



Frances Mae Gourley Shiplett

September 25, 1931 - July 17, 2020

One year ago Heaven gained a most amazing angel, our mom Frances Shiplett. We remember your passing today, mom, and celebrate your life. You are forever in our thoughts. Your laugh, smile & our memories of you are treasures we keep in our hearts. We miss you more than words can say.

Frances Mae Gourley Shiplett, 88 years young, passed away at 5:55 pm on Friday, July 17, 2020, at home surrounded by her family.

Frances was born on September 25, 1931 in Buncombe, Illinois to Rudy and Nova (Hunsaker) Gourley. She was united in marriage to Joe Shiplett on August 22, 1953 in Buncombe, Illinois. Together they shared nearly 56 years of marriage before Joe's death in 2009. Frances fulfilled numerous achievements throughout her life. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from University of Illinois, Urbana, and a Master of Music degree from Southern Illinois University (received while she was working full time and raising 5 children). She enjoyed a 35- year career as a music educator. Most of those years were in Carbondale's District 95. Every child in Carbondale knew the words to "This Land is Your Land," "Fifty Nifty United States," and "God Bless America," which ended most of her spring sings. She retired from teaching in 1992 and enjoyed 28 years of retirement. Before the passing of her husband, Joe, they traveled the world, having visited 6 continents. Frances achieved her goal of visiting all 7 continents in 2010. She attended the First United Methodist Church in Carbondale, where she sang in the choir, played in the bell choir, and counted the collection most Sunday's. Between her "lunch bunch" and her "nickel putter's club" and attending cultural and sports events, she led a very active life. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Sigma Alpha Iota. And she loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Survivors include her children, Susan Shiplett Ashbaker of Princeton, New Jersey, Chuck Shiplett (Gina) of Sparta, Tennessee, Carol Manis (Bill) of Murphysboro, Patti Exstein (Ted) of Idstein, Germany, and Barb Shiplett (Betty Montgomery) of Carbondale; 8 grandchildren Bryan Manis (Lisa) of Kentucky, Steven Manis (Savannah) of Texas,

Jennifer Birkner (Adam) of McLeansboro, Katie Vaught (Ernie) of Virginia, Mallory Shiplett of Kentucky, Adam Exstein of Virginia, August Ashbaker (Amber Ahronian) of Boston, and Ben Exstein of Virginia; 4 great grandchildren, Bryleigh and Cash Manis of Texas and Abigail and Oliver Manis of Kentucky.

She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents, her brother, Robert Gourley, and one granddaughter, Lindsey Nicole Ashbaker.

The family of Frances Shiplett invite all who knew her to help us honor her in a Celebration of Life Open House, hosted by the family; Saturday, July 24, 2021 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall in Carbondale. There will be a service of remembrance at 2:30 pm. Light refreshments will be provided. The family request for all to comply with state & local health regulations regarding COVID-19. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are asked to wear a mask.

The preferred form of remembrance is through donations to First United Methodist Church Music Department, the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Illinois, or Residential Hospice.

A special note from her family: Thank you, mom for your unconditional love. For being that warm light we can bask in and gravitate to in good times or bad. Your steadiness and support has buoyed each one of us through our challenges in life. We know you are there as our life raft, carrying us to solid ground when the ground beneath us is wavering and unsteady. Thank you for making this world a better place, simply by being you. We can carry on, knowing all you have showed us, taught us, and instilled in us will be within us forever. Your light and love will always be in our hearts, your presence will be felt each time we show kindness toward others, and the whisper of the wind, singing in the trees, will remind us of your music. These lasting legacies will be cherished and passed on to the next generations. Your light will burn bright forever.

Mom will be greatly missed.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park

31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 24. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
214 W Main St
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 457-2416

Tribute Wall



“ *Frances Mae Gourley Shiplett*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM

BF

“ *I always enjoyed her music class since moving here in '83 starting in 3rd grade at Lewis School. My deepest condolences. She was a wonderful teacher and woman.*

Brandon Francis - August 02, 2021 at 04:54 PM

MS

“ *How did she do it??? When I began my teaching career at Brush School in 1971, Frances was our District 95 music teacher. she traveled to each classroom in all six? grade schools pushing her teaching material on a cart....and managed a household with five small children!! I stayed in one classroom and had two children at home at was hard pressed to keep it all together. Spring Sings, held on a different evening at each school with Frances well in charge were the highlight of our school year. Her positive, cheerful, active life is certainly a fine example for all to follow.*

Marcia sinnott - July 17, 2021 at 11:54 AM

DD

“ *Francis was one of my favorite people. Her smile and encouraging words were so uplifting and appreciated. She will be greatly missed. My sincere sympathy to her family.*

deanna diel - July 21, 2020 at 05:19 PM

SK

“ *I will always remember the way Aunt Frances would help Gran Nova in the kitchen while watching all the kids and cousins play throughout the house, yard, neighborhood - all the while smiling and enjoying every moment. She was a lovely and very kind woman...Rest in peace, Aunt Frances. You made the world a better place...*

Sheila Gourley Kramer - July 21, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frances Mae Gourley Shiplett.



July 21, 2020 at 09:43 AM

KA

“ I only knew Frances because she came into the place where I worked. She was always so kind. I loved to hear her stories. Her smile could light up a room. I will miss her.

Karen - July 20, 2020 at 03:05 PM

LH

“ Barb,

Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family. What a great picture of mom.

Lisa & Shelly

Lisa Hawkins - July 20, 2020 at 12:58 PM

SR

“ Shannon Roberts lit a candle in memory of Frances Mae Gourley Shiplett



Shannon Roberts - July 19, 2020 at 10:54 PM

SR

“ My deepest condolences go out to the family.
I had the great pleasure of getting to meet and take care of Miss Frances for a short time. In that short time, I enjoyed going to see her as Frances always had a smile upon her face, a smile that would light up any room. I always enjoyed listening to her many stories of traveling with her family and of her music career. I also remember the first time that I met Frances she told me where she was from and when I told her that I knew where Buncombe was, her face would light up in amazement as she said not everyone knows where this is at.
In the short time I was with Frances she grew on me as one of my ladies.
Frances will be forever missed! 💜

Shannon Roberts

Shannon Roberts - July 19, 2020 at 10:51 PM

LH

“ My condolences to your family. Your mom was always welcoming and genuinely kind and I never felt like a guest at your house. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Leah Hinchcliff - July 19, 2020 at 06:29 PM

MJ

“ Frances was a light to many and her smiling face will never fade! She was a friend to many and she showed love and kindness to all who met her. I remember, when several of the UM churches gathered for a handbell concert.... Frances was so eager to help with whatever and eager to play with us. Two of her daughters were friends with my daughter at CCHS..so many memories!!! I pray God's comfort and peace for the family.

Marilyn Juhlin - July 19, 2020 at 08:31 AM

SR

“ Sorry to learn of Frances's passing. She was always such a joy to be around. She always has a smile on her face and took time to visit and see how my day was going when she came to the church office and would ask if there was anything she could do to help with anything. I know she will be greatly missed by all. My condolences to her family.

Sharon Ranmar - July 18, 2020 at 10:23 PM