



Frances McDowell

June 7, 1937 - August 4, 2024

Frances McDowell entered her eternal rest on August 4, 2024 at the ripe age of 87, leaving behind a legacy of laughter, ethics, determination, and an eclectic shoe collection. Born on June 7, 1937 in Lexington, Kentucky to William Smith and Virgella Smith. Her mother later passed away very early in Frances' life and she went on to be raised, along with her brother William Stephen Smith and sister Betty Malone by their Grandmother "Mama Bessie" and their Great Aunt, who affectionately became "Mama", Jimmie Lee Saunders. In spite of any adversities throughout her life, Frances learned to rise and thrive, living a life full of adventure, admirable grit, great wit and always ready for an eventful time!

Known for her feistiness, classic fashion sense, hearty laugh, endless curiosity, way around the kitchen, and hard work ethics. Frances was an active participant of the Douglas High School Alumni Association. She loved a sweet bedtime snack, a good Country Western movie, and grapefruits preferably with a grapefruit spoon so she could, "Get all the meat". She could often be found shopping, doing hair, cooking, catering for gatherings, traveling, participating on planning committees for various events, and observing her surroundings. In her latter years she even began learning to crochet and play the piano. Learning to play the piano had been a long time desire. She also had an uncanny ability to banter with a quick comeback and humorously share the best stories, which we will all miss dearly.

Frances was a fierce Beautician, owning her own salon, affectionately named Fran's Salon. As a competent cook, she catered a catalog of events and served many. More than styling hair, she was passionate about healthy hair maintenance. Her culinary staples were legendary. Every dish she made, every desert baked was done with passion, skill, and a certain je'ne'sais'quoi.

Frances is preceded in death by her mother, Virgella Smith, father, William Smith, brothers, William Stephen Smith, William Russel Smith, and sister, Gertrude Saunders. Frances is survived by her three children Louis McDowell Jr., Dorcas Fielder, LaVerne(Peter) Mabson, grandchildren, LaNesha(Clinton) Peacock, Don Fielder Jr., Tevin Fielder, Awntavio Wilhite, DeNia Mabson, Chelsea' Mabson, Chad Warren and a great big hug full of great grandchildren who will forever cherish their own personal memories of our Matriarch. Frances' surviving loved ones also includes her sisters, Joyce Jeter, Betty Malone, her close cousin who she loved like a sister, Roberta "Bert" Mayfield, and a host of other fabulous cousins, nieces and nephews. Frances, our love for you will remain. May you rest in your eternal peace with the one who loves you most.

Cemetery Details

Bluegrass Memorial Gardens

4915 Harrodsburg Road
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Previous Events

Service

AUG **19**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Frist Baptist Church Maddoxtown
3439 Huffman Mill Pike
Lexington, KY

Visitation: 11:00 AM until time of service

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Frances Jean was my classmate at Douglass High School. As kids growing up on Lindberg Drive, we along with the neighborhood kids would enjoy playing games like Jacks and Marbles. Frances always outplayed me and all the other kids in both games. She would win all our marbles and I could never beat her in Jacks; but losing to Frances was fun because she was such fun! I extend my sincere condolences to the family.*

Beverly C. Benton

Beverly Clark Benton - August 19, 2024 at 08:05 AM

KW

“ *Sending Our Condolences to The McDowell Family, Maggie Berry Warren nd Family*

Kathy Warren - August 18, 2024 at 09:46 PM

WD

“ *My sincere condolences and prayers for comfort to Frances's family. She was a great woman, and one of the best hairdressers, who I had ever patronized. I am so grateful for the pleasure to have spoken with her while canvassing during the election. May she rest internal peace from her labor.*

Wanda Davis - August 17, 2024 at 07:39 PM