



## Mary Frances Speakes

July 31, 1920 - April 20, 2016

Mary Frances Speakes, 95 year old resident of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died April 20, 2016 in her home. Born July 31, 1920 in Siloam Springs, she was the daughter of Francis Irl and Beulah Mary Speakes. She graduated from Siloam Springs High School in 1937. Mary Frances then graduated from John Brown University soon after with a degree in Music. She taught music in the Siloam Springs Elementary School for 42 years. Mary Frances also taught piano lessons for 65 years and played the organ at First Baptist Church in Siloam Springs for 55 years. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Siloam Springs, a member of the Arkansas Teachers Association, and the Benton County Retired Teachers Association.

She is survived by one cousin, Olta Jo Hicks and husband Joel of Little Rock, Arkansas, and their family.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 29, 2016 at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, with Dr. Steve Abbott officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery, Siloam Springs. Visitation will be 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, April 28, 2016 at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church Mission Fund or the Siloam Springs High School Scholarship Fund.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

2122 W. University St.  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **28**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home  
441 U.S. 412  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761  
(479) 524-5131  
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

## Service

APR **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home  
441 U.S. 412  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761  
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# Tribute Wall



“ 40 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasson Funeral Home - April 27, 2016 at 02:15 PM

CS

“ A great teacher I remember fondly. My condolences to the family.

Charles Sumner - April 26, 2016 at 10:40 PM

SS

*My heart is heavy that a dear sweet ladies funeral is today & I did not know it. She played for our choir and ensemble all through my Jr High & Sr Sr High choir at First Baptist in Siloam. Even as a small child I'd always admired her dedication and I really can't remember a service she missed playing.*

*May she rest in the arms of Jesus & play for His choirs! Peace Mrs. Speaks, peace. Say Hi to my Parents for me.*

Sharon Pickle Semtner - April 29, 2016 at 12:55 PM

BF

“ My first memory of Mary Frances is 1963 in the Central Elementary building. She was so kind and patient with all her students, even us silly little boys when we were not deserving of it. She touched many lives throughout her life and left many good memories. She was a good lady, teacher, neighbor and friend. God Bless You Miss Speakes.

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**Bill Staggs and family** - April 25, 2016 at 12:43 PM

GD

“ Miss Speakes was a very important lady in my life. She was my elementary school music teacher as well as my piano teacher for 12 years! I spent many hours with her as she prepared me for recitals and music contests. A very sweet and talented lady! Blessings to her family.

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**Genelle Gammill Dudley** - April 23, 2016 at 02:57 PM

JG

“ Mary Frances was my organist while I served as Minister of Music at FBC, Siloam Springs. I came there straight out of college and she was so helpful to get me started on the right foot of ministry. She was always prepared and her love of people and music was her ministry all of those years in Siloam. She loved the organ and was good at leading worship from that bench.

*Thank you Mary Frances for the many hours of teaching us to sing praises and worship at First Baptist Church.*

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**John and Kaye Gardner** - April 23, 2016 at 11:42 AM

MR

“ I have fond memories of Miss Speaks from my school memories in the early 50's. I also visited her several times to visit about Siloam history and to give her copies of old Siloam springs photos. She was always interested and fun to visit with.

*Michael Rapp*

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**Michael Rapp** - April 23, 2016 at 09:12 AM

RS

“ My parents paid such a small amount, a mere \$1.25 per lesson, for the immeasurable privilege and numerous hours of music pleasure she gave me, my family and friends since my first lesson almost 50 years ago. She had no idea the many pianos these small hands (that still can barely reach an octave) would play, from Siloam Springs to the United Kingdom. Thank you. Play on, Mary Frances. Till the trumpet sounds, play on.

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**Rita Sutterfield** - April 22, 2016 at 11:42 PM

KF

“ I have known Miss Speakes since we moved to Arkansas almost 40 years ago. She was our neighbor, my piano teacher, and a very special person to my family. I can remember many days playing outside and being able to hear her practicing her hymns on the organ. She loved music and enjoyed sharing her gift with those around her. She cared very much for all her former students and was always quick to tell a special story from her days of teaching. My prayers are with her family and friends. I am sure she is filling heaven with her beautiful music now!!

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**Kathy Blank Ferguson** - April 22, 2016 at 07:59 PM

SW

“ Mary and her family lived east of Siloam Springs and grew Concord grapes among other farm produce. While I lovingly remember Mary Frances as a wonderful teacher whose instruction I still remember with every orchestral work I hear, I remember more my recently passed mother taking me out to the Speaks farm to pick up a couple of bushels of Concord grapes to be pressed into grape juice later. The trip took half an afternoon because of the long, and for me, tedious, conversations and laughs that took place. Mary Frances taught music at the old Central Elementary while I was there from 1958 to 1963. In the five years I was there, I don't think there was ever a person who had a hard word for her and not a single person was left out of the holiday program. We were lucky.

Shane Woolbright - April 22, 2016 at 05:35 PM

TH

“ Oh, my grandmother's dear friend and my music teacher. I hope you know how much we loved your organ playing at First Baptist. Blessings to you in heaven, Ms. Speakes.

Tina Price Hart - April 22, 2016 at 04:57 PM



“ She was a very kind teacher n a nice lady. I will miss her very much!

Malissa Whaler - April 22, 2016 at 04:13 PM

RE

“ She was such a thoughtful teacher. I will never forget her. Years after I was in her music class, she surprised me with a scholarship my senior year. I couldn't believe she remembered such a shy quiet kid after so many years. It was the scholarship I was most proud of.

Renee - April 22, 2016 at 02:29 PM

RE

“ *She was a great lady.*



Reba - April 21, 2016 at 08:38 PM

GH

“ *Often times you think about your teachers. This lady was my music teacher and she also taught my girls, they thought it was neat that we had the same music teacher. She always had that smile. She will be missed.*

Georgenia Robison Harris - April 21, 2016 at 06:09 AM

LJ

“ *Mrs. Speaks was my 4th grade teacher and of course our music teacher. I have good memories having been a student of hers. Always have remembered her over the years. So sad to hear of her passing, but thankful she was blessed with a long successful life of what she enjoyed - teaching music and especially piano.*

*My deepest sympathy to the family,  
Louise (Ward) Jennings Class 1962*

Louise Jennings - April 20, 2016 at 10:10 PM



*She was an AWESOME MUSIC TEACHER! !! Praying x for her family and friends and Student's..May GOD BLESS her family #class of 1995*

Laci Johnson Smith - April 23, 2016 at 06:36 AM

SB

*Mary Francis was my 3rd grade music teacher at Central Elementary. She was so kind to us as Terry and I came late in the school year. I loved being in her music class; especially when there was a fire drill as we got to slide down that silver cylinder from the top floor!! I taught school with her, and she played the organ at my wedding. She was my parents' neighbor for many years. She was a special lady.*

*Sherry Studards Bass*

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**Sherry Studards Bass** - April 26, 2016 at 02:58 PM