



Abbie Frances Robinson Thomas

June 2, 1921 - January 6, 2016

Abbie Frances Robinson Thomas

Abbie Frances Robinson Thomas, of Ellisville, passed away on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, at Nan's Personal Care Home in Ellisville.

Visitation will be held at Memory Chapel beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 9, 2016, with services to follow at 11 a.m. Burial will be at Hickory Grove Cemetery. Dr. Randy Turner will officiate.

Frances spent most of her life at Jones County Junior College and has been quoted as saying "my heart bleeds maroon and gold". Born in Waynesboro, Frances was a devoted JCJC student, instructor, secretary treasurer for the JCJC alumni association and a member emeritus of the JCJC Foundation Board of Directors.

Due to the untimely death of her mother when Frances was 14, she finished high school in Starkville and then began her journey at JCJC. Frances lived off-campus at the "Thomas House" dormitory on Court Street in Ellisville from 1939 to 1941. Frances loved those years. She could recall the names of the 25 girls living in the house and could remember that the house had only one bathroom and the courting couples kissing good night on the front porch. After completing her course work at Jones, Frances received her undergraduate degree at Mississippi State University where she met her husband, Elwood Thomas. At the University of Southern Mississippi she received her Master's Degree and earned 35 more hours of graduate courses. During her 40 year teaching career Frances taught at high schools in Flora

and Shady Grove, and at Jackson Business College in Laurel. From 1945 to 1949 she worked at United Gas Corp. in Laurel. In 1955 she joined the faculty at JCJC as a business education instructor. At the time of her retirement from JCJC she was serving as chairman of the business division at Jones, a position she held since 1973. Twice during her 28 years at Jones she was named Mississippi Junior College Teacher of the Year. In 2003 she was named as Outstanding Alumnus of Jones County Junior College. She was also a proud parade marshal at the 2010 JCJC Homecoming Parade. She loved hearing from her former students, and in retirement enjoyed traveling in the United States and Europe, and the South and Central Americas. She served as President and Vice President of Laurel's Altrusa Club, was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Kappa Delta Pi, Delta Pi Epsilon, and a member of the Board of Directors of Laurel's YWCA, and was a 50-year member of the First Baptist Church of Laurel.

Special thanks go to Sandra Blackledge and the staff of Nan's Personal Care Home, and her special caregiver Mary Nell Dean, and caregivers Latasha Campbell, Winnie Campbell, Magalene Hicks, Charlotte Holder, and Sharon Pitts.

Survivors include her nieces Sue Thomas Coker (Charlie) of Ellisville, Susan Robinson Cantrell, Eaton, Pennsylvania, Reba Robinson Pettit of Johns Island, South Carolina; Linda Monroe Keller (John) of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; and nephew Bob Monroe (Martha), New Albany, MS. She was predeceased by her husband, Elwood Thomas, parents Walter E. and Nell Prescott Robinson, brother Willard E. Robinson, nephew Harold Keith Robinson and sister-in-law Lucille DeVall Thomas.

Memorials to the Frances R. Thomas Scholarship Fund at Jones County Junior College, 900 South Court Street, Ellisville, Mississippi 39437 or the First Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Tribute Wall

LK

“ Aunt Frances was a great role model to me and my daughters. I am so glad I got to visit with her while I was in Mississippi during the Christmas holidays. We will miss Aunt Frances and she will forever be in our family's hearts.

Laura Coker, Johanna, and Kathryn - January 09, 2016 at 10:38 AM

TS

“ As former Coordinator of the JCJC Alumni Association, I worked with Ms. Frances for 14 years to further the reputation and history of Jones Junior College. She was the epitome of style and grace and served as an example of true Southern dignity in every aspect of her life. I know how much she will be missed in Ellisville, MS and in my heart.

Tracy Stites - January 08, 2016 at 09:12 AM

PM

“ We are so sorry that Frances has passed. She was a wonderful friend to our family.

Paula & Michael Mitchell - January 07, 2016 at 10:46 PM

MD

“ There are no words about how I felt about her. She was very close to my heart as well as the family. She has been on my mind constantly and she will always hold a very special place in my heart. I'm so sorry I wasn't there and can't be there right now. She always kept me on my toes and I love her very much!

Mary Nell Dean - January 07, 2016 at 06:08 PM

BM

“ *A gentle soul has been called home, I will miss you my friend!*

B. J. MECHE - January 07, 2016 at 05:44 PM

AB

“ *So sorry for your loss. She was one of my favorite teachers at Jones in the Intensive Business Program.. Lovely lady.*

Amy Busby - January 07, 2016 at 12:26 PM