



Swaine [L, with fellow longtime Yankees front-office executive Harvey Winston] was dedicated to his job, his family and the people around him, going to great lengths to ensure all were taken care of. "He was the best person I've ever known," said Debbie Nicolosi, the Yankees' director of office administration. "I've never met anyone like Frank, and I can't imagine that anyone like him will ever come around again."

According to his family members, Swaine's original plan of playing football at the Maryland college did not come to fruition. But rather than give up on athletics, the New York City native tried out for the school's basketball team, earned a scholarship and became a collegiate star.

Swaine and his wife, Mary Anne, had four children, and the couple suffered their greatest loss on Sept. 11, 2001, when their son, John, a corporate bond broker for Cantor Fitzgerald, lost his life in the North Tower of the World Trade Center that day. Despite monumental grief, baseball's front-office iron man showed up to Yankee Stadium the next day, only missing work on the day of his son's funeral. To those around him in the days and weeks following his son's death, Swaine's mental toughness was far beyond inspiring; it was overwhelming. But he had a track record

for making it into the office under difficult circumstances.

"I can remember when my dad broke his hip," Swaine's oldest of three daughters, Dianne Crowe, shared. "He wasn't able to get around or even sit up at first. So, he arranged to bring a hospital bed into the ticket office, and that's where he did his work from. My mother wasn't too happy about the situation. I can remember her telling him that his hip was never going to heal right if he didn't stay home. But he had to work; he had to be there for the people that worked for him."

Crowe also shared a much lighter story that shed light on her dad's focus on his job.

"When the movie *For Love of the Game* was filmed at Yankee Stadium, my dad met Kevin Costner," she said. "Costner gave my dad a few DVDs of other movies he had been in, and my dad brought them home.

When my dad gave me the DVDs, I asked him who he got them from. He pointed to the guy on the front of the DVDs. I said, 'You got to meet Kevin Costner?' He responded, 'Yeah, what's the big deal?' He had no idea who Kevin Costner was.

"My dad went from the Stadium to his bed during the season, and then back to the Stadium early the next morning," Crowe continued. "But his family, and especially his grandchildren, were his world until the last minute. Anyone who knew him was aware of that."

Swaine wasn't shy about the loyalty and love he had for his wife, either.

"One of my favorite stories about my dad happened after the Yankees won the World Series in 1977," Crowe said. "My parents got into an elevator with George Steinbrenner after the game, and my dad congratulated George. Mr. Steinbrenner said, 'Congratulations to you too, Frank. Thank you.' My dad said, 'Don't say thank you to me, say thank you to my wife. Without her, I couldn't do this job.'"

Without Swaine, it would have been much harder for so many within the Yankees front office to do their jobs. His legacy as a champion and a champion for those around him will live on forever.

"Frank was always about everyone else," Laurenzano said. "He was the most selfless person I have ever known. He had a warm and welcoming soul. He was a gentle giant.

"Mr. Steinbrenner used to say that if you do something good for someone, and more than two people know about it, you didn't do it for the right reason," Laurenzano continued. "Frank had a lot of that in him. He really embodied that spirit." ❧