



Frances "Fran" Emma (Durham) Watkins

July 22, 1932 - August 2, 2020

Frances "Fran" Emma Durham Watkins left us on August 2, 2020 to join her husband, James "Jim" Watkins, who is interred at Louisville Memorial Gardens Mausoleum West.

Fran was born on July 22, 1932 in her beloved Boones Creek, Tennessee. Fran is survived by sons James Donald and Thomas Lee, Louisville, Kentucky; daughter Kay Elizabeth Thurman (Lindsey), Richmond, Kentucky; grandson Luke Watkins, Louisville, Kentucky; granddaughters Elyse Tyler Watkins, Louisville, Kentucky, Kristina Paige Watkins, Lexington, Kentucky, Sydney Janice Thurman, Seattle, Washington, Gabriella Elizabeth Thurman, and Olivia Linn Thurman, Richmond, Kentucky; great-grandson Jax Watkins, Louisville, Kentucky; brothers Pierce Durham (Masako), Jack Bales (Evelyn), and John Bales (Theresa); and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, Jim, she was preceded in death by her mother Grace Bales; father Pierce Durham; sister Lucille Durham; grandparents "Dear Grannie" Pendleton Johnson, Felix Filo Johnson, and Florence Elaine; brother Michael Bales; granddaughter Lauren Watkins; and daughter-in-law Darlene Watkins.

Fran met Jim while he was playing professional baseball for the Kingsport Cherokees. She later moved to Louisville to marry him in December 1950.

Fran and Jim shared 56 years of marriage.

Fran was employed by American Synthetic Rubber Corporation for 38 years. She worked as secretary and administrative assistant to the president, as well

as sales representative in the sales and marketing departments.

Fran loved to decorate her home, which was featured in the Courier Journal on September 1, 2001. She loved to shop and travel with friends, staying in quaint B&Bs. She was very generous to family and friends and loved to gift surprises.

Expressions of sympathy may be given to the American SIDS Institute, the Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center – Lexington, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Cemetery Details

Louisville Memorial Gardens West

4400 Dixie Hwy
Louisville , KY 40216

Tribute Wall

PI

“*Fran, you provided love to your family. Today you aided Alz and SIDS*

Pierce - August 09, 2020 at 08:31 PM

FM

“*A beautiful person who was so loving and kind to my mother. May God's mercy and peace with you.*

*Love to my Kentucky family.
Aunt Blannie's daughter, Sue Durham Morgan*

florence s morgan - August 06, 2020 at 07:40 PM

AD

“*Alex, Dawn, Jack, and Finn Durham purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Frances "Fran" Emma (Durham) Watkins.*



Alex, Dawn, Jack, and Finn Durham - August 06, 2020 at 03:08 PM

MD

“*Fran was always very kind to me. I remember her having great shopping and decorating skills! She was always working on a project. May she Rest In Peace, much love and hugs to the family.*
Marsha Dawson

Marsha Dawson - August 05, 2020 at 05:58 PM

CI

*I'll always remember Fran for the way she provided for her family. She was very giving to her children and grandchildren. She loved Christmas and made many holidays very special for her family. I remember Jim always had lots of presents to wrap as she gave plenty. I am smiling now thinking about her being joined with Jim again, and in peace.
Love and comfort to Tom, Kay and all the grandchildren.
Cindy*

Cindy - August 05, 2020 at 07:14 PM

BB

“ I have such fond memories of my Aunt Fran. Our house was always full of excitement in anticipation of one of her visits to Kingsport. She was always present for the big life events, even traveling across the country to attend my wedding in Arizona. Where she was, of course, a big hit with all my friends. Nephew Ben Bales, C. C. , Callan and Raewynn Bales.

Ben Bales - August 05, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frances "Fran" Emma (Durham) Watkins.



August 05, 2020 at 05:08 PM

JB

“ My fond memory of Fran is when she shared with me my joy of moving into my new home in Lexington .

Janice Bentley - August 05, 2020 at 11:00 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Frances "Fran" Emma (Durham) Watkins.



August 05, 2020 at 10:50 AM