



Mrs. Joan Frances McNair Payne

October 4, 1935 - March 18, 2022

Frances McNair Payne, 86, of Garrison, Texas peacefully joined her Lord and Savior on March 18, 2022, with her loving husband Jimmy Payne and close family friends by her side. Frances was born October 4, 1935, in the Arlam Community near Garrison, Texas. Her parents were Edith (King) and John McNair. She was preceded in death by her son Phillip Craig Payne, her parents, and her twin brother John Franklin McNair.

France's life was filled with joyful experiences that she shared with her many family members and friends. Those experiences will forever be a part of the memories of those who knew and loved her. Although her talents and accomplishments are far to expansive to address here, there are three facets of her life that she held dear to her heart: Her family and friends, her beloved Methodist Church and her career in public school education.

Frances was a 1954 graduate of Garrison High School and a graduate of Lon Morris College and Stephen F. Austin State University where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Education Degree. In 1957 she began a 39-year career in Public School Education. The first ten-years of her career were spent in Henderson, Texas, where she distinguished herself as a music and classroom teacher. She finished her career in Harlingen, Texas, with 29-years of service as a teacher and principal of elementary students in grades K-4.

Frances's teaching career encompassed much more than on-campus, classroom activities. She enriched her students' learning experiences with all sorts of field trips, civic programs, and community events. As a Harlingen ISD Principal, she orchestrated an annual, all-paid trip to Astroworld for her entire fourth grade class of students. On those trips, students experienced a plane ride, a night in a fun hotel, and many educational events that Astroworld had to offer. She loved her students and staff. Not only was she their teacher, she was also their friend and protector.

The Methodist Church has always been a guiding light in the life of Frances Payne. Whether in Garrison, Henderson, or Harlingen she immediately affiliated herself with The Methodist Church. She served as organist/pianist wherever she lived. While in Harlingen she held the position of Church Council Chairman, leading that group through the building program of a large Christian Life Center. Upon retirement in 1995, she and Jimmy moved back to the home of their youth. They built a house in the Arlam Community right next door to Frances' mother, which is where Frances grew up. They were finally home after long careers with the Railroad and Public Education. Now they were ready to go to work for their beloved Garrison First United Methodist!

Frances and Jimmy were always a team. He served Garrison FUMC as church trustee and general handyman doing everything from plumbing, to electrical, to roofing, to construction to carrying off the garbage. She basically handled everything else! Everything included church council member, chairman of the PAM committee, pianist/organist, choir director, organizer of every luncheon, every fundraiser, every special event including all Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, Patriotic, Funeral, and special tribute events. As PAM chairman, she worked as hard or harder than any of her committee members. In turn, the committee members were always honored to be part of a winning team. She loved them, and they loved her, and they were her friends.

Probably, Frances would say that her most precious life accomplishment was the relationship she had with her many family members and friends. She made friends wherever she lived. Her friends weren't casual. They were permanent. She cultivated them. She kept in touch. She sent cards on special occasions and always on birthdays. She called and visited. She was attentive and understanding to the needs of her friends, always with a kind word and a genuine offer of help. Friendship has followed her wherever she went. Her retirement years have been spent in Garrison, but time and place and distance have not kept her friends away. These last years she has enjoyed the pleasure of many visits from her Henderson, Harlingen, and Garrison friends. She was a good friend and she knew the value of a good friend which is certainly evident to all who knew and loved her.

Frances is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, her many cousins, nieces, nephews, and a host of friends and extended family.

Funeral services for Mrs. Payne will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022, at First United Methodist Church in Garrison with Rev. Rick Anderson officiating. Interment will follow at Caledonia Cemetery under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 9:30 a.m. until service time on Monday, at the church.

Honorary pallbearers will be Ken Selph, Bruce Selph, Jerry Selph, Scott Boles, Bill Spivey, Reid Spivey, Joey Willadsen, Don Davis, church friends, and the PAM Committee Members.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to First United Methodist Church of Garrison at P.O. Box 327, Garrison, TX 75946, and/or Caledonia Cemetery at P.O. Box 535, Garrison, TX 75946.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Cemetery Details

Caledonia Cemetery

FM 1971
Garrison, TX 75681

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Garrison
238 W Main St
Garrison, TX 75946

Service

MAR 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Garrison
238 W Main St
Garrison, TX 75946

Tribute Wall

DL

“ Thank you, Mrs. Payne for teaching, an awkward, clumsy little girl to square dance, do the Bunnyhop, sing, happy songs like my Celito Lindo. I still sing it to this day. Such a beautiful Grace home petite lady. Hopefully some of your grace and sweetness rubbed off on me. I know you are, happy and free now and I hope to see you one day in heaven. Such a great inspiration to such a little girl.

Donna Linton - November 11, 2023 at 02:00 PM

CN

“ Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joan Frances McNair Payne



Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb - October 03, 2022 at 07:49 AM

KS

“ Mrs Payne was my elementary music teacher. She was so much fun- teaching us a variety of music, and square dancing on Fridays. I remember wrapping the maypole in 5th grade in yellow dresses.

Kathy Spann - April 08, 2022 at 10:20 PM

DM

“ I just read about the passing of Mrs. Payne. She was my music teacher at Central Elementary and she was one of my all time favorite teachers. Her enthusiasm and love for her students encouraged me and many other students to develop a love for music. Rest In Peace Mrs. Payne, I'm sure you are already leading the heavenly choir.



Donna McNevin - March 30, 2022 at 10:51 PM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Ms. Payne the last year or two of her life. She was one of my favorite patients at the infusion clinic. She was always upbeat, never complained. Ms. Payne was always so prim and proper. She would come in, take her seat, sitting up straight, with her hands on her lap feet on the stool. No matter how she felt physically, she was dressed in her white blouse, with her pearls around her neck, earring to match, and hair perfectly styled. I always looked forward to seeing her and Becky. I have missed her visits and know how much she will be missed by all who loved her.

Patricia Havner

Patricia Havner - March 26, 2022 at 06:44 PM

KL

“ Our dear cousin Frances will be so deeply missed. We celebrate her beautiful life, the meaning she had to all her family and friends alike, her gracious charm coupled with her abilities to expertly manage every task before her, and her example of the kind of person we would all like to be. She was so filled with love that overflowed to everything around her and always made each person feel special. We love you Frances. We love you Jimmy. Jack and Kathi Lyle and the Lyle clan.

Kathi Lyle - March 22, 2022 at 09:23 AM

JT

“ A truly very special and first-class lady. She will be very missed. Thoughts and prayers for the family



John Taylor - March 21, 2022 at 09:19 PM

CC

“ Carla Gresham Cherico
I met Frances in Harlingen quite by accident when a friend at work noticed we had the same accent. What a blessing it was to meet someone from home! My son Nathaniel was one of the lucky students at the elementary school where she was the principal. Her guidance was invaluable! Condolences to Jimmy and her famil and friends. S

Carla Gresham Cherico - March 20, 2022 at 08:15 PM

PF

Frances was an incredible lady. What a great loss for everyone who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

pam fuller - March 22, 2022 at 08:25 PM

BH

“ *Billie Hammett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joan Frances McNair Payne*



Billie Hammett - March 20, 2022 at 03:43 PM

FW

“ *Mrs. Payne was my music teacher at Central Elementary in Henderson. She was the first to recognize that I could sing. She put me in with an elite group of singers that traveled to people's homes and sang for holidays. I remember her teaching us classical musical. She also taught us how to square dance. We always looked forward to those friday square dances. She was energetic and always had a smile on her face. I remember her fondly as an encourager. Thank you, Mrs. Payne.*
Fred White

Fred Allan White - March 20, 2022 at 09:55 AM

DW

“ *One of my most memorable and beloved teachers! I was a very shy timid little 6 year old girl. Mrs Payne introduce me to a new world full of music, dance and laughter. I'll never forget the light that she emitted on us all at Central Elementary. I can't think of a sweeter Angel now to look over us once again. Till we meet again Mrs. Payne!!*



Donna (Linton) Wyckstandt - March 19, 2022 at 10:18 PM

RG

“ I remember Mrs. Payne fondly. She was my music teacher at Central Elementary beginning in 1960 through May of 1965. The Maypole was always the highlight of the fifth grade. She was a very special lady. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Rebecca Riley Glass - March 19, 2022 at 10:07 PM

RG

“ Rebecca Riley Glass lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joan Frances McNair Payne



Rebecca Riley Glass - March 19, 2022 at 10:03 PM

BH

“ Billie Baker Hammett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joan Frances McNair Payne



Billie Baker Hammett - March 19, 2022 at 09:06 PM

MG

“ Frances was a dear lady and friend. We enjoyed her trips to Henderson when we were downtown and the conversations we had. Her wisdom and her love for Jesus was always at the forefront of every visit. Our deepest sympathy to her family. ❤️❤️❤️

Mark and Nancy Gibsom - March 19, 2022 at 03:43 PM

JV

“ Frances was my elementary school music teacher. Her class was always so much fun. We were colleagues and friends during our public school careers. She was a very special lady!
Jo Velvin

Jo Velvin - March 19, 2022 at 11:21 AM

CW

“ When I first began teaching at Central Elementary in Henderson, Frances was the music teacher. She was a lovely lady. Thoughts and prayers during this sad time. Cyndy Willard

Cyndy Willard - March 19, 2022 at 08:45 AM

KE

“ Karin. Eubanks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joan Frances McNair Payne



Karin. Eubanks - March 19, 2022 at 12:54 AM

CK

“ I was in Mrs. Payne’s music class in the first grade at Central Elementary. I remember at Easter she taught us the meaning of the phrase “rotogravure,” a word used in the song “The Easter Parade,” I’m 73 now and still remember that, so she certainly was a good teacher! My condolences to the family.

Cathy Kovschak - March 18, 2022 at 04:43 PM

DN

“ *Donna Newman-Lindley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joan Frances McNair Payne*



Donna Newman-Lindley - March 18, 2022 at 03:52 PM

JW

“ *Memories of The Friendship Enjoyed with Jimmy and Frances are Forever Installed in Our Minds for Eternity. Our Thoughts and Prayers are With the Family, Now and Forever...Johnny and Tootsie Weaver*

Johnny Weaver - March 18, 2022 at 03:11 PM