

## Memorandum

**TO:** All Willdan

**FROM:** Tom Brisbin, Vanessa Munoz, Mark Risco

**DATE:** June 21, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Frank Tripepi

We are saddened to announce that Frank Tripepi passed away at his home on Sunday June 19, 2022, after a year-long battle with stomach cancer. When Frank was first diagnosed, he asked the doctor if he would make it to his granddaughter's high school graduation. As with anything associated with Frank, his will and perseverance won out. He made it to her graduation.

Even though Frank worked at Willdan for 20 years and was instrumental in both Engineering and Financial, his relationship with Willdan spans almost 50 years. Before Frank worked at Willdan, he was the longest-sitting city manager in the state of California (30+ years). He made a difference in whatever he did. Most importantly, he helped everyone and anyone who asked.

Frank started his career in city government in 1971 with the City of Hawaiian Gardens. In 1974, at the age of 28, he was appointed City Manager for the City of Rosemead where he served for almost 30 years. It was at this time that Frank's relationship with Willdan began. The City of Rosemead was one of Willdan's largest clients and, as the City Manager, Frank was our greatest ally and advocate.

After retiring from the City of Rosemead, Frank joined Willdan in June 2002 and served as the President/CEO of Willdan Financial Services (WFS). At that time, WFS was a financial consulting firm that primarily worked with financial departments of California municipalities. Frank brought a completely new humanistic approach that focused on the importance of providing excellent service by leveraging relationships with city managers across the state and prioritizing the "client."

Frank also implemented a "People Count" program to recognize the value of employees and their unique contributions. The positive impact Frank had on WFS is the primary reason its operations have expanded across the country and why over 60% of WFS employees have remained with Willdan for 10+ years.

In 2011, Frank joined Willdan Engineering (WE) as Senior Vice President of Business Development where he continued to inspire both colleagues and clients with his devotion to family, service, hard work, and loyalty. Those who worked for and with Frank could always count on him for help, support, and guidance – both professionally and personally. Through his passion for helping and connecting people, he trained and mentored a new generation of managers and team members.



Frank continued to support Willdan through his last days by opening doors and making business connections to position us favorably for opportunities. He was an important member of the Willdan Family and his passing will be felt by many. The wisdom Frank shared among two legacy operating units at Willdan will live on through those of us who had the honor of working and learning from him.

We will all miss Frank. He is a very big reason why Willdan has survived nearly 55 years. Thank you, Frank, for everything you did for us.

We have expressed deepest sympathies and condolences on behalf of the Willdan Family to the Tripepi Family.

Once service arrangements are confirmed, we will notify staff.