



## Frances Tankersley

November 22, 1921 - June 30, 2023

Frances' service video can be found on our website on the PHOTOS AND VIDEOS tab and clicking WEBCASTING VIDEO \*\*

Frances Lou Deen Tankersley, well known and very loved longtime resident of Terrell, passed away June 30th, at the age of 101, She was born on November 22, 1921, in Emory, Texas to Charles Bernis Deen and Leah Kathryn (Woodson) Deen, both of whom preceded her in death along with her beloved husband, Dennis Tankersley, sister, Tommie Lee Sadler and daughter-in-law, Louise Parker Tankersley.

Her family is quite confident that when she opened her eyes in Heaven, she was greeted with the words of our Lord spoken in Matthew 25:21, "Well done, my good and faithful servant..."

Frances' life took her to many different parts of Texas. While she was a young child, the Deen family moved to Sweetwater, where Frances began her Elementary schooling in first grade through graduation from Sweetwater High School in 1939. She finished her Bachelor of Science degree at Texas Tech University after which she accepted a job at Lubbock Army Airfield. It was there that she met Army Air Corp Lt. James Dennis Tankersley, a flight instructor in advanced pilot training, marrying Dennis on Oct. 7, 1944. When Dennis was sent to the Philippines, Frances returned home to Sweetwater where she taught school until Dennis' honorable discharge from the Service. They moved to Terrell to build their lives and family together. It was here in

Terrell their two sons, James Deen Tankersley and Greg Woodson Tankersley were born, and it was also here the family became an integral part of the civic life and activities of the First United Methodist Church, the city of Terrell and later, the schools.

Frances was a member and past president of the Pioneer Club and the Terry D. Browning Club. She also taught Sunday School for over 20 years at the Methodist Church while serving on numerous committees and boards of the church. Part of her time was spent volunteering in civic activities such as cancer fundraisers and driving cancer patients for treatment. Amidst these and other duties, she found time to play tennis and golf which she loved and her very favorite pastime: bridge. She dearly loved to play games of bridge with family and friends, and she was often heard to say she would play “every chance I get.” In 1967, Dennis passed away and life changed. Frances went back to college for her Masters degree as well as continued her learning and developing her skills with numerous hours beyond the degree requirements. She taught homemaking at Terrell High School for several years, and after acquiring the necessary certifications, became a trusted and favorite guidance counselor. She also attained the title of Supervisor for Special Services for Terrell ISD. After retiring in 1984, she was back to golf and free time activities such as delivering Meals on Wheels, which she continued for years. Frances was never one to ‘stay still’ and her many adventures with her friends from church, colleagues, and her family, along with the time she gave to others, kept her going practically every minute of every day. Frances will be missed by so many generations whose lives she touched.

Frances is survived by her sons: James Deen Tankersley and wife, Margaret of Thousand Oaks, CA; Greg Woodson Tankersley and Melissa Graham of Arlington, TX; Her four grandchildren: James Dennis Tankersley and wife Krysta of Beaumont, CA, Jennifer Ricketts and husband, Cory of Ridgecrest, CA, Kathryn Tankersley and Thomas Cooper of Ridgecrest, CA, and Benjamin Tankersley and wife Cayla of Mountainview, CA; Her six great grandchildren: Parker and Samantha Tankersley, Noah and Ally Ricketts, Rowan Tankersley,

and Elliott Cooper-Tankersley; sister-in-law: Mrs. Hope Tankersley of Washington, DC, as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, other extended family, church family, and countless friends.

A visitation will be held at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel on Thursday, July 6, 2023, from 5-7:30 PM. Funeral Service will be held at First United Methodist Church on Friday, July 7, 2023, at 11:00 AM.

In memory of Frances' heart for serving others, memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 305 W. College, Terrell, 75160 or to Scottish Rite Hospital at [www.scottishritehospital.org](http://www.scottishritehospital.org)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 6. 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations  
642 N Rockwall Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160  
(972) 524-0881  
<https://www.maxslaytonfunerals.com>

## Funeral Service

JUL 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
503 W. College St.  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Frances Tankersley*



**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - July 07, 2023 at 12:28 PM

AD

*Beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady.*

**Anne Davidson** - July 08, 2023 at 12:02 AM

BI

*Thank you for sharing this beautiful video with us of our precious friend, Frances. Our memories of her will always have a special place in our hearts. We love you, Frances and will miss your beautiful smile. And most of all, your treasured friendship to us. With love, Stan and Barbara Ingram*

**Barbara Ingram** - July 08, 2023 at 03:33 PM



*Thank you for sharing this beautiful tribute of a beautiful lady!!! You will always have a piece of my heart .. I will miss you.. ❤️ Kenyatta..*

**Kenyatta Lewis** - November 25, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Frances Tankersley Live in memory of Frances Tankersley*



---

**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - July 05, 2023 at 04:33 PM

RD

*I would like to see service on my computer*

---

**Ronnie Daviis** - July 07, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ *Frances Tankersley*

---

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM

ER

“ *Her niece Jeri gave me a piece of gum right before we entered Mrs. Tankersley's home ec class. Mrs. T asked Jeri if she was chewing gum. Jeri said no and successfully opened her mouth to rove it. She asked me if I was chewing gum, and I said no as the gum dropped out of my mouth onto my desk. Needless to say, I got a detention. I'm not sure if it was for gum chewing or stupidity. I still practice the lessons she taught me.*

---

**Elaine Harper Renfro** - July 13, 2023 at 02:38 PM

AM

“ I will miss our long phone conversations that we've had over the last few years; she was an absolute joy. My sincere condolences to her family. Ashleigh Mock (Jake Webster's granddaughter)

Ashleigh Mock - July 07, 2023 at 01:04 PM

RS

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Frances. We worked at the TISD Administration Building for several years. She was always very kind and a dedicated worker. RIP Frances!



Ronnie Smith - July 07, 2023 at 11:12 AM

LS

“ I will miss you but you definitely positivity touched my life. I will always remember you



Lynn Chadick Smith - July 06, 2023 at 10:18 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Frances Tankersley.



July 05, 2023 at 04:46 PM



“ 112 files added to the album Memories Album



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - July 05, 2023 at 10:50 AM

LB

“ Liz and Brian purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Frances Tankersley.



Liz and Brian - July 04, 2023 at 02:29 PM

KJ

“ Frances was a delight. Warm, funny and a little mischievous. Our community has been fortunate to have her for more than a hundred years! Imagine that! I always enjoyed being with her. I will miss her as so many of us will, but I will never forget her 🌸🌸

Karen Jones - July 04, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Frances Tankersley.*



---

July 03, 2023 at 05:33 PM



“ *To know her was to know you. She was a neighbor while growing up, a teacher and mentor to all. She was a loving person.*



---

**Kay Squires** - July 03, 2023 at 01:56 PM



“ *Frances was such a wonderful friend to me and my family. I will truly miss her and I pray for peace to her loving family. And then I heard the angel say, “She’s with you every day. “*

---

**Leigh Oatman** - July 03, 2023 at 01:55 PM



“ *I love you Frances. Thank you for the fun times and sage advice.*

---

**Ginny Cartwright** - July 03, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *Frances has been one of my rocks. With her passing goes one of my links to the past. Go in peace. I hope I can be more like you in the years ahead.*  
*Much Love, Ginny*



**Ginny Cartwright** - July 03, 2023 at 01:20 PM

AD

*This was an ANB Travelers trip to tour the new American Airlines Center. These ladies had so much fun. Sorry that now they are all gone. Bet they had a fun reunion.*

**Anne Davidson** - July 07, 2023 at 08:06 PM

SP

“ *Susan & Ray Pinson lit a candle in memory of Frances Tankersley*



**Susan & Ray Pinson** - July 03, 2023 at 01:03 PM

KK

“ *Mrs. Tankersley was the Sweetest Lady. Taught me 3 years of homemaking. Also was a Dear Dear Friend for several years. RIP. Love, Kay Martin Krebs-Palestine, TX*

**kay Krebs** - July 03, 2023 at 11:11 AM

KI

“ ANB Christmas Party 2022



Kirk - July 03, 2023 at 09:56 AM

BI

“ Our family will miss you so much. You have always been such a wonderful friend to our family. Rest in peace, sweet Frances. We love you. Stan and Barbara Ingram and Michelle Wilson



Barbara Ingram - July 02, 2023 at 09:52 PM

BH

“ Such a special teacher and special person! I will miss your smiling face. Till we meet again, Mrs. Tankersley.

Barbara Hendricks - July 02, 2023 at 04:02 PM

GC

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying for your family 🙏 She was a beautiful soul.

Georgia Cheek - July 02, 2023 at 08:13 AM

RT

“ Our condolences to the family. Frances was a kind and wonderful lady who will be missed by all. Rick and Sandy

Rick / Sandy Traylor - July 02, 2023 at 01:11 AM

BW

*Had Mrs. Tankersley for Homemaking when I was a sophomore. She was such a good teacher. She was such a sweet lady. She is going to be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with family! 🙏*

**Beth Wilder** - July 02, 2023 at 06:08 PM

KJ

*I always enjoyed Frances so much. She was sharp and funny with a little bit of mischievous thrown in. Our community has been lucky to have had her for such a long time. There will be a hole where she used to be. But I know she will always be in my memory.*

**Karen Jones** - July 04, 2023 at 01:43 PM

MD

*“ A wonderful lady who touched many lives. She lived a gracious and giving life. Prayers for Greg and Jim.*

**Mike DeFord** - July 01, 2023 at 05:24 PM