



# Frances Cunningham Petry

JUN 14, 1935 - NOV 3, 2014



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## **Frances Cunningham Petry**

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**F**rances Elizabeth Cunningham Petry was born in Snyder, Texas on June 14, 1935. She died in Memphis, Tennessee on November 3, 2014. She was the daughter of Arthur Melvin Cunningham, Sr. and Naomi Pearl Wharton Cunningham, both deceased. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Dr. John R. Petry, and daughters Elizabeth Ann Petry Welch (grandsons, John Michael Welch and James Patrick Welch, great-granddaughter, Jaina Elaine Welch) and Rebecca Lyn Petry Pitner (husband, Shannon, grandson, John Thomas “JT” Pitner). Also surviving are her siblings: Billy Cunningham of Phoenix, Arizona (Nancy); Jaye George of Kerrville, Texas (John) and Melvin Cunningham of Hilliard, Ohio (Ann) and 22 nieces and nephews. Frances was a member of Colonial Baptist Church in Memphis where she was involved in the Hope Sunday School Class. She was a member of the Oak and Elm Garden Club, the Friendship Force of Memphis and the International Group of Memphis. She coordinated the homestays of several students in Memphis for the Youth Exchange Service of Tokyo, Japan. She was a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University Abilene, Texas, earning Summa Cum Laude recognition and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She was active in the Baptist Student Union at West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas, in which she served as secretary of the BSU council and as a summer missionary to Juarez, Mexico. She participated in the Buffalo Girls Association and the West Texas State University Marching Band, playing the clarinet. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega honor society. She was initiated into Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities. Fran was first runner-up of the West Texas State University beauty pageant. She taught Social Studies in the Abilene (Texas) Independent School District and in the Davidson County (Tennessee) Schools, and was a substitute teacher in the Memphis City Schools. She was a member of Peabody Dames. She was a member of the Executive Board of Women on Mission, Mid-South Baptist Association. With her husband she



## Obituary

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directed two international programs for the U.S. Department of State in Memphis. She was a devoted wife who brought love, comfort and happiness to her husband and home. She had great love and compassion for her daughters, grandchildren, family and friends. Frances was known for her loving spirit and her deep devotion to the Christian life and her church. She gave generously of her time and talent to various religious and educational causes. There is much more to say, but it will be contained in the hearts of her loved ones. The family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. until the service begins at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, November 8 at Memorial Park Funeral Home. The family expresses gratitude to the personnel of Baptist Memorial Hospital and Rehab, Memphis Jewish Home and Rehab, and Signature HealthCARE of Memphis for their professionalism and concern. Individuals are asked to send memorials to the Cunningham-Petry Scholarship, Box 16100, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, 79698-6100, which supports tuition for students planning to be missionaries. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38119, "Behind the Stone Wall."



## Tribute Wall

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RB

**Roy And Blanche** posted:

Uncle John , Liz and Becca and families Blanche and I send our condolences .We are so pleased that we had opportunities to visit with all of you these past years and see a smile on aunt Frances's face . We recently met a lady at an art show and both of us were so amazed at how much this person looked like aunt Francis and shared that with her. She asked us if that was a compliment and was responded that Aunt Francis was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside. Roy and Blanche

November 10 at 11:46 AM

PS

**Pat Murphy Stevens** posted:

John, Liz and Becca: Please know how sorry I am for the loss of Frances. She was always so sweet and kind to me and it was indeed a pleasure to know her. With prayers for comfort during this difficult time, Pat Murphy Stevens

November 9 at 10:14 AM

JM

**Janice (Jan) Waldrop Mcclure** posted:

November, 6th, 2014....My heart was filled with deep, deep sadness and awe....both in the same moments as I read the obituary of my "sister by choice". My first thoughts were of the times that I would go home with the Cunningham family after church on Sunday. I loved those times with Frances as we studied our parts for Sunday evening Training Union.....I remember a time we sang a duets for either Sunday School....or was it Training Union? Her laid back sweet spirit taught me much as we grew into High School and College. In her quiet presence one could feel her commitment to her Lord and Savior. Distance and time has not dimmed the sweetness of the memories of Frances Cunningham Petry.Many Hugs and Much Love, Jan Waldrop McClure

November 6 at 8:04 AM

TB

**Tina Brosh** posted:

Uncle Johnny, Liz and Becca, I am so sorry for your loss, my prayers have been with you all. Aunt Francis was such a beautiful and sophisticated woman. I can remember visits to our house when we were young girls and Aunt Francis was always filling us in on beauty tips and all sorts of things. She was a wonderful lady. I know she will be greatly missed. May the Lord give you peace and comfort during this sad time. Love to all, Tina Brosh and Family

November 6 at 7:06 AM



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MD

**M.L.D.** posted:

Dr. Petry and family, May I extend to you my sincere condolences . The loss of a Mother , Wife and Friend is difficult to bear. May your faith see you through. John 3:16 2Corinthians 5-8. Marilyn Dowd, dau. of Dr. George L. Dowd & Mrs.Maxine, former Univ. Memphis associates

November 4 at 4:10 PM

GB

**Gina Bibb** posted:

Uncle Johnny, Liz and Becka, My heart goes out to you all – and my prayers are with you. I know you are people of faith and will trust our Savior to see you through these difficult days. Aunt Frances was a kind and wonderful woman, and she will surely be missed. May you find comfort in the many memories you have! I remember how she would not let you girls be idle – and she taught you so many beautiful things – sewing to cooking. Love you all, hugs and kisses, Gina Cavarretta Bibb and family

November 4 at 4:38 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Frances by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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