



Mary Frances Doyal-Brown

February 27, 1957 - October 19, 2016

Mary Frances Doyal-Brown, our beloved GranMary, 59, of Searcy, died Wednesday, October 19 at her home. She was born February 27, 1957 in Little Rock, the daughter of John and Johnnie Hester.

Mary is survived by her husband, Jerry; a son, Robert Doyal of San Antonio, Texas; two daughters, Melanie Gault and husband Stephen of Beebe and Billi Hall and husband Jeremiah of Guthrie, Oklahoma; another son, Austin Doyal and wife Amber of Enola, Arkansas; five grandchildren, Elzie Gault, Helmsley Gault, Tully Gault, Brooklyn Hall, and Jameson Hall; her father, John Hester; a sister, Jackie Marlow & family; two step daughters, Roxie Minner & family and Lynette Smith & family. She is preceded in death by her mother.

Mary was a Master Gardener, a bee keeper, and a member of the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council. She was also a member of Valley Baptist Church. She enjoyed spending time with her close family and friends; gardening; being outdoors; reading her newspaper in the airplane hangar; canning; fishing; trail riding; sewing; cross-stitching; watching "I Love Lucy" and "Andy Griffith"; and listening to Dolly Parton sing "Coat of Many Colors". Mary loved birds and her dogs.

No services are scheduled. Cremation arrangements by Powell Funeral Home of Searcy.

Tribute Wall



“ *Such a sweet lady I've not seen her in years but I've known her to be a great mother and daughter. I'm sad to hear of her passing. Praying for her family and loved ones*

Shila Covington Kurck - October 24, 2016 at 09:29 PM

AB

“ *Addie Banks lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Doyal-Brown*



Addie Banks - October 24, 2016 at 01:51 PM

BJ

“ *Sorry to hear about you losing your mom. Robert you are in my thoughts and prayers. It is not easy but God can be your strength.*
Barbara Jack

Barbara Jack - October 24, 2016 at 08:04 AM

JH

“ I met Billi at Searcy tire and knew she was something very special. I met Mary when I picked Billi up weeks later for our first date, and knew right away where that something special I saw in Billi came from. Billi and Mary share many of the same great qualities.



Mary and Jerry have always been there for me and I will never forget that. When Billi moved into our new home in Oklahoma and I had to stay in Arkansas for work, GranMary and Jerry Brown didn't hesitate to let me live with them for months until my project was complete. GranMary cared for me like one of her own, washing my clothes, cooking my favorite meals and teaching me about gardening - and so much more. Mary knew how much I loved her punch and I would often find a fresh pitcher in the fridge with a sweet note attached.

I could go on and on retelling fond memories I have with GranMary and I know so many other people feel the same way - she touched a great many of us with her time here. I have no doubt she holds a very special place in heaven, as she does in my heart. I love you very much Mary and I know that we will all be together again one day; and until then I take great comfort in knowing I have her still looking after me.

With All My Love,
Jeremiah

Jeremiah Hall - October 24, 2016 at 07:14 AM

EH

“ Sorry for the loss of Mary. I got to know her through Master Gardeners and always enjoyed visiting with her at the meetings. She also came out to help us out at Pioneer Village at some of our open house events. Praying for her family in this time of loss.

Elizabeth Heard - October 23, 2016 at 06:00 PM

DM

“ I am Billi's mother-in-law. I met sweet Mary Brown March 14, 2008 the day Billi married my son and joined our family. I loved her the moment I met her. We share two precious grandchildren together. Mary had a contagious smile and was one of the kindest people I have ever known. She had a happy and wonderful life. She loved her husband and family and loved being with them any chance she could. She lived her life fully and with purpose. God has called a beautiful soul home. I will forever remember her. I will miss her.
Deana Maxwell

Deana Maxwell - October 22, 2016 at 08:56 PM

JM

“ My sister was a great woman!!! I always told her I wish I could cook and sew as good as her!! She taught me how to can and our trip last year together was special. Mary liked to go nature trail riding and we had gone looking 1 day for Arkansas wild flowers 🌸 we laughed so hard. Our last trip to the woods we picked muscadines and then a few days later she said, "come over and we will go find the possum grapes 🍇 and make some juice, well we did and now I can say our project was completed. We have laughed and cried together and now that she is in her eternal home where no pain no tears are I know I will see my sister again. When I would tell Mary I love you she would always say back "I love ❤️ you more" and I know that she meant it!!!! I will surely miss my sister!!!!

jackie marlow - October 22, 2016 at 09:03 AM

SL

Jackie - I am so sorry for your loss. Sending hugs and prayers your way!

Stacy Ringgold Lindsey - October 22, 2016 at 01:16 PM

SR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are for all of Mary's family and friends. I am so sorry for your loss. Mary was always a delight to be around. Enjoyed the many choir specials that I got to be a part of with her.*



Shari Rogers - October 21, 2016 at 11:19 PM

SS

“ *Shari Scarbrough lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Doyal-Brown*



Shari Scarbrough - October 21, 2016 at 08:54 PM

CT

“ *Robert, Melanie, Billi, Austin & family You are in our thoughts and prayers!! So sorry for loss of your mother!! Scott, Christy(Holt), & Brady Taylor*

Christy Taylor - October 21, 2016 at 06:14 PM

BA

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. Lots of Love & Prayers.

Mary Frances was 3 years old when they moved next door to us. They had formerly lived in Lonoke County but the mosquitoes were bad. I was in the 9th grade (14 years old). The first time I visited Johnnie Mary Frances and Jackie Sue were asleep. Johnnie told me Jackie Sue would go to anybody but Mary Frances wouldn’t. That was not the case! Mary Frances and I hit it off! She would cling to me and I would cling to her. I loved to carry her around. I even took her to school with me the final day of my 9th grade at Jacksonville Junior High School.

Johnnie brought Mary Frances and Jackie Sue to Zion Hill Baptist Church (even though Johnnie was raised a Catholic). When Mary Frances was older she continued to attend ZHBC until they moved to McRae, Arkansas.

Mary Frances had a swing hanging from one of the oak trees on the north side of their driveway. I would push her in the swing and she would sing little songs that she made up. Those were wonderful times together. I was an only child so Mary Frances & Jackie Sue were like my nieces. Love them both

Granny Grunt (Grandmother) Hester worked for the VA. Every day, before Granny Grunt and Daddy-O (Grandpa) Hester built a house and moved next door, Granny Grunt would come out and cook supper for the whole family. They frequently invited me to stay for supper. One meal I loved was Chilli–Tortilla. It was Beef & Pork pieces sautéed then piled on top of 1 can of Corn tortillas torn into quarters and cooked in 2 cans of Ro-tel on a platter. The meat was top with Grated Cheese and Chopped Onions. This was so good!! It was the first Mexican food I had ever eaten and we started cooking it at home.

I remember Mary Frances was an adult when she decided to wear braces on her teeth. She was the first adult I knew of to wear braces. If I remember right Mary was working for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. I had also worked for SWB before my younger children were born.

When Robert & Melanie were little Mary Frances joined Zion Hill Extension Club. I have pictures of Robert & Melanie with my 2

*youngest daughters, America & Alice.
They moved to McRae, into a house where Amish or Mennonites
had lived and there wasn't any electricity in the house and
telephone service ended several miles down the road.
We didn't see each other very often after they moved, but they were
all still in my heart.*

Billie Jean (Goforth) Abbott - October 21, 2016 at 02:21 PM

JM

*Thank u Billie jean for all the great past memories! Yes, those were
very special days for me growing up near all of u and I will miss my
sister but I know I will see her and my momma (Johnnie) which was my
best friend again in heaven!!!!*

jackie marlow - October 22, 2016 at 08:44 AM

CJ

“ *Cathy Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mary
Frances Doyal-Brown*



Cathy Jackson - October 21, 2016 at 12:02 PM

CJ

*Robert, just saw this about your mom, my sympathy to you and family,
please know that we are praying for you in the days to come.*

Cathy Jackson - October 21, 2016 at 12:04 PM

JB

Our Love and Prayers to your Family

Jerry & Janice Burlison - October 22, 2016 at 10:12 AM