

## **Story #854b Frank Cairns Jr**

Frank Cairns Jr. (1924-2006) was a Mazomanie World War II veteran and a charter member of the Mazomanie Greening – Buelow American Legion Post #437.

Frank enlisted in the Navy on June 14, 1943 and mustered out on June 29, 1946, having served three years on ships in the Atlantic Ocean. He then enrolled at Duke University at Raleigh, N.C., in Naval officers training (ROTC) and completed a bachelor's degree with a major in Naval science. He was active for more than 20 years in the Navy Reserve.

Frank Elmer Cairns Jr. was born in Steger IL on November 4, 1924.. He was the son of Mazomanie farmer Frank Elmer Cairns Sr. (1896-1971) and Leta Blattner (1891-1979). At the 1930 US Census of Highland IL he is listed as a six year old, with his family. The family moved to Mazomanie where he is listed there on the family farm as sixteen at the 1940 Census.

Frank graduated from Mazomanie High School in 1942 as class president and valedictorian. He went on to the University of Wisconsin in Madison to study agriculture for one year, and then was called to active duty. His December 30, 1942 Draft Card listed him as a student, 5'-10", 170 # with a ruddy complexion, black hair and brown eyes. After active service he continued his education at Duke, earning a master's degree in forestry. Following graduation in 1950, he joined the forestry inventory division of the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

Frank married Gladys Marie Pfahler (1927-2008) on September 1, 1951, at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Madison, WI. She was the daughter of Madison mail carrier Albert Pfahler and Ella Madden

They then moved to Chicago and Westchester, Ill., where he entered the insurance claims business, which he pursued for the next 35 years —first with several insurance companies and, the last 14 years, with his independent claims company in Eau Claire. Frank and his family moved to Eau Claire in 1964 where he resided until his death. He was active in Eau Claire in the insurance business. Frank passed away on June 12, 2006 and is buried in the Eau Claire Calvery Catholic Cemetery with his wife. Gladys and Frank had three children.

