



Martha Frances Rawlins

March 30, 1919 - December 12, 2018

RAWLINS – Martha Frances Rawlins, age 99 of Snellville, passed away on December 12, 2018 at Parkside Nursing Home. Frances was born at her grand-parents farm in Snellville on March 30, 1919 to her late parents Rev. Early N. Rawlins and Alice Stovall Rawlins, the eldest of four siblings. She was preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law Robert Rawlins and Gloria Richardson Rawlins; sister and brother-in-law Ruth Rawlins Bowman and Andrew D. Bowman; sister Celia Agnes Rawlins; her niece Brenda Rawlins Merritt; and her long-time friend and companion, Ruth “Joni” Craft. Frances is survived by nephews David Bowman and wife Linda; Danny Bowman and wife Donna; niece Gay Rawlins Staats and husband Howard; Beverly Bowman Garner and husband Richard; nine great-nephews; seven great-great nephews; five great-great nieces; and three great-great-great nieces.

In her long life Frances and Ms. Craft traveled extensively throughout the United States with visits to Canada, Mexico, and Denmark, making their home for years at a time in Tennessee, California, Nevada, and Florida, returning for stays in Georgia between those times. They returned to Snellville in the late 1980’s for the rest of their lives.

During her lifetime Frances held a variety of interesting occupations. She was the first woman to be certified as a driving instructor in the U.S.A., in 1939.

She was a sales woman for various industries, twice as a traveling sales woman when that was extremely rare, worked several years for Douglas Aircraft Corporation in the drafting / planning department, and half-a-dozen other office and institutional jobs.

Frances and Joni owned and operated a southern-style restaurant in Los Angeles during the 1950's which was quite successful until their landlord sold the property to condominium developers. In later years Frances worked as a product demonstrator at Sam's Clubs and groceries, also being an election poll worker, doing both until the age of ninety four. That's the same age at which she gave up her car keys and stopped driving.

All of these facts show that, in her own way, Frances was an extraordinary person who touched the lives of countless people in a positive, caring, loving way, making friends all along her life's journey right until the end. In the nursing home for nearly two years, she made friends with and brightened the lives of fellow patients, nurses and staff. On the occasion of her ninetieth birthday her nieces and nephews rented the Snellville VFW hall and hosted a party in her honor. Two hundred and eight people attended and many others sent well wishes from far away to shower her with love and admiration.

Frances led a rather unique life. She will be missed by those who were fortunate enough to meet and know her. The Rawlins, Stovall, Bowman and Craft families are truly grateful and thankful for having been a part of her life.

As per Frances' wishes there will be no service.

Arrangements by Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 2246 Wisteria Dr. Snellville, GA 30078. (770) 979-5010. You may sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha Frances Rawlins*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *Frances you will be sorely missed. I love our visits over the last few months and bringing you a treat when I visited but more than this I will treasure many years of memories, sweet first cousin. Rest in peace Frances. Ronnie and I will cherish your memory.*



Gloria Burroughs - December 16, 2018 at 01:55 PM