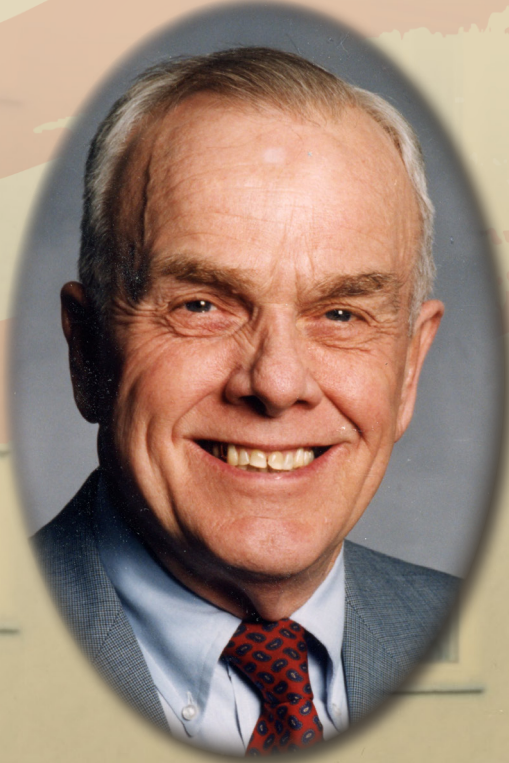


CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF
Frank Hicks

December 14, 1930 - September 11, 2025



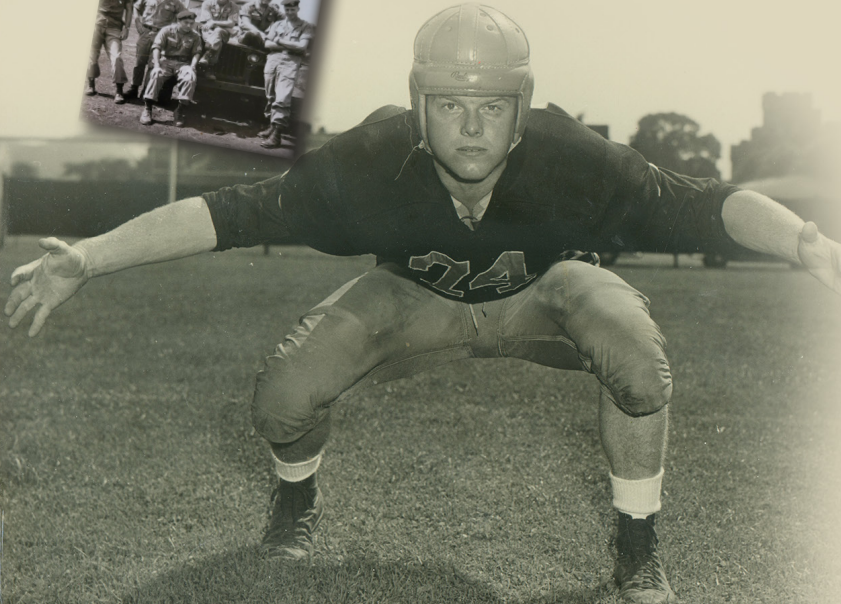


Frank Hicks had a big smile and a big heart. His smile conveyed so much—inner joy, a strong faith, resilience, gratitude, and love. If you were with Frank longer than fifteen minutes, you heard him say, “The best thing I ever did was marry Beck.” Theirs was a story of love and adventure that was grounded in faith and shared values, circled the globe, and lasted 60 years. Frank possessed a genuine sense of service to his family, his community, his church, and his country. He made the world a better place and encouraged colleagues and friends to be better people just by knowing him. He will be sorely missed, but he leaves behind a legacy of service to the world, love for his family, and integrity in his business.

Frank was born to Irle (Windy) and Mary Louise Day Hicks on December 14, 1930. His father owned a Ford Dealership in Covington and later a Real Estate Brokerage, and his mother was a homemaker. Frank and his younger brother, Irle (Windy), grew up in Park Hills, KY. Frank graduated from Dixie Heights High School, where he played football. After graduation, Frank attended Staunton Military Academy before transferring to the University of Virginia. Frank loved his time at UVA where he boxed competitively and played football. Frank was an avid biker and exercised religiously.

After a year at UVA, Frank was admitted to West Point Military Academy in West Point, NY. Frank was a competitive boxer while at

West Point, as well as playing on the water polo team and the football team and singing in the choir. He spoke about all these activities with great fondness. Following his graduation in 1954, he was commissioned into the US Army and stationed at Fort Campbell, KY, and then did a tour of duty in Munich, Germany. Frank was a man of discipline and achievement, but he also liked to have fun.



Friends and family delighted in his many tales of escapes with his Army buddies “BB” (before Becky.) He enjoyed traveling to other countries while stationed in Germany and always made sure he saved enough money to get back to the base. When he ran short of money on these adventures, he had to become a tourist, visiting free museums and concerts which he enjoyed, for Frank was a man of many interests.

While stationed at Fort Knox, Frank served as best man for a friend getting married. The maid of honor was Becky Campbell, and Frank was smitten from the moment he met her. On November 26, 1965, Frank and Becky were married at Becky’s home church, the First Baptist Church in Middlesboro, KY. The newlyweds began married

life at Fort Benning, GA, where Frank was stationed and Becky taught English.

Frank attended Command Staff School at the Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, before being assigned to the Pentagon, where he was promoted to Lt. Col. Frank, rather enjoyed his assignment as Military Escort for General Omar Bradley to attend the inauguration of Richard Nixon and the funeral and burial of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Frank and Becky attended many events where formal dress and dancing were customary, including the ball held after Nixon’s inauguration.

Frank and Becky were overjoyed to become parents when Frank Jr. joined their family in 1968, but soon Frank Sr. was deployed for the second of his tours of





duty in Vietnam, so Becky and Frank Jr returned to Middlesboro, KY. Frank had many stories from his days in Vietnam, including tales of his two pet bear cubs and handling snakes. Frank also served on a six-month special mission in Laos. In his distinguished career, Frank earned two Bronze Medals, four Air Medals, a Legion of Merit, Combat Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Badge, and Master Parachute Badge with 149 jumps. Frank continued to meet monthly with a group of Special Forces Officers from Cincinnati and NKY until three months ago.

Frank and Becky enjoyed their military service and military life, so they decided to sign on for one last adventure in Iran (1973-1975). Frank was a Green Beret assigned as Special Forces Advisor to the Iranian Army under the rule of the Shah; Becky taught English to Iranian soldiers who would be training in the US; and Frank Jr. attended kindergarten-1st grade. Frank and

Becky considered themselves blessed when they were able to adopt a beautiful 2-year-old Iranian daughter, Rebecca Louise.

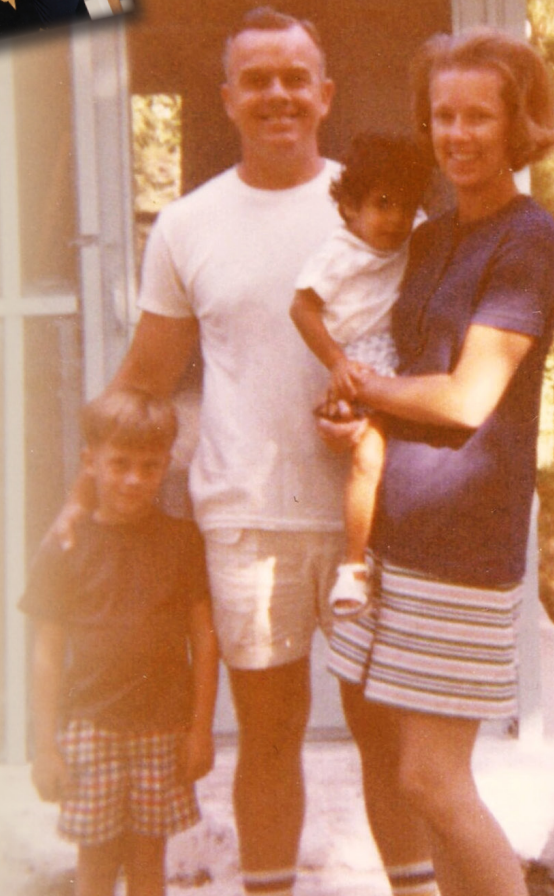
Frank retired from military service and the family of four moved to Villa Hills, KY where the children attended school and the family joined the Fort Mitchell Baptist Church. Frank enjoyed being present for Frank Jr's and Louise's soccer games, Frank Jr's wrestling matches, and Louise's swimming competitions. Louise and her dad spent many hours watching athletic events and PBS shows on TV. They shared compassion for animals and respect for the work ethic of successful athletes. Frank Jr and his dad had fun at turkey shoots.

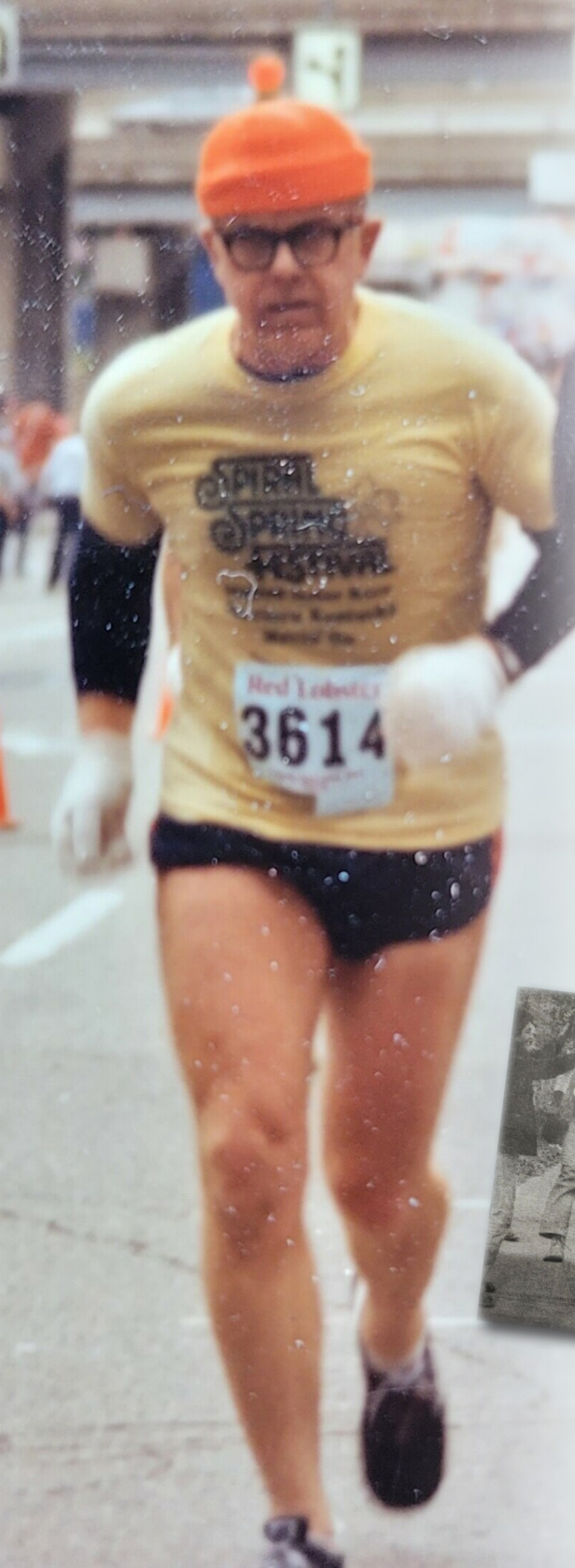


Frank also shared his love of classical music and his values with his children. The family vacationed in Myrtle Beach and Pine Mountain and lived in Villa Hills for 35 years, sharing Sunday lunch at Bob Evans for decades.

Frank and Becky loved to travel and made many trips. Among Frank's favorites were the trip to Israel, to the Houston Space Museum, and the Alaskan Cruise; travel and adventure were the hallmarks of their long marriage.

Family was a priority for Frank and Becky. He adored their children and loved Angie (Frank Jr's wife) like one of his own. Frank and Angie's father had been good friends, and Frank was like a second father to her; he was a solid person she could depend on and learn from, and he helped her grow in faith. Grandsons Trey and Cole loved their Pappaw and remember fondly their shopping trips to buy suits and ties with Frank pointing out the precise length pants and sleeves should be. Frank attended Trey and Cole's sporting events and rode bikes with Frank Jr. Frank was a faithful attendee of the Men's Prayer Breakfast at his church, in fact, he was the egg shopper for the breakfasts. Frank liked good food, and breakfast was his favorite meal. He shared this passion with his son, and sometimes drove his grandsons to the prayer breakfast, always leaving early so he would have time to visit with his friends before the program began.





Family called Frank and Becky “a unit” you could count on to be present for all major life events, holidays, and Sunday lunch. Frank welcomed Jessie (Trey’s girlfriend) into family gatherings and entertained her, as he did many, with his wonderful stories.



Frank was a REALTOR for over 40 years, serving his clients with integrity, common sense, and humor. He was a valued colleague in the Coldwell Banker West Shell office, bringing needed positivity to many situations, providing support, and celebrating everyone’s successes; he was a good friend to many in a wide range of organizations and professions. He was an active member of the NKY Board of Realtors, NKY Home Builders Association, and NKY Chamber of Commerce.

Frank sat on the Board of Directors for Highland Cemetery and served over twenty years on the Elsa Sule Foundation Board, a local foundation supporting education, music, and charities.



Frank was an avid bicycle enthusiast, a life-long learner, and a passionate exerciser. He finished every workday with exercise. When some of his NKY bicycle routes became too dangerous to traverse, he consistently rode his exercise bike. In recent years, Frank was unable to navigate the stairs to get to his exercise bike, but he was delighted to pedal the recumbent bike for PT at Emerald Trace this summer. He was also a dedicated and accomplished runner, having completed eight marathons.



Frank was a gentleman and a friend you could rely on. He was accomplished and diligent, but never pretentious. He was quick to share his love for Jesus and eager to tell you how much he loved Becky and his children. He was resilient and disciplined but loved a good joke or prank. Frank “ran with endurance the race that was set before him.” (Hebrews 12:1) Frank often told his family how much he loved them, especially in the last days before September 11, 2025, when he went to be with Jesus. No doubt, Frank has a few stories and laughs to share in heaven.

Story written by Linnemann Associate Janet Brewer





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