



Dr. Richard L. Francis, Sr.

February 22, 2015

Dr. Richard L. Francis, Sr., 82, of Cape Girardeau died Sunday, February 22, 2015, peacefully at his home surrounded by family. He was born February 5, 1933, in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Ira Ellsworth and Hazel Marie (Colcher) Francis. He and Joyce Merritt were married August 22, 1965, in Kennett, Missouri. Richard had a lifelong passion for learning. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University and went on to earn a master's degree and doctorate degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia. He taught mathematics and science at Kemper Military School and the University of Missouri, before returning to Southeast Missouri State University in 1965. He retired from the Mathematics Department at Southeast Missouri State University in 2010 after 45 years of dedicated service. During his 55 years of teaching, he had many professional articles and math games published. Richard was very devout in his faith, teaching Sunday School classes from early adulthood until last year. He was a member of the Church of God (headquartered in Anderson, Indiana) and later First Baptist Church. Over the years, he served and chaired many church committees. His faith and church were very important in his life, far more than his professional accomplishments. Richard's family was very important to him. He enjoyed the simple things in life, such as gardening, sitting in his porch swing, and playing with his dog Penny. Survivors include his wife, Joyce Francis of Cape Girardeau; two sons, Richard Lee Francis, Jr. (Christa) and Michael Francis (Joy) both of Cape Girardeau; one daughter, Marie Kluesner of Cape

Girardeau; four grandsons, Mason Seesing, Blake Seesing, Philip Francis, and Jonathan Francis; two granddaughters Anna Francis and Cameron Sullivan; three sisters, Jane Thorne of Dupo, Illinois, Sue Worley of Edgarville, Illinois, and Dorothy Campbell of Poplar Bluff; and many nieces, nephews and in-laws. He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant brother Donald Ray Francis. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at First Baptist Church, 1289 Lexington Avenue, Cape Girardeau. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday at the church with the Rev. Mike Shupert officiating. Burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be given to First Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau, 1289 Lexington Avenue, Cape Girardeau.

Tribute Wall

ML

“ I had several math classes taught by Dr. Francis in the early 70s and remember him as an excellent teacher. I have used many of his ideas and techniques in my teaching over the past decades. You have my deepest sympathy for your loss.

Marsha Wibbenmeyer Lintner - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I am deeply sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Francis. As you grieve please know that we are remembering your entire family and honoring the memory of Mr. Francis. While I worked in the office at First Baptist it was my joy to pray for your family each week as I did for all FBC families. I reviewed the pictures of service each Monday in preparation for the Chimes newsletter, and watching little Phillip grown up was a delight to me. My parents Ed & Nettie Hampton remember Mr. Francis also and send their condolences. Sheila G. Faire

Sheila Faire - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Dr. Francis was such a kind and pleasant gentleman. He knew so much about so many different subjects. I especially loved to hear him tell me of his plans for his garden. He was always so interested in other people, and he listened intently during conversations. I'm so sorry for your loss. Just know that he touched so many lives and made this world a better place. My sympathy goes out to his family and friends, and may God bless you all.

Marilyn M. Crites - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *My most memorable, patient and caring professor ever! He was the only professor that helped me pass College Algebra. I also worked for SEMO for 20 years and will always have fond memories of him. Sympathy & peace*

Cheryl Mueller - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Dr Frances was my SEMO math teacher in the early 70s. What a kind, patient gentleman. So sorry for your loss.*

Polly Elfrink Bradford - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *Such a wonderful, kind sweet man with the most amazing family. I spent many nights feeling like I was in the home of "Ward and June Cleaver". My second family when I was little. You will be so missed.*

Annie Frye - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *What a privilege to have shared life with Richard and all of you for so many years. Especially when the center post of your lives has been God and his love. My prayers are for God's comfort to you in the loss of Richard and for His joy when we all meet there again.*

Ken Moxey - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM