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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frank Burany Turns 100

"It's just another day"

August 16, 2015 – Dousman, WI: When your life experiences have included driving the Indianapolis 500 Speedway at 120 mph, flying a helicopter as one of your home town's first traffic reporters, and munching on hot Hungarian peppers as a snack, few things will faze you. For Frank Burany, a Milwaukee native currently residing in Dousman, even his hundredth birthday was "just another day."

Frank, who turned 100 on August 16th, is baffled that so many people "made such a big thing of it." His son, Dick, put on a fantastic party at Three Pillars Senior Living Communities, Frank's home since January of 2013. After enjoying a perfect afternoon with about 100 guests, he admitted with a grin, "I guess I kind of got warmed up about the whole turning 100 thing."

A touch of nostalgia sets in as he reflects on the happiness that's filled his life. "I look back at all my years, and I've really had a *fun* life. It's been full of experiences, and that's how I've learned many life lessons. Experience is the best teacher."

Frank is a husband, father, Mason, and a Shriner. He spent 22 years running the Sleepy Hollow Motel, 9 years as one of Milwaukee's first helicopter traffic reporters, and 35 years as a professional midget racecar driver. He holds over 80 racing victories throughout the Midwest, Southwest and coast to coast, and has been featured in the National Midget Auto Racing Hall of Fame for 12 years and counting. He's currently the oldest living person to have ever driven the Indianapolis 500 Speedway.

In all his adventures, though, he has always taken one day at a time. "Each one is just another day, and I appreciate them all," he comments. So has this mentality been the key to reaching his 100th birthday? Maybe so, he decides. He's thankful to have been given so many days, but has "never thought anything of his age." He appreciates his 100th birthday just as much as the other days of his life.

He adds that, perhaps in addition to his easy-going attitude, watching what he eats might have helped. "I've always limited my salt and butter intake. But, then again," he chuckles, "I've never held back on whipped cream." He's been known to take care of a whole 6-pack of State Fair cream puffs single handedly. "Those are my favorite – and one thing I don't share."

When asked if there's any one thing he would change if he could, his response is from the heart: "No, I wouldn't change a thing. Everything in my life has been a stage of learning. Each thing I did gave me a chance to learn about this or that which I hadn't known before."

Frank points to the sky and concludes, "After all, the Big Guy is in charge." And for that he's thankful.

Story & Photo by: Kelsey Pangborn

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