



Clara Ann French

APR 9, 1932 - JUL 31, 2012



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Decatur-Clara Ann French, 80, of Decatur passed away Tuesday, July 31, 2012 in St. Mary's Hospital.

Visitation to celebrate Clara's life will be from 9-10:30 a.m. followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, August 2, 2012 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 2400 S. Franklin St. Decatur, with Fr. Joe Molloy, Celebrant. Burial with 'Flight Home' Ceremony will be in Mt. Gilead Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to Holy Family School or the Alzheimer's Association.

Clara was born April 9, 1932 in Breese, Illinois, the daughter of Fred and Pauline (Seelhofer) Gebke. Her sister Rose and her chose to be in the restaurant business with the Lebanon Inn in Lebanon, Illinois. They made many friends there. She married Basil French February 20, 1952 in Lebanon. After marriage she stayed at home and took good care of her husband and four sons until her sons were out of high school. Then she worked at St. Mary's Hospital for a few years. Later she worked in child care. She was a charter member of Holy Family Catholic Church.

She leaves behind her husband Basil of Decatur, sons Larry French and wife Pam of Carson City, Nevada, Jeff French and wife Denise of Decatur, Philip French of Normal, and Ron French and wife Donna of Omaha, Nebraska, sister Rose Alexander of Melbourne, Florida, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the nurses and staff on the 2nd and 7th floor at St. Mary's Hospital for all of their loving care.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and a friend to all who met her. We will all miss her greatly.

The family of Clara Ann French is being served by the Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur, IL. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.



Tribute Wall

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YU

Yuuko posted:

I just wished to cetrae a quick comment in an effort to express gratitude for you for anyone wonderful pointers you are posting at this site. My time consuming internet investigation has in the end through the day been rewarded with high-quality ways of show to my guests. I will say that a number of us prospects are really endowed to happens to a wonderful network with very many marvellous people who have useful hints. I find myself quite privileged to get used your webpages and look toward really more fabulous minutes reading here. Thank you for a number of things.

October 11 at 6:21 AM

SW

Sarah Washburn posted:

Grandma,You have greatly shaped the woman that I have become. I have so many memories from my childhood that I will forever cherish. You taught me crochet, how to bake cookies,embroidery, and many other things. Unfortunately I was unable to acquire your green thumb, but you did try! You also taught me that Little Debbie snack cakes aren't so bad if coupled with an apple! Above all you showed me kindness, warmth, and unconditional love. I have such great respect for you in the way you raised Dad and my uncles and I hope I can be half the mother to my boys that you were to yours. You are an exceptional woman that I was always so proud to call my grandmother. May you be at peace and know that I will always hold you in my heart.

August 3 at 6:10 PM

LF

Lisa Gheen & Family posted:

My fondest memory of Clara is when she took care of me and treated a serious cut I received on my eyebrow when I was about 7 years old. She knew how to close it with a butterfly and calm me when I was deathly afraid of getting stitches. I think I spent almost as much time in her home as I did in my own on some days while gowing up. Even today when I am home visiting, Clara and Basil always welcome my family into their home. She was greatly loved and will be sadly missed. My blessings and sympathy go to the entire French family and I am sorry that we are not able to be there with you today.

August 2 at 10:39 AM

TH

Terry & Sue Hedding posted:

Family of Clara FrenchWe send our condolences & prayers go out to your family in your loss of a loved one.Terry & Sue Hedding

August 2 at 8:28 AM



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Jackie Bender posted:

Basil and Boys (Men) Clara taught me how to make Oatmeal choc. chip cookies. I remember bring over the ingredients and her and I made them, was there long time cause that recipe made 12 dozen cookies. Made those cookies when my kids were growing up, and still do:) I remember staying over night and going to church with you all. The family dinners. Clara was a great cook. She will be missed. Basil I told you before how wonderful that you took such good care of Clara. What a blessing you are. Now She has a new body and remembering everything and is saying thank you Basil well done. Wish I could be with you tomorrow in person but my prayer will be with you all. Love to you all.
Jacs

August 1 at 3:24 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Clara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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