



## **MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS**

October 23, 1929 - January 19, 2026

Frances Byars Hodgins

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Frances Hodgins, age 96, peacefully passed from this world to the next on January 19, 2026, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Born in the community of Zion in Neshoba County, Mississippi, Frances grew up with six lively siblings and room in the country to roam and play.

Frances earned her Associates Degree from East Central Junior College, then returned home to decide her next step in life. As fate would have it, a dashing young sailor named Elwood Hodgins was home on leave and attended the same basketball game as Frances and thus began the greatest adventure of her life.

Elwood and Frances lived in San Diego, CA, Jackson, MS, and then settled in Starkville, MS. Frances earned her BS in Education from Mississippi State University and eventually retired from Mississippi State after many years.

Frances was a most accomplished pianist who played only by ear - she didn't read music. She was a church pianist for many years and could play anything she heard. She had an amazing green thumb and could grow and identify

anything. Frances was an avid Mississippi State sports fan and had season tickets to basketball and football for many years. She was also a Boston Celtics and Dallas Cowboys superfan and seldom missed watching a game.

Frances is survived by Russell (Jeanne), Cindy Burian (Steve), and Stephanie. Grandchildren are Wesley (Emily), Allison Lizza (Jeremy), Carson Burian, and Ashley Morrison. She also has five great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Frances was preceded in death by her husband Elwood, parents Travy and Katherine Byars, and siblings Helen Tullos, Jackie Byars, Max Breazeale, Roy Byars, Ralph Byars, and Hal Byars. She will be greatly missed by countless friends and relatives. She was kind, and loving, and a wise counselor.

Visitation will be held at John E. Stephens Chapel in Philadelphia, MS January 22, 2026, from 12:30-1:30 followed by a graveside service at Cedarlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to French Camp Academy ([frenchcamp.org](http://frenchcamp.org)).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **22**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL  
812 Pecan Avenue  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
(601) 656-1515  
jestephenschapel@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.johnestephenschapel.com/>

## CEMETERY

JAN **22**. 2:00 PM.

Cedar Lawn Cemetery  
Philadelphia, MS

## Graveside Service

JAN **22**. 2:00 PM.

Cedar Lawn Cemetery  
Philadelphia, MS

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ *When I was a kid. I couldn't wait for summer to come. Me and Jack would get to come visit Aunt Francis Uncle Elwood Cindy and Stephanie. I have so many memories growing up. I'm so glad that I had them in my life. I was just a kid but I learned so much from Aunt Francis. She taught me love and patience. The light that she reflected from her life here on Earth will never leave. I miss you so much. Rest in peace. You have your wings now.* ”



**brenda craig** - January 22 at 10:29 AM

JF

“ *I knew Ms. Frances through her daughter Stephanie when Stephanie and I worked in Respiratory Therapy at Oktibbeha County Hospital in Starkville. I also got to know Ms. Frances better at MSU basketball games - my father had season tickets and while I still lived at home, he took me with him. At breaks, I would go down and sit with and chat with this beautiful soul, who always had a smile and kind word. She was a true gift from the LORD! Jeanne Woolington Finley* ”

**Jeanne Woolington Finley** - January 22 at 09:15 AM

JF

“ *Jeanne Woolington Finley lit a candle in memory of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS* ”



**Jeanne Woolington Finley** - January 22 at 09:06 AM

EB

“ Memories of her spirited personality, passion for sport, and priceless musical talent will always bring me a smile❤️

Erik J Burian - January 21 at 09:20 PM

LP

“ Love , Your Favorite Potheads purchased the Fair rest of All for the family of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS.



Love , Your Favorite Potheads - January 21 at 04:26 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS.



January 21 at 01:26 PM

LW

“ Lynn Chalkley White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS.

Lynn Chalkley White - January 21 at 01:26 PM

JP

“ JPA purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS.



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JPA - January 21 at 12:52 PM

JP

“ JPA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS.

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JPA - January 21 at 12:52 PM

AD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Annie Dancer - January 21 at 12:19 PM

AM

“ Alicia and Scott Morrison purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS.



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Alicia and Scott Morrison - January 21 at 12:13 PM

AM

“ *Alicia and Scott Morrison planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of MRS. FRANCES BYARS HODGINS.*

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**Alicia and Scott Morrison** - January 21 at 12:13 PM