



Frances Thornton Miller Tolbert

JUL 11, 1922 - JAN 24, 2023



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Frances Thornton Miller Tolbert

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Frances Thornton Miller Tolbert was born on July 11, 1922 in Slate Mills, Va., to Frances Olive “Dolly” Thornton Miller and Silas Darius “Si” Miller. After leaving the family farm at Hazelwood (Culpeper), she and her older brother John Lee “Jack” Miller spent much of their childhood at Mount Vernon in Sperryville, where she participated in numerous extracurricular activities. She was May queen for five years and a member of the undefeated Sperryville High School Women’s Basketball team, champions of Northern Virginia. Frances graduated as valedictorian from Sperryville High School. After graduation, Frances worked in Richmond, Va., and on a return visit to Culpeper, she met E L Tolbert. They were married in June 1947. Frances joined E L in Ohio where he earned a master’s at Ohio State, and later Columbia University for his doctorate in counseling psychology. While working full time, Frances took a full load of courses at Barnard College, focusing her studies on library science and children’s literature. When E L accepted different faculty positions, Frances continued her college studies at those educational institutions. She took courses at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., where her husband served as dean of students, and later at Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Fla., when he



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accepted a teaching position at the University of Florida in 1967.

Frances loved the beauty and lush vegetation of North Florida. Here, they raised two daughters

and helped raise two grandchildren. Frances assisted E L as editor and typist for his numerous

textbooks in counseling psychology. She taught remedial reading and volunteered in the schools.

She was active in the Episcopal church in Harrisonburg and Gainesville. She was a devoted

friend to all the cats she adopted and was every pet's favorite human friend.

Frances died in January 2023 after she elected for emergency surgery and contracted COVID in

the ICU.. She is survived by two daughters Margaret Ross Tolbert and Jane Tolbert-Rouchaleau,

two grandchildren, Alexis (Janet Becker-Rouchaleau) Rouchaleau, and Sandra Rouchaleau (Ben

Grosset-Janin) as well as two great grandchildren, Axel and Jett Rouchaleau. Frances' husband E

L passed away in 2002. She leaves behind her feline companion, Bijou, along with many good

neighbors and friends.

She did not believe anyone should be defined by their age. On her 80th birthday, she began

subtracting rather than adding years to her age. She lived in a house with many steps, gardened

and cared for three cats. She walked daily and chatted with neighbors and kept up with her

cousins in Virginia.

Frances was committed to lifelong learning and living up to one's potential. She was the best

advocate for creative and independent work, and never wanted anyone to feel they



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had to “color

inside the lines.” She was gracious and giving, and colorful and unforgettable.

Whenever people

notice beauty or follow their creative dreams, they are making a tribute to Frances.

Donations may be made to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Gainesville, Fla., or to the Alachua

Conservation Trust (Alachuaconservationtrust.org).

A graveside service will be held, Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Fairview Cemetery, Culpeper, VA.

An online guest book and tribute wall are available at www.foundandsons.com

Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Culpeper is serving the family.





Events


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Graveside

 **Wednesday**, June 7, 2023

 11:00 AM ET

 **Fairview Cemetery**
Culpeper VA 22701





Tribute Wall

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Found And Sons Funeral Chapels - Cremation Service shared 8 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

May 30 at 9:55 AM





Media

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Media

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Frances by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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