



## Frances L. Ray

June 29, 1920 - December 2, 2016

Frances L. Ray, age 96, of Washington, passed away suddenly on Friday, December 2, 2016 at the United Presbyterian Home in Washington.

Celebration of life services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 17, 2016 in the Main Dining Room of the United Presbyterian Home. Memorials have been established for the United Presbyterian Home or Hospice of Washington County. Online condolences may be sent for Fran's family through the web at [www.jonesfh.com](http://www.jonesfh.com)

Fran was born June 29, 1920 in Woodstock, Illinois, the daughter of Hans and Daisy (Bonichsen) Hansen. She graduated from Woodstock High School and attended Moser Business College in Chicago, Illinois. Fran was united in marriage to Rex Marion Ray on May 13, 1944 in Woodstock, Illinois.

Fran had been a resident of Washington since 1956. She worked at Montgomery Ward in Washington and was the secretary for the Washington Junior High School from 1960-1983. Fran was a member of the United Presbyterian Church and the Sewettes Club. She and Rex enjoyed pinochle and playing in the Pinochle Marathon. Fran loved to spend time with her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Carol Ray of Washington, Iowa; daughter, Janet Ray and husband Howard Singerman of New York City, New York; 2 grandchildren; and her sister, Dorothy Peel of Los Angeles, California.

Fran was preceded in death by her parents; husband in 2006, one infant son, Thomas; and her brother, Bob Hansen.



# Comments

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“Mrs. Ray”

As I pondered what thoughts I would use in my words regarding Fran Ray, it struck me how some people become a part of our lives and then stay there silently forever. No, they are not there each day in person, but the things we learn from them are there in nearly everything we do in the remaining years of our lives.

I was a 7th Grade Student at Washington Junior High School from 1963-1966. I believe I learned a lot there and lots of the important things I learned came from "Mrs. Ray".

You see, most people acquire their "Gut-Level Value System" based on what is going on in their Life and in the World when they are 12 years-old. Yes, we are molded by "The Happenings" around us and it is very apparent that this is true when you look at the generations of Americans that have gone before us and those coming behind us. Each group has a different "Gut-Level Value System"...

The Roaring Twenties produced carefree individuals who loved a good time, the 1930's produced people who were very frugal and humble, the War Years of the 1940's produced patriotic people who knew the sacrifices that need to be made in order for the United States to survive and for its citizens to prosper. The quiet 1950's produced a generation of Americans that wanted tranquility in their lives and a calm feeling in their jobs, family and their complete existence.

So, when the 1960's came and those rifle shots rang out in Dallas, TX on that Friday afternoon of November 22, 1963 and John F. Kennedy was slain with the whole World watching, all of us 12 Year-olds everywhere in America learned quickly that there was a dark side to the deeds of Americans too. Our Innocence was lost in a matter of seconds and we took our place in a timeline that marked a "Changing America"....and we were part of it.

It was sobering for all of us.

Now, I have elaborated a bit on these thoughts above in hopes that you will understand better the feeling I (and many others) have about the role Fran "Mrs. Ray" played in our "Formative Years". We certainly learned a great deal about life from her and much of it has been with us now for well over Half a Century.

Each day, when we arrived at School, we heard Fran's voice come over the loudspeaker and our lives were drawn together by the information she shared with us. There were reminders about deadlines, lunch information, approval procedures, information about the Nurse's Office, extra-curricular activities and any other item that a 12 year-old would need to know to survive in the "Jungle of Junior High".

Though we wouldn't admit it then, Fran was like "Mom At School" to all 500 of us. She shaped our days and gave us all a sense of direction that most of us needed and would not have had without her.

We learned so much from Fran..."Mrs. Ray".

She was at the helm "Day In and Day Out"..  
And the entire time, we all learned...

These items are some of the things we all learned from Fran... "Mrs. Ray".

1. Always be polite.
2. Always speak clearly to be understood well.
3. Be organized.
4. Always have empathy for others.
5. Don't be judgmental.
6. Smile as often as you can in any situation.
7. Speak the Truth.
8. Listen more than talk.
9. Stand behind what is Right.
10. Work hard.
11. Be Loyal.
12. Show Enthusiasm in all you do.

So, with Fran's "Mrs. Ray's" Passing, I will always think of her as someone who taught us all so much... And she did it without us realizing what we were learning at the time.

I hope in the years ahead, The "Gifts" Fran gave us all will live on as her Legacy.

In her Legacy, Goodness will be near the top of the list. Honesty, Respect and Caring for others, Love of Family, Love of Friends and Love Of Life will all be there too.

Fran was a "WINNER"...

The World is a much better place because she lived.

Rest In Peace "Mrs. Ray"..  
You are Loved...

Rick Lampkin  
WHS Class of '69..





“ Dear Janet,  
As you know it doesn't matter how long we have our moms it is never long enough. Your mom was always so kind and friendly. Whether at your home, at the jr high or church, she was always composed and nice. I enjoyed your dad too and spent more time than I should have at TV Lab talking and watching tv when I was selling ads for the Washingtonian. Sending you love.  
Patsi Robison

**Patsi Robison** - December 06, 2016 at 09:32 AM

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“ What a special lady! Mrs Ray made my days at the junior high very memorable. She always had a happy smile whenever you entered the office. That smile never faded, even when I would run into her at the UP Home she always knew me and had that same smile. She will be missed. ~Kathy Logan MacCrea

**Kathy Logan MacCrea** - December 03, 2016 at 07:37 AM