

Frances Brown Allen



ALLEN, Frances Brown FRANCES BROWN ALLEN was born in the parsonage of her grandfather, The Reverend F.D. Dawson on March 19, 1935 in Crockett, Texas. She died on January 18, 2019 in Austin. As a child, she and her mother, Stella Merle Dawson and her father, Travis W. Brown Jr. travelled together as he surveyed many, many miles of Texas for the Texas Highway Department. During WWII, while Travis was on naval deployment, Frances and Stella Merle lived in Del Rio, Texas. She had many wonderful experiences growing up and always loved the Brown family, who have lived in Del Rio for many generations. Once the war ended, they returned to Austin to live in the GI Village along the banks of the Colorado River. Frances attended Baker Junior High where she met the girls who would become the remarkable women of the "The Baker Bunch," a steadfast group of friends who would accompany Frances through every phase of her vivacious, purpose-driven life. She was a proud alumna of Austin High School, Class of '53, and took an active role in planning reunions and gatherings, including their most recent 65-year class reunion. She graduated from University of Texas with a BS degree in Home Economics. She joined the Delta chapter of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority, an organization which she would continue to guide and mentor for many years to come. Frances taught Home Economics for 20 years at John H. Reagan High School, where she served as Hospitality Chair for 15 years, and spent 8 years on the Vocational Home Economics Board. She found teaching to be a very valuable, productive and rewarding career and fondly remembered both faculty and students. Neighborhood work was her passion after retiring. Her projects include nearly 30 years focused on Noise Abatement Walls for the neighborhoods surrounding MoPac, serving 10 years on the Highland Park Neighborhood Association, hosting Neighbors Night Out for over 25 years as well as work with the Funeral Consumers Alliance, and Capital City Village. She cherished many friendships including the "Baker Bunch" (friends since Jr. High), the Befrienders (Ladies from First United Methodist Church), her AHS friends and her ADPi friends, and dear friends Lois and Tina. And Donna, project assistant who helped her "age in place". She tended a lush, leafy garden in the backyard of her home with the same diligence and care she brought to every endeavor in her life. The landscape she has cultivated bears the hallmarks of her nature: a space to gather together and visit a little while. Frances is survived by her children Kathy Sederholm and Jack Allen (Joan), her sister Lynn Dieli (Robert), her two nieces, three grand children and four great grand children. Frances will be remembered for her great love of family, friends and community. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 16th 2:00pm at Gather Venues North, 5540 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin Texas. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity, or to your local Funeral Consumers Alliance.

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