



Frances A. Crain

July 11, 1932 - November 27, 2024

Mrs. Frances Ann Crain (née Buck), 92, of Rosendale, passed away peacefully and into the arms of the Lord in the afternoon on Wednesday, 27 November 2024, at LakeHouse Fond du Lac.

Frances was born on 11 July 1932 at Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah, WI, to Charles Foster Buck and Lydia Eleanor Buck (née Lang), the youngest child of four children. Raised in Menasha, WI, Frances was baptized and received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation at St. Mary's Parish in Menasha. She also attended St. Mary's Central Catholic High School where she studied with her most cherished, lifelong friends, graduating in 1950. Following high school, she matriculated to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh where she worked her way through college and received many university degrees, including her bachelor's degrees in history and English in 1954 and her master's degree in education in 1967. Also while enrolled at UW-Oshkosh, she met her future husband, Ralph Mark Crain, Jr., while playing oboe in the university wind ensemble, eventually marrying him at St. Mary's in Menasha in August 1955 and teaching alongside him for many years.

Over the course of five decades beginning in the 1950s, Frances was a dedicated educator at the secondary and middle school levels, starting her career in 1954 at Brandon High School and then shortly thereafter moving to

Rosendale High School where she taught numerous subjects. Her influence extended outside the classroom, too, as she was actively involved in many extracurricular student activities like theater, athletics, yearbook, and music. Frances briefly left teaching to concentrate on raising her son, Timothy Mark, but returned to teach math and science at St. Patrick's School, Fond du Lac, upon the death of her husband in March 1977. From there she took one final position at Rosendale Middle School in the very same room she taught in at Rosendale High School, teaching Language Arts until her retirement in 1994. Upon retiring, she became a member of the Retired Educators of Fond du Lac, serving on many committees for the organization. Education was her passion in life, and no one was more dedicated to her profession than she was. She leaves behind a legacy of countless students (including her son) and their descendants in Rosendale and surrounding communities.

Outside of her professional life, Frances was actively involved as a volunteer in charitable organizations in the community of Rosendale and others. Most notably, she served on the Rosendale Village Board in various capacities for 22 years. She was a founding member of the Volunteer Center in Fond du Lac, serving as secretary and treasurer. In Rosendale, she was a founding member, treasurer, and member of the board of directors of the Rosendale Historical Society. Frances also volunteered on Friday afternoons for many years with Broken Bread Food Pantry in Fond du Lac, distributing groceries to those in need. She also spent time as a community volunteer at Tower View Assisted Living in Rosendale. Frances loved the communities of Rosendale and Eldorado and the neighborly way everyone looked out for one another.

Above all, Frances lived her Christianity with her lifelong devotion to the Catholic faith and her service work to the larger Christian community. While living in Rosendale, Frances was a dedicated member of St. Mary's and St. John's Parish in Eldorado and Woodhull (now incorporated into Holy Family of Fond du Lac). When St. Mary's was closed in 1997 she served as the last

trustee of the parish. She remained as sexton of the cemetery until her health did not permit her to continue. She regularly participated as a Eucharistic minister, Liturgical reader, and the Confirmation catechist in the parishes. Frances also was a member of the church council for Our Risen Savior Parish, the Bereavement Society, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Frances enjoyed her many other passions in life. Perhaps what she will be most remembered for are her remarkable handstitched quilts, but she was also a skilled knitter, crocheter, and rug maker. She taught these crafts and made quilts and sweaters for the Christ Child Society, as well. Frances also was an avid traveler.

Her family, however, gave her the most joy. Frances is survived by her only child, Dr. Timothy Mark Crain, of Tyngsboro, MA, and her two beloved granddaughters, Ava Marguerite Frances Crain, 16, and Charlotte Elizabeth Crain, 13, also of Tyngsboro, MA. Nothing gave Frances more pleasure than watching her granddaughters grow and succeed in their young lives.

She is preceded in death by both her parents, her three brothers and sisters-in-law: Alan (Mary Jane), George, and Charles (Joyce) Buck, her father and mother-in law: Ralph Mark Crain, Sr., and Esther Crain (née Yanke), her brothers and sisters-in law and their spouses: Virginia, Robert (June), Donald (Gladys), Mary (G. Howard) Schroeder, Patricia, Richard, and James (Margot): and several other family members. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, God children, further relatives, and so many wonderful friends.

VISITATION: Tim and his daughters will greet family and friends from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 December 2024, at Our Risen Savior Catholic Church, N 6499 County Road Y, Eldorado, WI. A Memorial Mass of Christian

Burial will occur after visitation at the church, followed by burial at Calvary Cemetery, 686 Fond du Lac Avenue, Fond du Lac, WI.

In lieu of flowers, memorials would be appreciated by the family for the establishment of a scholarship fund dedicated to Frances with the intention of assisting future educators from the Rosendale-Brandon School District in their post-secondary education.

The family extends their deepest appreciation to the friends, family, and health care workers at LakeHouse Fond du Lac and Aurora Hospice for all the love, companionship, and care given to Frances over the years.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

686 Fond du Lac Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Our Risen Savior Catholic Church
N6499 County Road Y
Woodhull, WI

Funeral Mass

DEC 17. 11:30 AM (CT)

Our Risen Savior Catholic Church
N6499 County Road Y
Woodhull, WI

Tribute Wall

AS

“ *She was my seventh and eighth grade teacher at Saint Patrick's school, In the 70s. She was my favorite teacher and she taught me how to crochet. I always wondered about her through the years and I actually tried to find her on the internet but no success. I am sorry for your loss and she will always be remembered.*

Ann Simon - December 17, 2024 at 11:09 PM

TC

Thank you, Ann, for sharing your memory of Mom. I know she was at St. Pat's for a short time, but I do know she loved it there. --Tim

Timothy Mark Crain - December 27, 2024 at 10:04 AM

PK

“ *Hi Tim,
I don't believe I've seen you since you were a little boy so you might not remember me. I'm Jodi Crain's cousin, Patti Lane originally from FDL. I'm so glad Jodi & Drew were able to visit your mom a few months ago. I have fond memories of your folks. When our families got together, they were always so nice to me. My mom, Marguerite LaPine was A. June's sister. I'm sending my thoughts, prayers & sympathy to you, your daughters and the Crain family. Take care.*

*Patti LaPine Kulaga
North Las Vegas, NV*

Patti Lane LaPine Kulaga - December 15, 2024 at 05:37 PM

TC

Thank you for the memories and kind words, Patti! It is very much appreciated. --Tim

Timothy Mark Crain - December 27, 2024 at 10:01 AM

JL

“ *Fran Crain's Family-*

My Broken Bread comrade for over 25 years. We always had a date for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. We talked about current events, politics and family. I will forever miss her.

Jean Lamers

Jean lamers - December 13, 2024 at 04:38 PM

TC

Thank you, Mrs. Lamers, for posting your memories of Mom. She always looked forward to her time volunteering at Broken Bread and being around all the folks there.

Tim Crain - December 15, 2024 at 04:27 AM

AW

“ *My sympathy to the families. I had Mrs. Crain for Language Arts and I had the honor of being awarded the Ralph Crain Memorial Award for band.*

Angela Weigel - December 09, 2024 at 12:57 PM

TC

Thank you, Angela, for your kind words. They mean a lot to my daughters and me. --Tim

Tim Crain - December 11, 2024 at 04:23 AM

JB

“ *My sincere condolences for your loss. I have fond memories of Frances and Ralph.*

Jim Buteyn - December 06, 2024 at 05:45 PM

TC

Thank you, Mr. Buteyn! Your words mean a lot to me. --Tim

Tim Crain - December 08, 2024 at 09:57 AM

VS

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Fran's passing--she was my h.s. English teacher and since she & I both returned to Fond du Lac in 2017, she & I had many chats about students I had lost contact with with my being out of state for 50 years. I will greatly miss those chats.

Vivian Starr - December 06, 2024 at 05:38 PM

TC

*Thank you, Vivian! I know that Mom loved to have her chats with you. -
-Tim*

Tim Crain - December 08, 2024 at 09:58 AM

NP

Hello Tim, I was just looking up your Mom's address to send a Christmas card. For a long time I talked with her on the phone. This year has been hard. Wayne has been sick for much of the year and died on Sept 28. We had so many happy memories of you and your mom. I'm so grateful for our recent chats. She was to proud of you and your girls.

Nancy Paulson - December 09, 2024 at 09:34 PM

NP

Hey Tim! Me again, I just reread my not (she was SO proud of you - not too proud)

Nancy Paulson - December 09, 2024 at 09:36 PM

TC

Thank you, Mys. Paulson, for being such an important person in Mom's life. Your, Mr. Paulson's, and your parents presence in our lives is truly a blessing. --Tim

Tim Crain - December 11, 2024 at 04:25 AM

MD

Dear cousin Tim, Ava and Charlotte. I just read Aunt Fran's obituary today as it got lost in my Spam folder. What an accomplished lady and community activist she was throughout her well-lived life. I will miss our phone conversations and her sage advice. She loved the three of you so much. You are lucky to have her as a mom.

I cannot attend tomorrow's service however I will be happy to contribute to the school and students she dedicated so much of her energy to over the years.

Micki and Wayne Day - December 16, 2024 at 08:53 PM