



Margaret "Frankie" Finis Shelton Laird

June 26, 1926 - May 21, 2017

Longtime Rockdale resident Margaret "Frankie" Finis Shelton Laird, 90, moved to her heavenly home on Sunday, May 21, 2017. A service celebrating her life will be held at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale on Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 10:00 am. Rev. Adam Straznicky of St. John's United Methodist Church in Rockdale will officiate. Visitation will be on Friday, May 26, 2017 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Bill Cooke, John Shoemake, Mike Currey, James Powell, Richard Hormuth, Eddie Zapata.

Frankie was born on June 26, 1926, in Victoria, Texas, to Albert and Mary Shelton. She was number nine of ten children. Her parents intended for her to be the last baby and named her "Frankie Finis" - Finis in some way meaning "last". The Doctor, however, did not think that name was appropriate and added the name "Margaret" to her birth certificate. Though her formal name may have been "Margaret", her REAL name was "Frankie", and that's how she was known by family and friends.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Frankie and her siblings picked cotton on the farm in order to earn enough money for a pair of shoes and school supplies. Frankie would frequently say that good grades were important to her and that she was determined to earn an education. Frankie

proudly graduated from Victoria High School in 1944.

In the mid-1940s, Frankie worked at Sherwin-Williams in Victoria. She met Lloyd Edward “Eddie” Laird at a skating rink in Victoria when she purposefully “stumbled” in front of him. Eddie and Frankie married in Victoria on April 3rd, 1949. They moved to San Antonio where Eddie worked in an engineering firm. In the early 50s, Eddie took a job with Alcoa Aluminum Corporation of America, which resulted in moves to Port Lavaca, Pittsburgh, and, in 1959, Rockdale, where Frankie lived until 2013. Her remaining years were spent in New Braunfels, Texas.

As a busy mother of five children, Frankie devoted many years to raising her family and seeing to her children’s general and spiritual education. The entire family was very active in St. John’s United Methodist Church, often occupying an entire row during Sunday services.

In the early 1970s, Frankie began working for Harold Parsley, building a business partnership that lasted until 2012. In the early 70s, Harold purchased the Rockdale Drive-In Theater where Frankie worked in the admissions booth. When Harold opened “Parsley’s Pullet Parlor” in the mid-1970s, Frankie was part of the process from the construction phase onward working in every capacity – designer, decorator, cook, cleaner, wait person, manager, bookkeeper, etc. If there was a job to be completed, Frankie did it! She managed the business through transitions from privately owned business to franchise, and kept the books for other businesses belonging to Harold. Frankie kept the books, made quarterly reports, hired and fired until January 2013. She finally retired, very reluctantly, at the age of 86.

Frankie enjoyed dancing and she and Eddie belonged to a dance club and took dance lessons. She also played bridge in several bridge clubs. When Wayne Mudge (daughter Melissa’s husband) was in the Air Force, Wayne and

Melissa in lived in New Mexico, Las Vegas, Germany, England, and Virginia. Frankie loved visiting those places and getting to see the world.

Frankie's family will have fond memories of "Nannie's House" in Rockdale, especially her beautiful yard. She loved to garden more than anything, took great pride in her yard, and won "Yard of the Month" on multiple occasions. Though she loved all plants, she especially loved roses. After Eddie died in 1984, she performed much of her own home construction - wallpaper, painting, crown molding, etc., and painted the entire exterior of her home, by herself, more than once! Frankie was also a fantastic cook and a talented seamstress. She made much of her daughters' clothing and many costumes for church and school plays. She embroidered some and took a stained glass making glass. She also participated in many city-wide Christmas decorating contests. She would handcraft amazing decorations and string lights all over the house. Needless to say, she was a frequent winner.

Most of all, Frankie loved and was very proud of her children. She encouraged them to pursue arts and education and was very proud that all of them went to college. Her children will always remember that Frankie would have done anything within her power to help them succeed. She loved working, was an excellent financial steward, and was proud of her ability to run a business and to care so well for her beautiful home and yard. She was a smart, resilient, self-reliant gem and will be greatly missed.

Frankie is preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd Edward "Eddie" Laird on July 16, 1984; son Danny Laird on March 5, 1972; grandson, John Mudge on March 21, 2014; and all nine of her siblings, sisters: Lucille, Florence, Julia, Vivian, Lee, and Patty, and brothers: John, RD, and Glen.

Frankie is survived by children, Melissa Laird Mudge and Wayne Mudge of

Garden Ridge, Texas; Richard Laird and Insook Park of Tenafly, New Jersey; Scott Laird of Tulsa, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Geoff Mudge of Carlsbad, New Mexico; Marsha Mudge of Garden Ridge, Texas; Ginny Mudge of Dallas, Texas, Chase and Missy Gray of New Braunfels, Texas; Haley Gray of Dallas, Texas; Ashley Laird of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Trevor Laird of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and great-grandchildren, Tanner Mudge and Jackson Mudge.

The family would like to thank Frankie's next door neighbors in Rockdale, Chris and George Wall, for their fifty years of dear friendship with and care for Frankie. Frankie and Chris spent many, many afternoons discussing "life" over hot coffee and, in their later years, pink champagne. The family would also like to thank the staff of Kirkwood Manor in New Braunfels, and the staff of Hope Hospice in New Braunfels, an amazing group of people who took excellent care of Frankie in her last days and did everything possible to make her transition to her heavenly home comfortable.

Because Frankie loved flowers, flowers are welcome, or memorial contributions might be sent to Hope Hospice, 611 N Walnut Ave, New Braunfels, TX, 78130.

Cemetery Details

I.O.O.F. Cemetery

850 N. Main St.
Rockdale, TX 76567

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Chapel Service

MAY 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret "Frankie" Finis Shelton Laird*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - May 24, 2017 at 06:48 PM

SM

“ Hello cousins, this is Lee's son, Brad. I am so sorry for losing touch with you all over the years. I mentioned to my wife, Cindy, in June, if there were any of my relatives from my mom's side still alive. We stumbled upon an obituary for Frankie Laird, just one month after her passing. We send out deepest and sincere sympathies for your loss. I have fond memories of my cousins, visiting the house in Rockdale. I remember her little Dachshunds, and the horned toads we used to play with outside (we didn't have those in Houston!) We really enjoyed the video that was put together using photographs of family. I was thrilled to see pictures of Nannie, my mom, your Aunt Lee, Aunts Vivian and Margie, who made such an impression on me growing up in Houston. Seeing pictures of my cousins, many of whom I haven't seen in many decades. My fond memories of those special times came flooding back. The last time I saw Aunt Frankie was when Aunt Vivian asked me to drive her to Rockdale, to see her. This was approximately 1984 or 85. Aunt Frankie proudly gave us a tour of her showcase gardens and beautiful home. I regret the lost years, and would like to make contact. We are going to Victoria for a festival, in a few weeks, and will attempt to make contact with the Fossatti cousins. We travel to the Hill Country all the time, and would love to look you guys up, if possible. Again, we are so sorry for the loss of dear Aunt Frankie. Take care, Brad

Brad and Cindy Matthews

(936) 499-6553

16370 Tree Monkey Rd.

Conroe, TX 77303

stewtmrstorage@consolidated.net

Stewart Bradley Matthews - September 17, 2017 at 03:36 PM

SB

“ I remember spending nights over at Carrie's house when we were in high school and Mrs. Laird always prepared something really good for us to eat. I always thought that she was an elegant lady who carried herself well and was respected in her community. My thoughts & prayers are with Carrie and the rest of the family & friends who are feeling the pain of physical separation from their beloved one. We are promised that we will be reunited in HIS Heavenly Kingdom. May HIS promise bring you peace and comfort.

Sincerely,

*Susan Loehr Boner
Bellville, TX*

Susan Boner - May 31, 2017 at 03:15 PM

DP

“ Mrs. Frankie Laird was such an important part of my formative years in Rockdale. She was my boss, my good friend's mother, and a mentor and life coach to so many of us.

The Petty family extends our most sincere and heart-felt condolences to Melissa, Kim, Cari, and Scott. We mourn her passing and celebrate her life with you.

*William H. Petty, PhD
Alexandria, VA*

Dr. William H. Petty - May 28, 2017 at 08:52 AM



“ 106 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - May 24, 2017 at 05:47 PM

WB

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Cari and family for your loss. Your mom was great.*

Wayne Bailey - May 24, 2017 at 04:22 PM

LN

“ *I doubt that any of Frankie's family remember me; however, I remember her well from the years I lived in Rockdale, and I admired her more than I can say. She was such a special lady who could juggle more things than I could ever understand. I especially remember her smiling face at Parsley's, and she always looked like she loved her work. You all will miss her, I know, and I pray that God will hold Frankie's family in the palms of His hands as you cope with your loss.*

*Sincerely,
Lois Braun Noak
3627 Noak Road
Round Top, TX 78954*

Lois Braun Noak - May 24, 2017 at 11:33 AM

CG

“ 106 files added to the tribute wall



Cari Gray - May 24, 2017 at 09:21 AM

SJ

“ *As neighbors, Frankie and I often talked over the backyard fence while working in our flower beds. I always enjoyed learning about the best plants and the care they would need. She was a sweetheart and one of the hardest working women in Rockdale!*

Sue Foster Jones - May 23, 2017 at 02:51 PM