



Betty Francisco

September 9, 1917 - May 2, 2012

Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Francisco, 94, of New Castle, died Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at Glen Oaks Health Center following a lengthy illness.

She was born in Indianapolis, the daughter of the late Newt and Marie Cooley. Betty moved to New Castle as a young girl, where she graduated from New Castle High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois and a master's degree in education from Ball State University in Muncie.

She taught at Crown Point schools in northwest Indiana for three years before returning to New Castle to work in the office at Chrysler during World War II. She met her husband John there and they were married for 64 years before his death in 2010.

Betty taught home economics in New Castle Community Schools for 27 years and was a judge for 4-H for many years. She retired from teaching in 1980. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Indiana State Retired Teachers Association and attended First Christian Church. She and John enjoyed traveling to Lions Club conventions across the country, were volunteers for Meals on Wheels and attended First Nighters productions and Henry County Historical Society events. She enjoyed knitting, sewing, cooking and playing bridge.

She is survived by two daughters, Judy (Bill) Kelley of The Villages, Florida and Betsy (Charles) Weber of Mooresville, N.C.; two sons, Jack (Lee) Francisco of Cumming, Georgia and Brian (Karen) Francisco of Fort Wayne;

11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and a special cousin, Nancy Begeman of Indianapolis.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

The family has requested no flowers, please. Memorial contributions may be made to the New Castle Lions Club, the Henry County Historical Society or the Henry County Community Foundation.

You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

Sproles Family Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Francisco.

Tribute Wall

PH

“ When my mother and I visited The Woodlands @ Forest Ridge three years ago, we enjoyed lunch with Betty and John. We were talking about Parker School Days where Jack and I went to grade school together when John looked at me and asked, " Were you one of those girls who tee-peed our house?" I had to admit I was. Over the past three years, I saw Betty and John frequently. John would proudly sport a sweater and sox that Betty had knitted for him. He would go out to his car every evening after eating to listen to the radio in his car. He and Betty would walk down the hall holding hands. Betty was lost without John. Now they are together again. My condolences to you all.

Patti Campbell Hollis - May 07, 2012 at 10:31 PM

FH

“ Your mother & father moved to Woodlands while my mom, Jean Becker, was living. I visited with your parents each month when I was in town to see mom. I kidded your mom about how she had failed one student..me.. in the cooking and sewing department. I thaw Stouffer's and pay people 2 sew. We had a good time laughing...silly things. As bad as I am at cooking and sewing I reminded your mom that I remembered things she taught. So, we decided that she had not been a total failure in trying to teach me. Jean tried too. Be kind to SELF. This loss is tougher than U may think. Freida B Hasek StLouis, MO

Freida Becker Hasek - May 05, 2012 at 02:50 PM

MM

“ Mrs Francisco was an amazing lady. She will be missed by many. Her spirit and her love of teaching is an inspiration to many

Mary Mccorkhill - May 03, 2012 at 07:10 PM

JR

“ Betty met the world to Joy and served as her mentor when she first came to New Castle and to teach at Parkview JHS with Betty and Lee Miller. Special note to Judy Kelley, during the winter months, I have a place in Stonecrest addition across 27/441 from the Villages. Joy and I purchased it about 6 years ago when she was still living. Joy passed in 2010. Death ends a life but it does not end a relationship.

James Robbins - May 03, 2012 at 06:38 PM

BM

“ Betty was a wonderful teacher and lady. My thoughts and prayers go out to Betsy, Brian and the family.

Beverly Smith Matthews - May 03, 2012 at 06:36 PM

SS

“ Brian, Karen, and all members of the family: Our condolences and wishes for you all to get together soon to share memories and commemorate her long and full life. Blessings to you all.
Seth and Katie Slabaugh

Seth and Katie Slabaugh - May 03, 2012 at 10:22 AM

JG

“ She was a great, great lady! She is the reason I became a FACS (home ec) teacher. She saw something in me that I didn't know I had. I will always be grateful that she was my 7th grade sewing teacher.

Jeri Gooding - May 03, 2012 at 08:14 AM

JB

“ *Sympathy and prayers to the family of one of my favorite teachers.*
Sincerely, Judy Nichols Barber

Judy Nichols Barber - May 03, 2012 at 08:01 AM