



Marian Bashaw French

April 29, 1932 - December 25, 2021

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home/Valley Funeral Service would like to send condolences to the family of Mrs. Marian French.

Marian Bashaw French, 89, passed away peacefully in her home in Woodstock, Virginia, on Saturday, December 25, 2021. She spent her last Christmas on earth surrounded by her loving children and family.

Marian was born April 29, 1932, in Staunton, Virginia, to Frank Linwood and Virginia Heizer Bashaw. The family relocated to Maurertown in 1936 and ultimately settled on a farm on the banks of the Shenandoah River in 1945. Although Marian resided in Shenandoah County, the entire Valley was her home, and throughout her life, she maintained strong ties to her relatives in Augusta County. She graduated from Woodstock High School in 1949 where she enjoyed the Glee Club and met many of her lifelong friends, including her husband, Francis Douglas (“Doug”) French.

Marian’s life revolved around her family. Growing up an only child, she made the early decision that she wanted a large family. Marian, 18, and Doug, 21, married on July 8, 1950, and the next July welcomed their first daughter. Together they would go on to have another eight children, raising them all on their farm in Saumsville. The nine siblings shared a free-range childhood, balancing their farm chores with many well-remembered shenanigans. Marian’s baking, in particular her bread (with homemade apple butter) and

holiday cookie spread, were locally famous. These treats were in addition to the preparing, canning, and cooking of daily provisions for a family of 11 all year round. Marian and Doug “moved to town” to their home on Church Street in Woodstock in 1992 to care for Marian’s aging mother.

Marian and Doug instilled in their family such a love for the Valley that all nine of their children ultimately settled in Shenandoah County. In addition to bi-weekly Sunday family suppers with her beloved extended French family, Marian served waffles to family and friends at her home every Sunday morning, just as long as you got to the table before 10 o'clock when she had to leave for church. Prioritizing these frequent gatherings cultivated the close family bonds that continue to tie the family together across generations and distances.

After serving waffles, Marian would head three blocks South to the Woodstock Presbyterian Church, where she was the longest attending member at the time of her passing. Strong in her belief, Marian’s operatic alto welcomed the seasons of her faith and celebrated the Lord with exuberant joy during her 75 years in the choir, starting as a child member. Family and local Presbyterians remember her talents fondly, never wanting to miss the Christmas Eve services featuring her impressive rendition of “O’ Holy Night.” She also sang with the local Masterwork Chorus for many years and was a strong supporter of the arts.

Once her youngest child reached middle school she got her realtor’s license and welcomed many Valley residents to their new homes. She was a co-owner and broker of Valley Real Estate for nearly three decades, primarily serving Shenandoah and Page Counties. In 1998 She was elected President of the Massanutten Association of Realtors. She also served as a director of the Valley Conservation Council, and served on the board of directors of Response for many years.

In her younger years, Marian was active in the garden club and the home demonstration club, and she was a strong advocate for local farming her entire life. She was proud to be the wife and mother of farmers who were stewards of the land. She worked to have French Brother's Dairy designated as a Virginia Century Farm in 2016.

Marian balanced her many responsibilities with seemingly effortless grace, giving joyfully of her time and talents. In recognition of her many contributions to her community, she was awarded the Joseph Clower Community Service Award in 2018 by the Woodstock Rotary Club.

In her final years, Marian was surrounded by her family, with her children and grandchildren visiting daily. She enjoyed frequent drives to her homeplace, her childhood neighborhood in Maurertown, and among the farms throughout central Shenandoah County. She dearly loved the agricultural heritage of the Valley and in 2005 placed her family farm in a conservation easement to ensure it would be protected for generations to come.

In the days since her passing, her family has been humbled by the stories and memories shared by friends and family far and wide. It is clear that Marian's legacy of love and kindness has had—and will continue to have—a profound ripple effect. She was like a mother and grandmother to so many, and almost without exception, they remember her amazing smile and unconditional love. Marian Bashaw French was a role model for faithful living and graceful aging, the epitome of the wife described in Proverbs 31: "And her children rise up to call her blessed." (Proverbs 31:28).

In addition to her parents and husband, Doug, she was preceded in death by son-in-law, Larry Long, grandson Alex Logan, great-grandson Noah Long,

brothers- and sisters-in-law Warren and Pat French, Millson & Doris French, James B. Randel, Ellen and Cliff Fuller, Orrin French, Lena and Bob Fuller, and Sally Weber.

She is survived by her nine children: Carolyn Long, Dee-Dee Logan (Bill), Dougie French (Shirley), Martin French (Fabiana), Christina Price (Al), Billy French (Anne), Amy Barbour (Steve), Shelley Schechtel (Pete), Timmy French (Heather).

She is also survived by her 39 grandchildren: Matthew Long, Adam Long (Lisa), Emma Garber (Brooks), Taylor Long, Billy Logan, III (Taryn), Olivia Meadows, Chad Logan (Rachel), Daniel Logan (Keisha), Andrew Giordani (Samantha), Trip French (Jenna), Hubbel French (Jessica), Allie Coffey (Brandon), Marty French, Bobby French (Ashley), Katie Beth Polk (Kyle), Mel Shtanko, Ennedi Waybright (Adam), Karsten Shtanko, AJ Price (Heather), Caleb Price (Jaime), Mariah Temkin (David), French Price, William French, Kathleen Michael (Eric), Virginia Funk (Hunter), Thomas French, Claire Wightman (Brett), Sam Barbour, Lander Barbour, Molly Dunivan (DJ), Hannah Schechtel, Abbey Beinke (Daniel), John Paul Schechtel (Michael), Emma Schechtel, Sarah Grace Schechtel, Marian Schechtel, Tyler French, Tabb French, Trey French.

She is further survived by her 42 great-grandchildren: Francis Long, Brooks Garber, Pierson Garber, Cole Logan, Camryn Logan, Isabella Meadows, Kennedy Meadows, Cora Logan, Caroline Logan, Jack Logan, Zander Schlademan, Zoey Schlademan, Delaney Logan, Delilah Logan, Delcie Logan, Madelyn Giordani, Scarlett Giordani, Kellen French, Asher French, Jackson French, Remi French, Brentley Coffey, Wyatt Coffey, Immie Coffey, Abigayle Plaughter, Bobby French Jr., Owen French, Sawyer Polk, Dawsyn Polk, Saylor Polk, Olivia Waybright, Xela Shtanko, Bodhi Waybright, Veda Price, Clark Temkin, Grace Michael, Hope Michael, Millie Wightman, Hattie

Wightman, Eliza Wightman, Holmes Dunivan, Maddox Dunivan.

Additionally, she is survived by her sisters-in-law, Emma Randel and Joyce French, her brother-in-law, John Weber, and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

All who wish to pay their respects to Marian may visit at Heishman Valley Funeral Chapel, 14116 S. Middle Rd., Edinburg, Virginia, on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, from 9 a.m to 5 p.m. Family night will then take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Woodstock Presbyterian Church, 142 E. Court St.

There will be a funeral service for those who feel comfortable attending at Woodstock Presbyterian Church at 11 a.m., Wednesday, December 29th. The service will also be live-streamed on the Woodstock Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Interment will follow at Massanutten Cemetery, Woodstock. Pallbearers will be Marian's grandchildren.

The family is grateful for the care provided by Capital Caring Hospice and Blue Ridge Hospice during her final days. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Marian's honor may be made to any hospice organization.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **28**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Woodstock Presbyterian Church
142 E. Court Street
Woodstock, VA 22664

Funeral Service

DEC **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Woodstock Presbyterian Church
142 E. Court Street
Woodstock, VA 22664

Tribute Wall



“ *Heishman Funeral Home, Inc. | Heishman Funeral Service & Valley Funeral Service created a Webcast in memory of Marian Bashaw French*



Heishman/ Valley Funeral Service - January 28, 2022 at 09:14 AM



“ *Marian Bashaw French*

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ *Marian Bashaw French*

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM

EM

“ I was so sorry to hear of Marian's passing. I have such fond memories of her in the community, but more particularly in the Presbyterian Church with her family and also when her beautiful voice marked milestones such as weddings in our family's life as well as those of others. Sending condolences to the many family members and friends whose life she touched and shaped through her own loving, happy spirit. Thinking of you all and remembering her with great fondness.

Eva Beasley McManus

Eva Beasley McManus - January 02, 2022 at 03:31 PM

JC

“ Thank you to the whole Marion French Family for allowing me to be a part of this Service. God is Good. He is Gracious. He is Love. There are times when He allows His Love to break through and shine with Magnificent Brightness. That Brightness was apparent in the Life of Marion. The world turns from the Light. It is uncomfortable in the Light. She was a true disciple the Light shone in her heart in her deeds, and in her works. Thank God for her, for her Life and for the Gift of Grace that allowed us to be a witness to her. Amen.

John B. Cooper - December 30, 2021 at 03:35 PM



“ My mother Hannah Gallier grew up with Marian. They were close friends. I will never forget the first time Mom took me to visit from Richmond and what a different world I walked into. The whole house smelled of homemade bread. Children every where. A barn that we made tunnels in the hay and put glow in the dark paint on our faces so we could avoid head on collisions in the tunnels. A swing in the barn to use to jump into the hay that I managed to get the wind knocked out of me on. Bees in a glass wall making honey in the house. In the middle of all of this excitement Marian had this calming effect like an angel with a big grin and a lovely sweet accent welcoming everyone into her home even though she was managing to do a million tasks at once with ease. I fell in love with the whole scene. She was an amazing women and everyone who met her loved her. How could you not? I am so sorry for everyone's loss on earth and happy for heaven to have another special angel to reunite with her friends and family that have passed over.

Jill Gallier-Durand - December 30, 2021 at 11:41 AM

JL

“ Thinking and praying for you all.

Jonathan Lamb - December 30, 2021 at 06:37 AM

PS

“ I will always remember the first time I heard her beautiful voice singing The Lord's Prayer. My heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family!

Pat (Trish) Snyder

Pat Snyder - December 30, 2021 at 01:07 AM

SK

“ We pray that God bless this awesome family as they celebrate the life of Marion French. She was always such a positive person who lived life to the full. We are glad to have known Marion and several family members . Family was her pride n joy. Comfort n Peace to you all. Arlen n Sue Kanagy

Sue Kanagy - December 29, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marian Bashaw French.



December 28, 2021 at 08:10 PM

JC

“ I will always remember her infectious smile and her contagious laugh. She was always a happy soul. May she rest in peace.
Judy Crump

Judy Crump - December 28, 2021 at 08:08 PM

BW

Mrs French was a wonderful lady. She always was smiling and knew you where ever she saw you. So happy I was able to watch the wonderful service.
Love to all her family.
Becky and Richard Walker

Becky Walker - December 29, 2021 at 01:03 PM

MG

“ *Marian French was such a bright spot in life. She could always add sunshine and love. I know she was loved by many and she loved so many, especially her family. My deepest condolences to all her family.*

Melanie Gardner - December 28, 2021 at 06:41 PM

NS

“ *Prayers of sympathy to the family on the loss of such a wonderful woman with a presence and heart as big as her radiant smile. With love from the Santry family- Nancy, Robbie, Bre, Lily, Luna and Ryan*

Nancy Santry - December 28, 2021 at 05:34 PM

BO

“ *I was deeply saddened to hear the news of my dear friend Marian, I have so many great memories of her, all the way back to our school days. I know she's in the arms of angels now and her beautiful smile is beaming in heaven. My heart goes out to all the family, you're all in my thoughts and prayers,
Love,
Betty Offman*

Betty Offman - December 28, 2021 at 05:22 PM

JB

“ *My condolences to her family and her many friends. While I didn't know her personally, I knew about her from many other people whose lives she touched over the years. She was a blessing to the community and her absence will be felt for a long time.*

Judy Ryman Bauserman - December 28, 2021 at 04:56 PM

DC

“ Prayers and love go out to Marian's family. She will be missed but never forgotten. Even my kids say "I like that lady so much".

Debra Miller Cline - December 28, 2021 at 04:07 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marian Bashaw French.



December 28, 2021 at 03:40 PM

JR

“ I would not even know where to begin to share a memory of Marian French. She was always smiling and or laughing, she had a personality bigger than life!! She was a very hard worker and was dedicated to her large family. We know all of you in one way or another. We are sending our sincerest sympathy to the entire family. Marian's memories will go on forever!! Thinking of all the family, Janice & Kenny Ryman

Janice & Kenny Ryman - December 28, 2021 at 03:26 PM

NC

“ I will always remember Marian as a kind and caring person who was an inspiration to her wonderful family and others who came to know her over the years. I feel very blessed to have known her and her beautiful family. May God's presence be a comfort to all the family in their time of grief and may they feel God's love for them through the life of someone very dear to each of them.

Nancy C.O'Rear - December 28, 2021 at 02:43 PM

MB

“ Mike, Deb, Brett, Ryan & Brady Barr purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Marian Bashaw French.



Mike, Deb, Brett, Ryan & Brady Barr - December 28, 2021 at 11:07 AM

BL

“ I am Barbara Bushong Lea I remember so vividly Mariam singing as an adult in church. Her voice was very beautiful and uplifting and her smile was infectious to behold. Our deepest condolences to the entire French family may your memories of her comfort your soul.

Barbara Bushong Lee - December 28, 2021 at 10:24 AM

BS

“ Marian was an amazing lady - when she was President of the Massanutten Board of Realtors, I was her counterpart At the Blue Ridge Association of Realtors. I loved and treasured her dynamic personality and friendship. My condolences to all her dear ones. She will be missed.

BettyVonn Snapp - December 28, 2021 at 09:00 AM

MW

“ Our condolences to the French family in the passing of their loved one, Marian. We purchased our house in Maurertown in the early 70's from her when she was selling real estate. She was such a sweet and friendly lady who always carried a warm smile.

Mike & Linda Wilkins - December 27, 2021 at 10:33 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marian Bashaw French.*



December 27, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers with the family at this time. Marian was a very special lady who loved her family, church, and community. She always had a beautiful smile and could sing beautifully. May wonderful memories give the family comfort. Love, Marie and Freddie Feller.*

Marie Feller - December 27, 2021 at 08:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marian Bashaw French.*



December 27, 2021 at 07:26 PM



“ *There are no words to explain what Marian means to me. She has always welcomed me as family, she is full of grace, love, unconditional acceptance and beautiful inside and out! Marian taught me so much by sharing her wisdom and by example. I will forever miss her! All my love to the family!*

Grace Farmer - December 27, 2021 at 07:19 PM

JB

“Marian was a dear sweet lady who always wore a smile. I saw her as the Matriarch of her family. May God comfort her family in her loss and give them strength and peace during this difficult time. Prayers for the family. Sam and Jeanie Bowman.

Jeanie Bowman - December 27, 2021 at 05:37 PM

SC

“What a beautiful soul inside and out. At the drugstore we enjoyed calling her Maid Marian. Her smile could light up the room. What a privilege to have known her.

Susie (Walker) Childs - December 27, 2021 at 05:11 PM

RD

“Randy And Bobbi Dellinger lit a candle in memory of Marian Bashaw French



Randy and Bobbi Dellinger - December 27, 2021 at 04:43 PM

RD

“What a beautiful obituary. Marian was a wonderful person.

Randy and Bobbi Dellinger - December 27, 2021 at 04:42 PM

LC

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We pray that God will grant you peace and comfort at this most difficult time. Cherish the many memories that you have of your loved one and she will always be near. Sincerely, Larry and Diana Crider

Larry and Diana Crider - December 27, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marian Bashaw French.*



December 27, 2021 at 03:42 PM



“ *The smile and welcoming nature of Marian was incomparable. Her sincerity made a person feel they had made a friend from having just met her. What a legacy she has left in her family, her community . . . the world.*

Marsha snyder - December 27, 2021 at 03:10 PM



“ *Ann Shanholtz lit a candle in memory of Marian Bashaw French*



Ann Shanholtz - December 27, 2021 at 02:30 PM



“ *Pat Brill And Albert lit a candle in memory of Marian Bashaw French*



pat brill and albert - December 27, 2021 at 02:26 PM

DM

“ Prayers to family and friends 🙏 for peace and comfort 🙏❤️

Dianne Maggard - December 27, 2021 at 02:10 PM