

2 September 2009

What a beautiful difference one single life made... remembering our dear colleague Fran Pell.



Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the sad news that our beloved colleague, Fran Pell, passed away late yesterday following her courageous three year battle against breast cancer.

Although our hearts are saddened by Fran's passing, we all feel such a pride in the legacy left by someone so special... her spirit will continue to shine, lighting the way for others, leaving all of us an example to follow, and a remarkable life to remember. Fran's tenacious, never give up, positive attitude was absolutely marvelous... as was the camaraderie and friendship she shared with so many. *"A life well-lived leaves behind a beautiful bouquet of memories"*

Fran graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Animal Science. It was at Purdue that Fran met Joe, the love of her life. Once Fran graduated from Purdue she got her foot in the door of government by accepting a job with USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service working in a slaughter plant. Fran actually worked in both a Kosher beef facility and a poultry operation. In one of these plants our very own Dr. Al Montgomery was her supervisor. While we are sure Fran's bubbling personality was a bright light in the slaughter plant environment she wisely decided it was time for improved working conditions when she was injured by a pipe falling out of a ceiling.

Fran then applied to and was hired by FDA's Baltimore District Office in 1985 as an inspector. Fran worked for several years quickly becoming known for her expertise in CVM work due to her background in Animal Science. She always enjoyed doing tissue residue follow-ups in the Field and in 1988 she applied for a position in CVM. The day she applied for that position was a very lucky one for CVM. It was also about this time that Fran and Joe decided to start a family and Mathew was born. She was so proud of her little boy and had pictures of him (with that great smile that he got from his Mother) all over her office. It wasn't long before her beautiful daughters Meagan and Libby joined the family and her photo album grew.

Fran's career with CVM started with her working for Phil Frappaolo in the Division of Voluntary Compliance and Hearings Development. At varying times in her career Fran rewrote the Tissue Residue Compliance Program, handled CVM work planning responsibilities, and became their go to person for all IT questions. She was the Division's expert on the Agency's regulations addressing the extra label use of drugs for food animals. Fran was a true expert in Residue Case

Development and helped respond to thousands of inquiries from FDA Field personnel. As if all of these responsibilities weren't enough, Fran used that boundless energy to take on the Division of Compliance's Aquaculture responsibilities and worked tirelessly in an effort to develop Agency policies for Import Tolerances.

We shall all miss "Frannie" so very much... her enthusiasm and her ready smile brightened everyone she met. Her laughter was infectious and always given freely. She was fondly called "smiling Fran Pell" by many who knew her. Fran was an inspiration to so many people throughout her career because of the way she conducted herself, particularly through her illness. Until the very end she remained focused on her work, ever positive, never complaining of the obvious pain she was enduring. Fran never wanted to be treated differently during her battle against cancer. She wasn't ready to quit fighting and wanted to have many more years with her wonderful family.

It was an honor and a privilege to know Fran... we have lost a very dear member of the CVM family.

I shall forward information regarding funeral services as soon it becomes available.
Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Bernadette

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