



Frances Jean Caswell

February 26, 1922 - February 13, 2020

Frances J. Caswell, 97, of Knoxville, passed away on February 13, 2020, at the Atrium Health Union Hospital, Monroe, NC. Funeral services will be held at a date to be announced with burial at Lincoln Cemetery. Bybee & Davis Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Frances Jean Ward was born February 26, 1922, on the family farm in rural Marion County, Iowa, the youngest daughter of Thurman (T.E.) and Cora P. Ward. She attended elementary school at Highland and Lincoln schools, graduating from Knoxville High School with the Class of 1939. Frances attended the Des Moines School of Beauty and after graduation and certification worked in several shops in Oskaloosa and Knoxville. She opened the Charm Center, serving the Knoxville community for four decades. The shop's reputation for quality, style, and value in a comfortable and discreet environment made the business a success. An astute businessperson, she was well respected by peers, competitors, associates, and operators.

Frances married to Joe Doyle during WWII, later marrying Lowell Ridnour in 1954 and John Caswell in 1991. She relocated to Monroe, NC, in 2014, to be close to her immediate family. Frances loved to travel and especially enjoyed a visit to Japan to visit Takashi Kume, an exchange student she and Lowell hosted for a year.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, two brothers and three sisters, Step-Son John Junior, and infant granddaughter Marya. She is survived by and will always be remembered and missed by son, Mike, daughter-in-law Marilyn (whom she adored), Step-Children Carolyn, Bob, and Jane, five grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, a brother, numerous nephews, nieces, grand-nephews and grand-nieces.

Cemetery

Events

Lincoln Cemetery

Knoxville, IA, 50138

SEP

4

Memorial Service

11:00AM

First United Methodist Church

313 East Montgomery Street, Knoxville, IA, US, 50138

Comments



“ I think I first remembered Frances when her home was just East of Pinkie's location. This was probably because I knew Mike in school. Because Linda and I moved from Knoxville shortly after we married, I didn't have much opportunity to visit with Francis until later on when she was in assisted living. Nearly each time we went to Knoxville, I spent time visiting with Frances. Oh, I remember those visits! We laughed and we enjoyed the company of each other. During each conversation, Mike's name always come up. He was the pride of her life. I was blessed for the opportunity to get to know her. I miss those visits and this fine lady.

Jim Mason - March 28 at 11:18 AM



“ Frances was my mom's special friend and travel buddy. Mike and Ted accompanied them on several trips. She put up with me and my unruly hair more times than she probably wanted to. She was very patient with me. What a special lady!

Pat Haning - February 21 at 05:55 PM



“ I'm sorry to hear about Frances' passing; she was a beautiful, kind, sweet woman. I'm happy and thankful that I got the opportunity to meet her and spend some time with her at the Knoxville First United Methodist Church.

May you experience God's presence at this difficult time and in the difficult days ahead. Praying for you.

Sincerely,

Kim

Kim Jolly - February 20 at 06:00 PM



“ Mike, I met your mother only once and I can't say enough about how very kind and delightful she was. I just wish I'd been able to see her more often. I know she will be sorely missed. My deepest sympathy.

Connie Wigger - February 19 at 05:09 PM



“ I knew your mom several years ago. She was a Lady in every sense of the word. I enjoyed the time I spent with her, always a smile. Such a sweet lady. My sincere condolences. Katie (Todd) Vos

Katie Vos - February 19 at 11:15 AM



“ Mike, I didn't know your mother well but she and Frances Kirkwood came to all of the Knoxville Community Chorus concerts. Sometimes they would come to both concerts which were the same music two days apart. Just a really lovely lady.

Carol Kingery - February 19 at 09:08 AM



“ Carolan Brooks lit a candle in memory of Frances Jean Caswell



Carolan Brooks - February 19 at 12:11 AM



“ I lived next door to Frances as a young girl. She was the first person to cut my long hair off! Then years later I worked for Frances by cleaning the shop. She was one of my favorite people and I'm blessed to be able to say she was a friend.

Connie (Fee) Lenger

Connie Lenger - February 17 at 06:25 PM



“ Thank you Connie. The Fees were good neighbors, I loved your dad's T'Bird. He took me to an Iowa game versus an upstart Air Force Academy team. The Academy won. That's when i decided I wanted to be an Air Force pilot.

Mike Ridnouer - March 06 at 07:27 PM