



Rosemary (Hankins) Crance

September 29, 1923 - January 17, 2017

Rosemary (Hankins) Crance, 93, was born September 29, 1923 in Geronimo, Oklahoma, and died peacefully at Parkview Randallia Hospital on January 17, 2017 following a stroke. She was the daughter of Frank E. Hankins and Grace Jenny Wykle. She is survived by her daughter, Margaret Ann (Crance) Smith, grandsons, Grady [Jaime Lyn] Smith of Fishers, Gavin Smith [Callie Yax] of Santa Ana, CA, and Garrett Smith of Fort Wayne, son, Major (Ret) Jack R. Crance II [Col. (Ret) Patricia A. Dooley], sister, Betty Ann Cole, great-granddaughter Addison Paige Smith, great-grandson Camden Lowell Smith, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Jack R. (1997); parents; mother-in-law, Alice M. Crance (1966); sisters, Margaret M. Bailey Lake, Dorothy Lundberg Keck, and brothers, Fielding, Henry, Ned, and Spencer Hankins.

She married Sgt. Jack R. Crance in 1942 after meeting him at a USO dance at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, moved to Ft. Wayne in 1944 and on to New Haven in 1951. During WWII she worked for International Harvester Corporation and later was an operator for General Telephone, a rural newspaper carrier, and an athletic secretary at New Haven Junior High. She finished her career as an attendance secretary at Paul Harding High School and retired from East Allen County Schools with 21 years of service. Rosemary was a renowned dressmaker—beginning her craft as an 8th grader and continuing until 2014. She designed and sewed bridal gowns, attendants' dresses, men's and women's suits, prom dresses, and sofa cushions, and altered garments for five generations of patrons in the New Haven area.

She graduated from Lawton High School in 1941 and from Cameron College in 1943 with a secretarial degree. She was a forward on the Harvester Women's basketball team and played 1st base on the Women's softball team. She learned to play golf at the age of 49 and became an avid golfer, playing in the Ft. Wayne City Tournament for many years. She was medalist in 1980 at the age of 56 and later won a gold medal at the White River State Games in the 65+ age group. She was League Champion at Lakeside Golf Course and played in the River Bend Golf Club Championship, the River Bend 18-hole League, and Ft. Wayne Interclub League. She was president of the River Bend 18-hole League for 3 years, president of the Ft Wayne Women's Golf Association for 2 years, president,

recording secretary, and treasurer of the New Haven Woman's Club, president of the Ft. Wayne Dressmaker's Guild, vice-president of Tri-County Nile Club, treasurer of Ft. Wayne Chapter #432, OES, and secretary of New Haven Chapter #593, OES for 3 years. She instituted and was chairman of the Mizpah Shrine Ladies Golf Outing from 1994 to 2009. She also volunteered her time as a scorekeeper for the Mad Anthony's Golf Tournament for 23 years, the Scott's Pro-Am Zoo Outing for 13 years, the Scott's Pro-Am Cancer Day Outing for 15 years, and the Vera Bradley Golf Tournament.

She was a member of the New Haven United Methodist Church for over 63 years; Mizpah Shrine Legion of Honor Ladies Auxiliary; Mizpah Shrine Hillbilly Clan; Teti Sheri Temple No. 60, Daughters of the Nile; Nile Pageantry Unit (President); Waynedale and Ft. Wayne Chapters of Order of the Eastern Star; and New Haven Woman's Club (President). She enjoyed playing bridge and euchre and traveling to her timeshares in her spare time. She spent her last two years at Woodview Assisted Living where she was an avid card player and enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends.

In her earlier years she and Jack had a large garden and grew nearly all their vegetables including her beloved okra. Canning and freezing the produce kept her busy between sewing appointments. She was also active with the Kekionga Voyagers Canoe Club and canoed in the summer, hiked in the fall, and cross-country skied in the winter.

She will be remembered for her friendly smile, thoughtfulness, dressmaking skills, and willingness to help others by volunteering for various activities and committees. Memorials to the Shrine Hospitals for Children or Parkview Hospice.

Funeral service is 11 a.m. Saturday at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 St. Rd. 930 E., New Haven with calling one hour prior. Pastor Chuck Fenwick officiating. Calling is also 1 to 9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home with an Eastern Star service at 7 p.m and a Daughters of the Nile service at 7:30 p.m. Burial in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Cemetery

Lindenwood Cemetery

2324 West Main St.

Fort Wayne, IN, 46808

Events

JAN **Visitation** 01:00PM - 09:00PM

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Harper's Community Funeral Home

740 State Road 930 E, New Haven, IN, US, 46774

JAN **Service** 11:00AM

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Harper's Community Funeral Home

740 State Road 930 E, New Haven, IN, US, 46774

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Harper's Community Funeral Home - January 19, 2017 at 04:08 PM



“ Hello, Jack and Marg. Jay and I were at our daughter's in Columbus, OH when the obituary came out in the paper. I was unable to attend the funeral. I would have loved seeing you both. Wonderful memories of Rosemary Crance. Her zest for life and always a laugh with her. Of course she was our go to lady for prom, wedding and all special dresses. She made a dress for my daughter when she was in high school. Made one for me in 2006 when our youngest son Peter got married. It was fabulous! She was a master at her craft!!!!!! May you find comfort in the memories and know the love she had for you both. Sincerely, Jill Parent Howell

Jill Parent Howell - January 23, 2017 at 01:57 PM



“ Rosemary was a gem and a beautiful woman, inside and out. She was such a skilled seamstress. I remember that I had an insignificant job for her to do one time. As I was leaving after dropping off the project, I turned to her and said "It doesn't have to be perfect." She gave me a smile and said, "Then you've brought it to the wrong place."

Linda Blakeman - January 21, 2017 at 09:15 AM



“ Deb Boylan lit a candle in memory of Rosemary (Hankins) Crance



Deb Boylan - January 19, 2017 at 11:07 PM



“ Margaret so very sorry to hear of Rosemary's passing. I will always remember Rosemary making everyone feel welcome and comfortable. She was always so very kind and generous. I always loved her beautiful smile. She will forever be remembered lovingly and fondly. My blessings and condolences to you and your wonderful family.

Deb Boylan, PQ - Daughters of the Nile

Deb Boylan - January 19, 2017 at 11:13 PM



“ Marg -- Thank you so much for sharing all the pictures of not only your mom but your dad and brother and you too. The tribute to your mother in the paper was wonderful also. She was such a special lady and helped so many people look beautiful on their special days. I can still hear her calling me "brat" -- I suspect that's a term she started out using on you and your brother. :) Jim and I will both always remember Rosemary (and Jack). Love, Jim and Sandy

Jim and Sandy Herman - January 21, 2017 at 09:46 PM



“ Love's Embrace Roses – Purple was purchased for the family of Rosemary (Hankins) Crance.



January 19, 2017 at 05:46 PM



“ 109 files added to the album LifeTributes



Harper's Community Funeral Home - January 19, 2017 at 03:59 PM



“ Margaret and family..so sorry to learn of Rosemary's passing. I was blessed to know her through her awesome designing and sewing abilities. She helped me design and make beautiful costumes for me (and some shirts for the band..Joe Taylor's Red Birds) when we were warm up band for the stars at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola. That was in the 50s and 60s. She always had a smile. She always was the best at everything she did. May God wrap his arms around all of you. Rest in peace my special Rosemary.

Patty Corbat - January 19, 2017 at 10:03 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories of Rosemary



Laurie Bloom - January 18, 2017 at 10:13 AM



“ Rosemary - your spirit will live on forever. I will never forget your smile, your wonderful positive attitude, or your youthful determination to take on whatever came your way. I love you and will miss you. Karen Kippert, Queen 2016, Daughters of the Nile

Karen Kippert - January 18, 2017 at 07:30 AM



“ Margaret,

You have been a good and faithful daughter to your mother these past weeks. My heart goes out to you. Your mother's journey on this earth is complete as she has reached her awaited destination with our Savior Jesus Christ. May our God comfort you and give you His peace.

Thomas Kneller



Thomas Kneller - January 17, 2017 at 08:16 PM