

## Frances Lucille Cameron

February 26, 1929 - December 29, 2025

Frances Lucille Smith Cameron, 96 years of age, passed away gently in her sleep as she ascended into the Celestial Kingdom on Monday, December 29, 2025, in Conyers, Georgia.

Born on Tuesday, February 26, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, Frances was the cherished daughter of the late David Olin and Hattie Mae Duke Smith, and the firstborn of their five children. Frances, popularly known as Fran to most of her multitudinous friends, was reared lovingly by her wonderful parents in Conyers. After graduation from Conyers High School in 1946, she enrolled at Greenleaf Business College in Atlanta, where she acquired top-level secretarial skills, including the ability to accurately type faster than many people can think, while also learning and then thoroughly mastering what has become the almost-lost art of shorthand. Throughout her life, she happily jotted down copious personal notes to herself that she scattered around her house that were indited in esoteric, shorthand-coded characters only she could read. If asked by a befuddled reader for a decryption, she would provide an interpretation.

Frances married the late Coleman Ray Cameron, a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, originally from LaGrange, Georgia, on Saturday, June 3, 1950, at Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta. Their love-filled and faithful marriage spanned longer than six decades, culminating with the passing into Heaven on April 4, 2014, of her beloved husband, whom she called Ray.

A former chairwoman of the Rockdale Republican Party, Frances engaged

herself in a plethora of disparate activities and hobbies. She captained political campaigns, and her candidates won. She was a poll worker and supervisor overseeing compliance with election regulations at various polling sites. She was an avid reader of books, magazines, and newspapers. During her latter years, she developed an affinity for perusing obituaries. Her perusals were not done morbidly; they were done joyously because she found many obits to be warmly informative and sometimes humorous. She often spent hours per day working blissfully in her various gardens. Perpetually convivial, courteous, and kind to animals, Frances was widely known as "Friendly Fran" and "Fran Free Spirit."

While living in Greenville, South Carolina, in the mid-'60s, Frances worked as a secretary at Dillard Paper Company, where she met a feisty-but-kind coworker, Beth Rice. Beth and her kindhearted husband, Mike Rice, became Frances' loyal, lifelong friends. In the summer of 1968, occasioned by Ray's job transfer, Frances and Ray moved from Greenville downstate to the Carolina Lowcountry, residing in Hanahan, located just outside of Charleston. The Rices, fortuitously, had recently relocated to Charleston themselves. Frances quickly found work as a secretary at the Medical University of South Carolina in downtown Charleston. She was eventually promoted to office manager of the entire pathology laboratory department. One day in the late '70s, an MUSC physician averred, "That office would shut down without Fran." Within her decades-long career at MUSC, Frances hired a warmhearted young lady, Karen Baccei, who became a lifetime friend. Frances also coordinated the daily goings on of highly erudite MUSC professionals with regal credentials, including titles whose signage inscriptions carried impressive abbreviations that adorned their office doors, such as that of her much-admired boss: Samuel Spicer, Ph.D. Surrounded by such proclamations of educational excellence, Frances assertively chose to have her office doorplate festooned with her own majestic titular lettering: Fran Cameron, W.W. She informed curious inquisitors that her cryptic designation translated into either Fran Cameron, Working Woman or Fran Cameron, White Woman.

During her retirement years in Conyers, Frances joined the Red Hat Society, whose red-and-purple-clad camaraderie she enjoyed immensely.

Frances is survived by her eternally grateful son, whom she affectionately called "my little boy" well into his adulthood, Michael Patrick Cameron and her reciprocally loved daughter-in-law (Mike's wife), Alison Claire Vickery-Cameron, both of Conyers; her two loving and deeply devoted sisters, whom Frances loved with her whole heart, Ann Smith MacCarthy of Conyers and Kathryn Smith West of McDonough; her nieces, Cheryl Smith of Covington, Pamela Waggoner of Loganville, Vicki (Jeff) Kuhn of Milner, Terri (Richie) Hiott of McDonough, Angela (Ron) King of Locust Grove, and Lita (David) Parks, of Conyers; her nephews, Mark (Kerri) Smith of Eatonton, Scott (Janelle) Smith of Conyers, David (Karyn) Norton of Dacula, Jack Norton of Cartersville, Loren Smith of Conyers, and Lance Smith of Conyers; and her cousins, Earline Harbin of Fairburn and Ray (Becky) Smith of Buckhead.

Frances was predeceased by Ray Cameron, her husband and the love of her life; her parents, David Olin and Hattie Mae Smith; her dearly loved and always missed brother and sister, William Charles Smith and Marian Smith Norton, respectively; her sisters-in-law, Annie Cameron and Mae Cameron, who also served as two of Frances' forever-friends and were with her when she birthed her only child, Mike, in the wee hours of March 4, 1952.

While living at Heritage Home Care in Conyers, Frances received medication, bathing, nutritious meals, a clean and temperature-comfortable private room, a huge TV mounted on the wall, and was treated with compassion for 18 months by cheerful owner Sylvie Sanful and her staff.

Frances requested that the following quote from Hunter S. Thompson grace her obituary:

"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, 'Wow! What a ride!'"

A memorial service honoring Frances' angelic life will be held Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 3 p.m. in Conyers Presbyterian Church, 911 North Main Street NW, Conyers, GA 30012.

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

Conyers Presbyterian Church  
911 N. Main Street  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ My dearest mother in law Mrs Cameron ❤️.  
From the moment I met her she was always so very kind and loving to me. She accepted me with open arms as I did her. She welcomed me in to the family. I always enjoyed our times together talking and laughing. She was a wonderful, caring, lady who will never be forgotten. She even welcomed my friend who also loved her very much. She is in heaven now with her beloved husband.

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**Alison** - January 24 at 08:10 PM

RG

“ My name is Richard Gregg. I have been a friend of Mike's for over 50 years. He taught me how to drive in his red Mustang, driving all over Hanahan when I got my learner's permit in 1975. We became good friends and have stayed in touch all of these years. He is like a brother to me. To know Fran Cameron was to love Fran Cameron. I have known very few people in my life who radiate such kindness, compassion, warmth, and love for life. She had such an amazing gift of making you feel as if you were the most important person in the world when engaged in conversation. I have often said she was the epitome of a true, genuine, southern lady, always elegant and gracious. God be with you Mrs Cameron, thank you for your kindness and for your son Mike and for living such an extraordinary life. Until we meet again ma'am.

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**Richard Gregg** - January 11 at 11:10 AM

MB

“ I'll always remember Fran! She was an amazing friend, who enjoyed life to its fullest. She and I became good friends while she was helping in the Conyers Presbyterian Church office, producing "The Sower" newsletter with its numerous articles.

When The Rockdale County Genealogical Society made the decision to publish a book, I thought about Fran. Here was family history and talent in one package. We did the proofing at my house, met at the library and in 1998 published "The Heritage of Rockdale County Georgia".

We enjoyed lunch at her house and at Longhorns, and when we couldn't get together, we emailed regularly and proved we were both "night owls". Sometimes I would just bend my head over the keyboard and laugh at some of the things she said. We shared so many interests: books, magazines and newspapers.

She wanted to know all about my family and kept up with my children and grandchildren. She wanted to see pictures. It amazed me that she always remembered their names and what that they were doing no matter how long ago we had talked. When my black lab "Missy" was alive, she loved to hear "Missy Stories".

Fran loved her family. Ray was her hero. She kept me informed about her sisters-in-law, Anne and Mae Cameron and Mike and his wife Alison. The Smith gatherings were special to her, and she shared pictures of their events telling about her siblings, and her nieces and nephews. She loved the next generation children.

Mike called me when his mother had been admitted to Heritage, and said that she had something for me. When I got there, Fran had saved a grocery bag of newspaper and magazine articles that she had carefully clipped. It's a treasure from my beautiful friend.

My children had the opportunity to meet Fran this fall when they were in Conyers to help with all the things that go along with closing

*one's affairs and giving a little help to another. I was thrilled when they came home and reported that she remembered who they were and was able to put names and faces together. At 96, what a memory!*

*Later when I visited she remembered that visit.*

*As we read her obituary, the last paragraph says it all about her view of life here on earth. She's having a great time in Heaven!*

*Martha Brown*

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**Martha Brown** - January 11 at 02:27 AM

AM

“*My dear sister, Frances, has had such pretty white hair for the last few years, but when I called her on the phone, I always asked "Is this my beautiful brunette sister?" She always laughed. When she comes to mind, I always see her with her beautiful dark hair flowing a little below her shoulders and her lovely smile. She has always been my beautiful brunette sister and always will be. Frances loved all her cousins, nieces and nephews, and dear friends Beth and Mike Rice and Karen Baccei. Most of all, of course, she loved her only child, Mike, who she always called her little boy, and Mike's beloved wife, Alison. I remember that most of us five children were probably in our teens when Frances instructed us not to refer to her as our older sister but rather use the term "first-born sister". We never did. To know her was to love her. I am so grateful our Heavenly Father took Frances home so gently. He took her in her sleep. Her eyes were closed and she had a look of perfect peace on her face. Thank you , Blessed Heavenly Father.*

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**Ann MacCarthy** - January 10 at 05:05 PM

GB

“ Gretchen Burda purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Frances Lucille Cameron.



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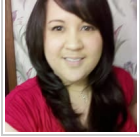
**Gretchen Burda** - January 09 at 11:45 PM

EH

“ I am Earline Addis Harbin, Fran’s cousin. I loved her so much. I am sending my sympathy and condolences to this wonderful family. Fran and I became great “phone” friends when I reached adulthood and we began to talk and connect a lot. We loved sharing about our families to each other for hours at a time. We didn’t know how to say “Goodbye” or “Good night” when it got late. We enjoyed our long talks so much. My mother was the youngest Duke child, Opal Eugenia “Jean” Duke Addis. After my Mom went to Heaven, I sent Fran the pictures of their family that Mom had collected. It seemed to make her so happy to get them and me happy for her to have them. I am so sad she is not here with us now but we will meet again and continue our talks in our Heavenly Home our God has prepared for us. I love you dear Fran!

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**Earline Addis Harbin** - January 07 at 02:20 PM

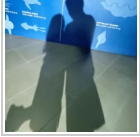


“ My Aunt Frances was always a big part of my life. I have so many good memories with her. When we were little, my brother and I used to walk down to her house from our Aunt Ann’s house to visit her. She kept a big neon bag of toys at the house for us to play with but our favorite thing to do when we visited her was play by her creek. I think we used to make mud pies and collect shiny rocks. For our birthdays, she would take us to the library to check out books and get us a treat from Beasley’s Pharmacy in Olde Town Conyers afterwards. One of the best things about Aunt Frances was she always greeted you with a huge smile. No matter what she was going through at the time, that smile was always there. She had a great sense of humor and would always laugh with her whole heart. She had a personality that could light up the whole room. Oh and she had a major sweet tooth (a common Smith family trait)! Nothing made her happier than a blizzard from Dairy Queen or a bag of dark chocolate. 😂 She lived a long and eventful life and she will be dearly missed. I know she’s in happy in Heaven with my daddy, Aunt Marian, her parents, and Uncle Ray. This isn’t goodbye Aunt Frances. We will see each other again so until then see you later. I love you Aunt Frances!



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**Lita Smith-Parks** - January 06 at 04:28 PM



“ Aunt Frances was an amazing person. Growing up, she was always there for us. I remember on our birthdays, she would take us to the Nancy Guinn library every year. The first time we went, she set us up with our library card and every year we would get 2-3 books and then we could read them and she'd take us back later to return them. After picking up the books however, she would always take us to the pharmacy on the Olde Town Conyers strip and we would get ice cream too. She always made our birthdays special. For Halloween, we would Trick or Treat her and our Aunt Ann as well, but they would always give us fruit with a little bit of candy. I appreciate that now because I realize that the fruit was meant to be the healthy snack, along with the candy because they still wanted us to enjoy Halloween as kids. I remember our Aunt Ann used to watch us all the time when we were growing up, but since they lived next door, she would watch us as we ran down to visit Aunt Frances, where sometimes we would visit inside and just play with Aunt Frances, or she would take us down to the creek and we could see all the fish in there. She was always such a vibrant and passionate person, and I'll always remember the love and joy that she brought into my life. Thank you Aunt Frances. I love you and miss you.



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Loren Smith - January 06 at 04:09 PM

MR

“*Fran was vivacious and elegant with a positive outlook on life. She loved music. Fran, Ray, Beth and Mike attended many Spoleto events together.*

*Many meals were enjoyed at her home. Always candles on the table. Our children, Betsy and Jay were always invited! Other couples with children would be there; often people from Japan or Greece.*

*The Cameron home in Charleston had a small lake in the front yard. The kids loved fishing in it.*

*She loved the ocean and visited the beach often.*

*After Fran and Ray moved to Conyers, we kepted in touch with visits and phone calls. The phone often rang late on the weekend.*

*That was Midnight Fran getting in touch.*

*Our children loved Fran and Ray. Jay was asked “who are these people you talk about so often?” Jay’s reply was; “If I had Godparents, it would be Fran and Ray.”*

*Beth and Mike Rice*

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**Mike and Beth Rice** - January 06 at 02:13 PM



“*Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances Lucille Cameron.*



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January 05 at 06:54 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses* was purchased for the family of Frances Lucille Cameron.



January 05 at 08:35 AM



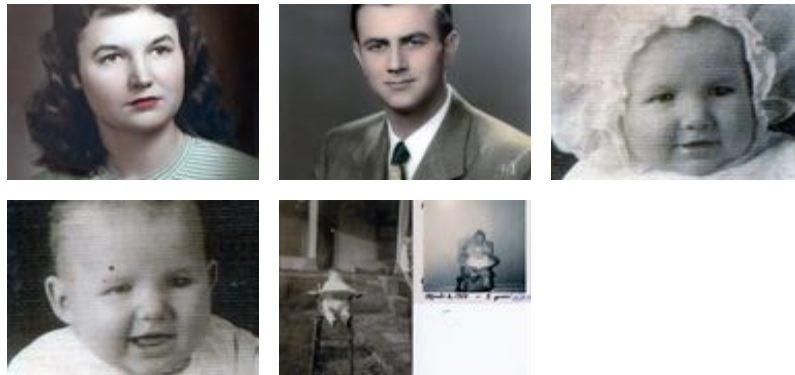
“ *The Gregg Family. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet* for the family of Frances Lucille Cameron.



**The Gregg Family.** - January 04 at 07:31 PM



“ *64 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Scot Ward Funeral Services** - January 04 at 04:44 PM