

# **SINATRA AND ME**

**THE VERY GOOD YEARS**

**BY TONY CONSIGLIO  
AS TOLD TO FRANZ DOUSKEY**



One of the earliest photos of Frank and Tony, circa 1940.



Tony with Yankee great Lou Gehrig on the steps of the Yankee dugout on July 4, 1939, the year Gehrig gave his farewell speech.



Tony snapped this shot of Frank and Joe DiMaggio in the dugout before a game at Yankee Stadium in the early 1940s.



Left to right: Tony's sister Sara, Frank, and Tony, relaxing at the Astor Hotel during the early 1940s.



Frank and Tony looking dapper circa 1945.



Tony, center, with Frank's father, Marty, and Frank's mother, Dolly. Frank's parents were visiting Tony's house in New Haven, Connecticut.



Tony with Frank's first wife, Nancy, in the early 1940s in Hoboken, New Jersey.



Tony helping guide Frank's daughter Nancy on her tricycle in the early 1940s in Hoboken, New Jersey.



Tony plays with Frank's dog, Ring-Ding-Ding.



Frank, Tony, and Ziggy Elman at the stage door of the Capitol Theater in Hartford, Connecticut, in October 1942. Frank had left Tommy Dorsey's band only a few weeks earlier.



Tony with drummer Buddy Rich outside of Tony's New Haven, Connecticut, home. Buddy Rich was a member of Tommy Dorsey's band, and Frank helped him get out of his contract with Dorsey.



Three rare photos of Frank in uniform. Frank was designated as 4-F and could not serve in the military. But he performed with the USO entertaining troops during the war. These photos were taken in 1945 in Newfoundland.



On many occasions, Tony would watch Frank's kids. Here he is in the 1950s watching Nancy, Tina, and Frank Jr. on a New Jersey beach while Frank sleeps.



Tony backstage with singer Edythe Wright in the early 1940s.





Tony, circa 1954, with actor Don Ameche and New York Yankee greats Yogi Berra and Tommy Henrich.



This photo was taken in the early 1950s at the 500 Club. Tony, second in back from the right, along with Skinny D'Amato, Frank, and an assortment of "friends" and female companions.



Tony clowning with Dean Martin (left) and Jerry Lewis (right) at the Paramount Theater in New Haven, Connecticut, at the height of the comedy duo's popularity in the 1950s.



Tony with Kim Novak on the set of *The Man with the Golden Arm* in 1955. She slipped her hand under Tony and said, "It's more interesting this way."



Tony poses separately with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello backstage before an Abbott and Costello performance in the late 1940s. By this point in their career, Abbott and Costello no longer spoke to one another offstage and refused to be photographed together.





Tony greets future U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy at a campaign stop during the 1960 JFK presidential campaign.



Tony with Pierre Salinger at a JFK campaign event in Las Vegas in 1960. Salinger would become JFK's press secretary after the election.



On election night, 1960, Tony was at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Early in the morning after election night, when results showed that Kennedy was the victor, Tony wanted to capture the moment. Here he is with Joseph Kennedy, who is still wearing his sleeping robe.



Roger Eden, Frank, and Tony aboard the JFK campaign plane "Caroline" in 1961 heading to Washington, D.C., to plan the JFK inauguration.



Tony in the White House library on one of his many visits to the White House during JFK's presidency.



Tony boards the Kennedy plane "Caroline" on his way to return some of JFK's shirts.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

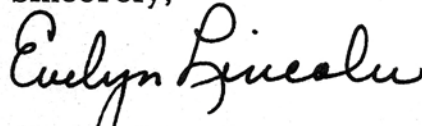
February 20, 1961

Dear Tony:

It was so nice to meet you yesterday  
and the President appreciated very much your  
bringing his shirts to Washington.

I hope the next time you are in Wash-  
ington you will stop by the White House to  
see me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn Lincoln". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Evelyn Lincoln  
Personal Secretary to  
the President

This letter was sent to Tony by JFK's personal secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, thanking Tony for returning JFK's shirts.



Tony with JFK and Sam Giancana mistress Judith Campbell Exner.



Because of Tony's friendship with Peter Lawford, he was able to get a special pass during the Kennedy funeral procession allowing him close access. This is a photo Tony snapped as JFK's coffin passed by.





Frank and Tony backstage before one of Frank's shows in the early 1960s.



Tony with actress Juliet Prowse.



Left to right: Hotel magnet Barron Hilton, Tony, boxing champ Rocky Marciano, and Toots Shor circa 1960.



Tony poses with singer Tony Bennett backstage before one of Tony's concerts in Miami during the 1960s.



Tony overseeing Frank Sinatra, Jr., as he practices his piano.



Frank and Tony backstage at one of Frank's concerts in Providence, Rhode Island, in the early 1980s. Frank is saying, "How long is this going to take?"

**FRANK SINATRA**

June 17, 1985

Dear Tony,

So happy to hear from you...delighted you're raising a wonderful family. I'm well and everything going fine.

I often think of you and the wonderful times we had together...think of your Mom and Dad with fond memories.

Sending you much love and wish you and your family the very best of luck always.

Take good care of yourself.

Warmest regards,

*Frank*

One of the many letters Frank sent Tony.



Tony with Frank's daughter, Nancy, after one of her concerts at The Sting in New Britain, Connecticut.



Tony with heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali in the late 1990s.



Tony with NBA great Larry Bird in the early 1990s.



Whenever Frank performed at Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut, the casino would commemorate the event by issuing special gambling chips with Sinatra's portrait and famed signature.



Backstage at a taping of *Emeril Live*, where Emeril Lagasse presented Tony with a birthday cake.