank you for generously sharing your vast wisdom and being a driving force for our industry. Thank you for helping me when I worked for NASTT. Your support and kindness will always have great meaning to me. You will be missed buddy but certainly never forgotten! Mike Willmets*

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**Mike Willmets** - January 12, 2024 at 04:32 PM

JU

“ *Frank, An Icon that helped build the trenchless industry it is today. I learned a lot from him and enjoyed the time spent with him. Condolences to his family. Rest in Peace Bubba.*

*James Urquhart*

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**James Urquhart** - January 11, 2024 at 06:28 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



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January 10, 2024 at 10:40 AM



“ *HardRock Infrastructure Services planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.*

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**HardRock Infrastructure Services** - January 10, 2024 at 10:40 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Magnolia Funeral Home** - January 10, 2024 at 10:09 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



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January 10, 2024 at 09:28 AM

MP

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Randy Peterson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.*

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Peterson - January 10, 2024 at 09:28 AM

FO

“ *An awesome speaker, teacher, colleague and friend. Meeting Frank, learning from Frank and listening to his stories at the beginning of my career has been an honor. A legend which leaves a huge footprint in our world in many people their memories. You will be missed!*



Frank Ooms - January 10, 2024 at 04:18 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



January 09, 2024 at 09:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



January 09, 2024 at 05:12 PM

TG

“ To the family of Frank Canon. I was honored to call Frank a friend. His wisdom in life and also the industry was amazing. I would have to say Frank had a personality that everyone loved and could not get enough of listening to him. Frank never met a stranger. RIP pal.  
TGP

TGP - January 09, 2024 at 04:42 PM

SF

“ Frank will always be remembered for his ability to get your attention and teach you something you thought you already knew! Will be Missed! Condolences to his family!



Scott Fisher - January 09, 2024 at 04:19 PM

RE

“ Robert E. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Frank Canon.



Robert E. - January 09, 2024 at 12:18 PM

BK

“ *What can one say about Frank—dedicated, fun, insightful, an educator, thoughtful, and on and on. When Frank arrived on the scene, we knew we were in for a presentation about mud that was convincing and delivered with clever anecdotes. His funny comments always drove the point home. I knew Frank for 30 yrs and always enjoyed being with him. He will be missed by us all; and I suspect he is working on presenting a Mud School to The Lord.*



*Bernie Krzys*

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**Bernie Krzys** - January 09, 2024 at 11:49 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



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January 08, 2024 at 10:27 PM

JZ

“ *Jared, I am so sorry for your loss . Prayers for you and your family*

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**Jeanne Zamorw** - January 08, 2024 at 09:59 PM

CE

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Wish we could be there as we have so many fond memories of our wonderful Colorado neighbors! Big hugs and may God surround you with His loving hands.*

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**Cynda Eichhorn** - January 08, 2024 at 07:52 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



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January 08, 2024 at 07:48 PM



“ *We all loved Frank because he cared so deeply about what he did. And because he cared and was genuine, he gave value to all those that attended his talks or spent time with him next to a rig. Thank you, Frank, for having the perfect sense of humor to make a difficult job a lot of fun. And thank you to Mary Ann and the Canon family for sharing Frank with us.*

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**JBM** - January 08, 2024 at 05:51 PM



“ *there will only ever be one Frank Canon.....a legend, a mentor, and one of the best men ive ever met....Rest easy ol friend, your mission is complete....*

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**DJ Miller** - January 08, 2024 at 05:19 PM



“ *Too many Memories to share about Frank. I will always cherish the late nights, the fishing trips, losing money in golf, learning about platelets in drilling fluid and so much more. He was a great friend and will be missed. A toast to Frank, and many more to come as his legacy will always be remembered.  
Rest In Peace Frank.*

*Rob Krzys*

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**Rob Krzys** - January 08, 2024 at 04:32 PM

RK

“ Rob K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.

Rob K. - January 08, 2024 at 04:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frank Canon.

January 08, 2024 at 03:17 PM

DD

“ My heartfelt condolences to Mary Ann, the family and the thousands of Bubbas out there that will truly miss Frank Canon. Frank was a legend. Professionally, Frank attained a level in the industrial drilling industry that very few have ever attained. I am proud to have been a colleague and friend of Frank's for the past 4 decades. Frank will live on in the best drilling practices he taught so well to so many world wide. Frank will also live on in the stories told over an adult beverage and a deck of platelets, Stories told in fishing boats and stories told during a round of golf. Dave Donald

David Donald - January 08, 2024 at 02:57 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.



January 08, 2024 at 12:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



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January 08, 2024 at 10:59 AM



“ *Frank always had a good anecdote for drilling. His stories will live on for a long time. Thank you, Frank, for all your mentoring and friendship over the years.*

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**Josh Cummings** - January 08, 2024 at 10:59 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.*



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January 08, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ *The Baroid IDP Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.*

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**The Baroid IDP Family** - January 08, 2024 at 10:34 AM

SS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time. The loss of a loved one is always difficult. Wishing you love and support. I learned so much from Frank and continue to meet people that knew and loved him!

Shantel Stone - January 08, 2024 at 10:30 AM

AS

“ Will miss many things about Frank as a good colleague, teacher, friend to all, fisherman, and poker player, but will not forget him. Thanks for all the fun times and memories, and all my best to his family. His retirement party at Baroid was a hoot!

Andy Schumacher - January 08, 2024 at 09:39 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.



January 08, 2024 at 09:06 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.



January 08, 2024 at 08:10 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.



January 08, 2024 at 06:11 AM



“ The Vermeer EMEA team and dealer group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.

**The Vermeer EMEA team and dealer group** - January 08, 2024 at 06:11 AM



“ Frank, a dear friend and a very good teacher. He will be missed in the HDD Industry, Thanks Frank for all the memories together. Rest in peace Frank.

**Jarno van Dompelaar** - January 08, 2024 at 03:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.



January 07, 2024 at 07:57 PM



“ Peter Pullan & Ian Jensen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.

**Peter Pullan & Ian Jensen** - January 07, 2024 at 07:57 PM

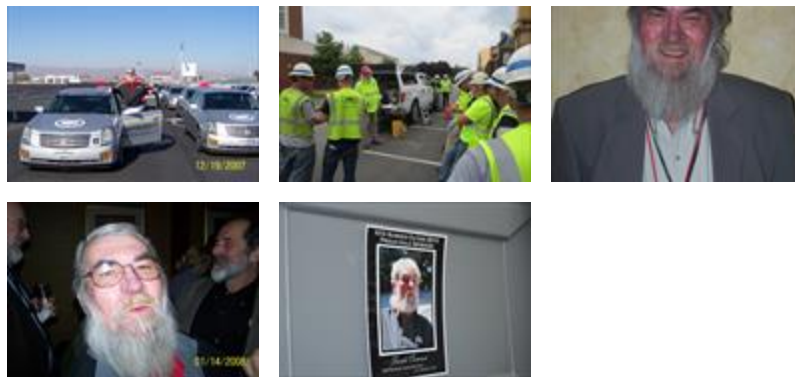
DD

“ Dennis D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.

Dennis D. - January 07, 2024 at 02:41 PM

DD

“ Frank was a great Friend, Mentor, Teacher to me and many, many people. We had a lot of good times together with mutual friends in the drilling industry.



Dennis Duty - January 07, 2024 at 02:26 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.



January 07, 2024 at 10:10 AM

MB

“ Great person, great friend, outstanding teacher. Traveled many kilometers true Europe, done many trainings together and people were listing always to the many stories Bubba could tell. He will live further in our training sessions, he will be present in all of them. I always mentioning his name in one of the topics. His favorite saying when Bubba and me where having breakfast somewhere in Europe was, it's going to be a good day because I woke up and I did not see any grass roots. Bubba have a good travel and I am sure we will meet some were. RIP Bubba.



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Marcel Bijleveld - January 07, 2024 at 02:56 AM

AN

“ Frank, a true legend, a mentor and a good friend. Many travels and trainings, even constructing a Tx. smoker together. All remaining memories that will not be forgotten. Rest in peace Frank

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Andre - January 07, 2024 at 12:34 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Frank Canon.



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January 07, 2024 at 12:26 AM

TC

“ So sorry to hear about Franks passing, he was a great man.

Tom Carlson - January 06, 2024 at 09:26 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers to the family.  
Much love from across the street.  
Laurie

Laurie Sutton - January 06, 2024 at 08:56 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family  
of Frank Canon.



January 06, 2024 at 08:49 PM

LS

“ Laurie Sutton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Canon.

Laurie Sutton - January 06, 2024 at 08:49 PM

VJ

“ Frank has been a very dear friend and acquaintance to those in the drilling industry. He will be missed greatly. WorldWide Drilling Resource extends our sincerest heartfelt sympathies to Frank's family and friends. May you rest in peace Frank. Ronnie

Veronica I. (Ronnie) Jones - January 06, 2024 at 05:42 PM

RE

*To a wonderful human being! I will always cherish the mud schools he provided everyone and a special memory of the two fishing trips in Canada catching walleye with him. My sincere condolences to his family and the many friends. Rest in peace Frank!!*

*Ralph*

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**Ralph Edwards** - January 09, 2024 at 01:42 PM