



Shirley A. Franks

October 7, 1924 - November 2, 2019

“Let’s pray together.” And right then, Shirley Anne Franks would clasp hands and begin... “Dear Heavenly Father...” Those who knew Shirley Franks, knew of her faith and her prayers. Born in Grand Rapids on October 7, 1924 to Jacob and Maude Stark, Shirley prayed for healing for her father, who suffered from multiple sclerosis. At 10, after attending Wealthy Street Baptist Church, she prayed for Jesus to come into her heart. At 16, she prayed for Jim Franks to accept Christ as his Savior- or else they could not date. At 18, she became Mrs. James E. Franks. Settling on Washington Street in Grand Haven, Shirley continued her praying life, raising six children: James E. Franks, Jr., Mary Lou Ceton, Nancy Emmerich, Joyce Israels, Sue VanDuinen, and Tom Franks. While still young parents, they began Youth for Christ in Grand Haven. Teenagers met in the high school gym and frequently gathered to sing around the piano at their home. Jim and Shirley’s hospitality was enjoyed by people of all ages, and they always made sure there was room for more at their table. Shirley also served on the Salvation Army Board, becoming a life-time member. When Jim left Franks Florist to work with World Vision, and later International Aid and then Concern International, Shirley became more than Jim’s prayer partner. She was his accountant, his suitcase packer, and mother of three additional children: Keum Ja Kim, Busan Ariga, and In Soon Redick. With 23 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren, Shirley prayed without ceasing. After Jim’s passing in 2001, she discovered a new niche- Mercy at The Lakes medical office building. “Miss Shirley” served for 17 years at the information desk, greeting patients and staff, hustling wheelchairs, and praying with anyone who requested it. “Dear Heavenly Father...” A praying daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, friend and The Lakes volunteer, Shirley Franks’ favorite verses were Psalms 121:1-2: “I will lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Shirley’s life honored these verses. FUNERAL SERVICES for Shirley will be 11AM Friday, November 8, 2019 at First Reformed Church (301 Washington Ave. Grand Haven 49417). VISITATION with the family will be 2-4 & 6-8 PM Thursday, November 7 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St. Norton Shores, MI 49444 (231) 798-1100. Burial will take place in Lake Forest Cemetery. Memorial Contributions to SIM USA (<https://www.simusa.org/get-involved/give>), Concern

International (6715 Pontaluna Rd. Fruitport 49415), or International Aid (<http://www.internationalaid.org/give-to-i-a/>) will be appreciated. Share memories with the family online at www.sytsemafh.com.

Cemetery

Lake Forest Cemetery
1304 Lake Ave.
Grand Haven, MI, 49417

Events

NOV 7 Visitation 02:00PM - 04:00PM
The Lee Chapel
6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI, US, 49444

NOV 7 Visitation 06:00PM - 08:00PM
The Lee Chapel
6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI, US, 49444

NOV 8 Funeral Service 11:00AM
First Reformed Church
301 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI, US, 49417

Comments



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Franks.



November 07 at 12:31 PM



“ What a legacy of faith and love she passed on to her family and left for future generations!!
God shines His love through her!
Blessings! Linda Wanaselja

Linda Wanaselja - November 07 at 01:51 AM



“ I will always think of Shirley, especially when I walk past her desk. I will always picture her pushing someone to their car in a wheelchair (when she was 90)!! She was the sweetest thing, always eager to strike up a conversation while passing her desk. She hated when the weather got snowy which lead to missing time at “work”. What a sweet soul! We are all so Blessed to have know her!
Kindra Vilneff



Kindra Vilneff - November 06 at 10:26 PM



“ To Joyce and her family
So sorry to hear of your mother's passing to God's Glory
Prayers to you and your famiy...grieve while enjoying her life and your memories with her.

Rosemary - November 06 at 05:15 PM



“ To the Franks family, I was so blessed to have known Ms. Shirley - oh what a wonderful lady. The first time I met her was at the Lakes sitting in "her corner". Ms. Shirley has been a blessing to me and to so many other people as well. "Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck" Proverbs 3:3 Ms. Shirley knew how to love and she was the very essence of faithfulness. The amazing child of God, Ms. Shirley. The Franks family you are in my thoughts and prayers. With deepest sympathy.

Dean Millar

Dean Millar - November 06 at 10:38 AM



“ Our dear, dear “Shirley goodness and mercy” as we would lovingly tease her with and she would laugh be delighted. I remember all the Skipbo games, the whisper of “coffee, coffee “ the 40 plus years of Christmas Eve breakfasts, and many sharings of God’s grace and mercy, my condolences to all the family. He lives! And so then does Shirley! So sorry I missed this. I would have been there to honor Shirley but my Internet was down.

Jan Cummins - 22 hours ago



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Franks.



November 06 at 06:01 AM



“ I am blessed to have had this lovely lady in my life. Rest in peace dear lady. My condolences to your friends and family.



Becky Smith - November 05 at 07:41 PM



“ Miss Shirley, I don't believe there are words to even describe this faithful servant! How Blessed we all are here at The Lakes to have this angel greet us, hug us, love us, pray for us, and welcome us each and everyday to work. Shirley will be so missed and I will hold on to some of the last words Shirley spoke to me, when I told her I would see her later she responded with "Yes you will my dear, in heaven." Wow what a living testimony!

Stacey Newmyer - November 05 at 09:04 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Franks.



November 04 at 09:55 PM



“ Dear Mary Lou,

The first time I met your mother was at a ladies meeting at a local church. She was speaking. I was touched and inspired as she shared the story of her daughter Susie. There had been a terrible accident. Susie was in a coma. She was in critical condition. Shirley spoke with such passion of how completely she trusted her Heavenly Father. I watched her and thought, someday when I grow up I want to be just like Shirley.

Shirley was a vision of beauty as she greeted so many people at the Lake's. One day I commented that she was such a blessing to so many, she looked up and raised her hands and said, "Bouquets to Jesus."
He must have been so happy to see her in Glory!

Shirley will be deeply mourned. Sadly missed. Never forgotten.

Love and heartfelt sympathy to David & Laura (Andrea, Joel & Renee')
Karen & Matt (Jacob, Lydia, Grace, Nathaniel)
Randy & Becky (Seth, Luke, Leah)
Becky & Nick

You all brought Grandma Franks so much joy!!!

Aunt Ginger & Uncle Roger



“ So grateful to have this woman in my life. She was a true example of a Christ like life. I picture Al getting a hug and a beautiful smile from her.

Becky VanSteenkiste - November 04 at 04:03 PM



“ Thank you, Aunt Becky <3

Rebecca Risedorph - November 04 at 07:58 PM



“ Shirley was a beautiful person. I first met her at a Bible study in church. She was asked to pray. Her prayer was so eloquent that I asked God to help me pray like Shirley Franks. I have had many good talks with her and almost feel I knew her family through our talks. She truly loved her family. What a beautiful person and what a wonderful life she led. I envision Gods Angels lifting her up in their arms on Saturday and carrying her up to meet our Lord. She then reported to the Lord and asked what work he had for her.there.

Charlene Ansay - November 05 at 08:45 AM



“ I'm so thankful that I got to spend time with Shirley at International aid she was a bright spot in my life

Trish VanOordt - November 05 at 09:10 PM



“ Mrs. Franks was truly a blessing to all that knew her

Diane Race - November 06 at 06:14 AM