

Frances Witcher McDowell

April 4, 1916 - March 25, 2017

Frances Witcher "Dowell" McDowell, most recently of Smyrna, Georgia passed away peacefully Saturday morning- a little over a week shy of her 101st birthday- with her two surviving children, Angeline (Angie) McDowell Kringel, of Fairfield, CT, and Wm. James (Skeeter) McDowell of Powder Springs, GA. at her bedside.

Frances was born and raised in Newnan, GA, and moved to Atlanta after her marriage to Clifford Harold McDowell. She later moved to East Point, GA after the untimely death of her husband, where she owned and operated her own childcare business and raised her family of four children as a single mother. Frances was active member in East Point Christian, Westside Christian and, most recently, Peachtree Christian Church. She was a longtime member and former president of the local Pilot Club for professional women. An avid traveler, Frances enjoyed excursions with the Pilot Club, church groups, friends and family, most recently traveling with her youngest sister, Eleanor, to discover their ancestral roots in Scotland. Of all the places, she traveled, and all the sites she saw, perhaps her most enjoyed and talked about trip was the one she took to Australia.

Known as "Dowell" to the many children of East Point who were fortunate to fall under her care, Frances found a constant source of pride and joy in the fact that most of her "nursery children" kept in touch with her for her the rest of her life; in many cases, she cared for the "children" of her earlier "children," and was considered extended family by them all.

Frances loved caring for her grandchildren on weekends; she made sure that all of them knew that Sunday mornings were for Sunday School and church, followed by her Sunday lunches.

Known for her green thumb, Frances enjoyed time working in her flowerbeds, and later, those of her grandchildren. She never encountered a plant she couldn't nurse back to full health.

Frances was the third of nine children born to Amelia and Brewer Witcher, of Newnan, GA. She is survived by her sisters Jenelle Watson of Montgomery, AL, and Eleanor Bridges of Sharpsburg, GA, two of her four children, 5 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and their children.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.mckoon.com.

Frances was predeceased by her husband, Clifford Harold McDowell, Sr., and two of her children, Clifford Harold McDowell, Jr., and Lillie McDowell Joyner.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 2:00 PM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home 38 Jackson St. Newnan, GA 30263 with Rev. Bob Tyler officiating. Interment will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Newnan. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM at McKoon Funeral Home.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

MAR 29. 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *"Aunt" Frances will always be so very special to me. In early spring of 1996, my very dear Mother, Gladys was hospitalized in her final month with us. Aunt Frances very graciously let me stay in her house all that month. Her kind hospitality and loving care for me meant so much to me. Aunt Frances had always been a very dear friend to our family. I enjoyed getting to know Aunt Frances even more as a close friend during that time of staying with her. When Mother Gladys passed away, Aunt Frances was with me. I will never forget her love and care and support for me in such a difficult time. All of us who knew Aunt Frances will always cherish her very special friendship and love. We were all very blessed to have had Aunt Frances with us in her remarkably lengthy and beautiful life. I would like to think that Heaven needed some extra time to make itself especially nice for Aunt Frances. Angie and Skeeter, my heart and prayers will always be with you and all of the family. With Deepest Love Always, Anna Lowe Davis*



Anna Davis - April 02, 2017 at 09:18 PM

KB

“ *Please accept my condolences for the loss of Ms. McDowell. May you find comfort in the words Jesus spoke, promising a resurrection. (John 11:25) Warm Regards, Kay*

Kay B. - March 30, 2017 at 07:54 PM

JG

“ I loved Frances the first day I met her, and I loved her every day afterward! What a wonderful lady! She always stood so tall. She was truly a woman of faith, and always had such a sweet smile and a gracious word. I remember that when she sold her house in East Point, she thought she would move in with Skeeter until "the end," but after about ten years, she decided he needed and deserved his privacy, so she moved to independent senior living at Calvin Court in Buckhead, then later to Delmar Gardens. I will never get over the fact that someone snatched her purse at the Kroger grocery store on Piedmont Road in Buckhead. What a horrible thing to happen to such a precious lady. I enjoyed Frances' elegant birthday parties in her later years. What a blessing and a miracle to live almost 101 years on this beautiful earth ... and it was amazing that Frances was in such great shape even at 100! I will always treasure the memory of Frances McDowell. It was really a joy to know her.




Jackie Goodman - March 28, 2017 at 05:35 PM

TS

“ The Lowe Girls: Anna, Lisa, and Sara purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Frances Witcher McDowell.



The Lowe Girls: Anna, Lisa, and Sara - March 28, 2017 at 05:33 PM

 Sara
Lowe
Runstadler

“ *Dowell was a life long friend of my family and I loved her so much. I feel so blessed to have seen Francis, Angie and Skeeter at the Witcher Thanksgiving a few years ago. I will cherish the memories of that day.*



Skeeter and Angie, know you and your families are in my prayers.

*All my love,
Sara Lowe Runstadler (and Bob Runstadler)*

Sara Lowe Runstadler - March 28, 2017 at 04:28 PM

AE

“ *Mother, Laura and I are saddened to hear of Frances passing. She was truly a remarkable lady - so kind, strong and gentle. I think one of my first words was "Dowell". She will be missed by many. Amelia Thompson Eubanks, Mary Thompson, Laura Thompson Allen*

Amelia Eubanks - March 28, 2017 at 08:52 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Frances Witcher McDowell.*



March 27, 2017 at 04:57 PM

A2

“ ALR & SAL Post 294 purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Frances Witcher McDowell.



ALR & SAL Post 294 - March 27, 2017 at 02:21 PM

EJ

“ Edward Peterson, Heather, Lisa, & John purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Frances Witcher McDowell.



Edward Peterson, Heather, Lisa, & John - March 27, 2017 at 02:12 PM

SF

“ Sybil Davis and family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Frances Witcher McDowell.



Sybil Davis and family - March 27, 2017 at 01:02 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Frances Witcher McDowell.



March 27, 2017 at 12:28 PM



“ *I'm so sorry Skeeter....Pam & Noah Givens*

of the waves as you walk down the shore. She's
the smell of certain foods you remember. flowers
you pick, the fragrance of the forest. She's the cool
hand on your brow when you're not feeling well.
She's your breath in the air on a cold winter's day.
She is the sound of the rain that tells you to sleep,
the colors of a rainbow she is Christmas morning.
Your mother lives inside your laughter. She's the
place you came from your first home, and she's
the map you follow with every step you take.
She's your first love, your first friend even your first
enemy, but nothing on earth can replace you.

Pam Givens - March 27, 2017 at 11:55 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for
the family of Frances Witcher McDowell.*



March 27, 2017 at 10:47 AM