

MARGARET FRANCIS OBITUARY

FRANCIS, MARGARET ANN (EDWARDS) age 87 of Knoxville passed away Saturday, February 27, 2010. She was born in Peoria, IL on November 16, 1922 to Elmer and Mary (Byrnes) Edwards. Preceded in death by her husband James, son John, sisters Florence Edwards and Blanche Heinz, and brothers Francis and George Edwards and brother-in-law Stanley Gilles. Survived by sister Bonnie Gilles; sister-in-law Mary Edwards; and brother-in-law Norvin Heinz. She will be greatly missed by her daughters Peggy (Robert) Phares and Elizabeth (Gary) Lady of Knoxville; Rebecca (Jan) Levenson of Charleston, WV, Kathryn (Paul) Brecht of Pittsburgh, PA, Jennifer (Ted) Brady of Westlake, OH; and son James Francis of Knoxville, TN and his fiancée Kim Sankowski of Toledo, OH; grandchildren Melissa Phares (Johnny Wells), Charles (Julie) Phares, and Allison Phares of Seattle, WA, Kristi (Gary) Gloeckl, Gabe Brecht and his fiancée Rachel Aul of Pittsburgh, PA, Amanda Lady of Atlanta, GA, Michael, Neil, and Patrick Brady of Westlake, OH; and Sean Levenson of Charleston, WV; great-grand-daughters Morgan and Riley Gloeckl of Pittsburgh, PA. A graduate of Bradley University in Peoria, IL, Margaret enjoyed a varied career working for Caterpillar Tractor Co., the US Dept. of Agriculture, and as an American Airline Stewardess before marrying U. S. Army Corporal James Francis (at All Saints Catholic Church in Ft. Worth, Texas) and then devoting herself to raising their seven children.

She later worked nineteen years for the US Office of Mine Safety retiring when she was seventy-nine. She was an active member of the Democratic Party, an avid fan of UT football and NASCAR, and a member of All Saints Catholic Church. For the last four years her home was Heritage Assisted Living on South Peters Road where she enjoyed the company of the staff and other residents. Funeral services will be Tuesday, March 2nd, in the Highland Memorial Funeral Home Chapel on Kingston pike at 10:30am with Father Michael Woods officiating; Visitation will begin at 9:30am.

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