



Frances D Kirkham

March 9, 1925 - June 5, 2020

Frances Dean, daughter of Mildred “Parker” and Landon French, was born March 9, 1925 in Capron, Oklahoma. She passed away June 5, 2020 in Alva, Oklahoma at the age of 95. Services will be held 2:00 p.m. Wednesday June 10, 2020 at Wharton Funeral Home Chapel with a 4:00 p.m. Interment at Alva Municipal Cemetery.

Frances grew up on the family farm southeast of Capron, Oklahoma. She attended Burlington Public Schools where she enjoyed playing basketball and having her Aunt Laura French as her teacher. Frances graduated from Burlington High School in 1943. After graduating she attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Frances excelled in her schooling and was an active member of the Delta Zeta Sorority. She graduated from Northwestern in 1948 with a degree in Pre-med Biology.

One evening while attending a local dance hall, Frances met the love of her life, Richard Kirkham from Sweetwater, Alabama. Richard was serving in the Army with the special services and was stationed in Alva at the P.O.W. camp. On June 24, 1950 Frances and Richard were married at her Uncle Frank and Aunt Vernon McArthur’s home. The couple made their home in Alva and a few years later started farming and established Kirkham Farms, Inc. Frances maintained the bookkeeping for Kirkham Farms and always took great pride in her work. Frances and Richard continued to enjoy going to dance halls together and were active members of the First United Methodist Church. On June 5, 1959 Richard and Frances welcomed their son John Allen

Kirkham. Later their two grandsons Ian and Simon were born. Frances also became a great-grandmother to Declan who she called her "Sugar Babe". She was always doting, proud and supportive of all of her boys. Frances loved being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Frances is remembered for her great sense of humor and her spirited personality. She always loved to journal and in her later years, enjoyed watching the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball.

Frances is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Richard Kirkham, her son John Kirkham, her friend and cousin Shirley Cummings and many beloved Aunts and Uncles. She is survived by grandsons, Ian and his wife Kara Kirkham and Simon and his wife Julie Kirkham and great grandson Declan Kirkham, all of Alva.

Memorial Contributions may be made in her memory to Alva Senior Citizen Center.

Cemetery Details

Alva Municipal Cemetery

1698 Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717

Previous Events

Family Visitation

JUN **9**. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Wharton Funeral Chapel, LLC.
1302 W. Oklahoma Boulevard
Alva, OK 73717

Funeral Service

JUN **10**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wharton Funeral Chapel, LLC.
1302 W. Oklahoma Boulevard
Alva, OK 73717

Graveside

JUN **10**. 4:00 PM (CT)

Alva Municipal Cemetery
1698 Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall



“ *Wharton Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Frances D Kirkham*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - June 10, 2020 at 11:39 AM

GA

*Thank you for sharing!
I have many fond memories of Frances, Richard and grandma, lots of time on the farm including Sunday chicken dinners, Hours of play with John as we were growing up!
Funny, I can still still see the Flynn St basement w/ its kitchen in my mind.
What a lovely tribute to them all....may they rest in peace and may your memories always be filled with pleasurable times with them. They were a bit like a second family to me when I was a young lad and I'm blessed for having known them.*

Gary - July 27, 2021 at 10:37 AM

KF

“ We are so very sorry at the loss of Mrs. Kirkham. Our deepest sympathies to Ian, Simon and the entire Kirkham clan.



My fondest memories of Frances was the time I visited at her home in Alva and shared a family recipe for homemade pizza; she thoroughly enjoyed the making of the sauce, the dough and the finished product. She very interested in the whole process as well as learning a little of my Italian heritage!

My second memory was of her delicious and addicting marzipan strawberries...incredible!!!

Our hearts go out to the family.

*With love and fondness,
Kathy & David Frankfort*

Kathy Frankfort - June 10, 2020 at 08:17 PM

SL

“ *I so loved talking with Frances at church. My Mom was raised on a farm not from where Frances grew up. She always had a story to share with me about their childhood friendship, they remained good friends and enjoyed each others company. I so loved listening to them reminisce. Frances had such a kind heart. Prayers for her family, that she so adored!*

Sheila Lehr - June 10, 2020 at 04:23 PM

JG

“ Frances had a wonderful smile and laugh. I worked with her many years during family caregivers...she was the best. Delta Zeta , she so loved caring for the young women who would go on to professions. Frances also loved the farming and took great pride in this.
My honor for knowing her.

Jane Gaskill - June 09, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frances D Kirkham.



June 08, 2020 at 11:19 PM

PO

“ I was fortunate to have known Frances Dene all of my life! We grew up in the Capron community one mile apart if you went across the wheat field! Though she was older than I, our lives were entwined by her mother, Mildred French and Landon who were my second parents!
We would get together for cards, meals, Weiner roasts, canning and especially love and laughter!
I know you, Ian and Simon, will miss her but keep all the wonderful memories you made with your grandmother close to your heart to pull out whenever you need a smile!
With sympathy, Peggy O'Neil

Peggy O'Neil - June 08, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ *Another angel has returned to her heavenly home. I was blessed to have know our dear Frances. She will forever live in my heart.*



Sylvia Beddoe - June 06, 2020 at 06:30 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances D Kirkham.*



June 06, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ *She was always a jewel to wait on at the bank. She always had a smile or a contagious laugh. She will be missed but oh the memories you all have. The Lord is enjoying her now. Prayers to the family.*



Barbara Sacket - June 06, 2020 at 05:26 PM