



Frances Gay Bryant

November 26, 1939 - July 24, 2016

Her family, our community and a wide world of friends mourn the passing of Gay Bryant who died July 24, 2016 after a courageous struggle with cancer. A community leader and supporter of civic good her entire life, Gay led every organization to which she lent her considerable talents; chairing most, contributing her ideas, expertise and devotion to them all. Gay served consecutively on all three Boards of her beloved Alton Memorial Hospital (Board of Directors, Foundation Board, and White Cross Auxiliary Board). Her ability at creative fund-raising is legend. Equally important to Gay was her dedication to the Episcopal Parish of Alton where she served multiple terms on the Vestry, chaired every imaginable committee, was a constant presence in the kitchen, and directed the church school and youth group for 25+ years. Her involvement with Episcopal Youth at the local level soon drew her into state and national Episcopal Youth Event planning. There are literally hundreds of adults who will

remember today

Gay's steady, firm, fun-loving direction of them when they were teens at these youth events.

Gay was never a member of a group "in name only". To the varied and many organizations

to which she belonged, she contributed her experience and knowledge, served in many

positions of leadership, and was awarded every conceivable award: Alton Children's Theater,

Junior League of Greater Alton, Alton Women's Home, Alton Marketplace, Riverbend Headstart

and Family Services, Alton Community Service League begin a list.

Named a Woman of Distinction by the Alton YWCA, Gay was also tapped by the St. Louis

area as a Woman of Achievement, in part for her careful administration of the Episcopal

Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief monies earmarked for our area after the great flood of 1993.

Surpassing all these achievements, however, was Gay's love of her family and her devotion

to friends. Her beloved husband Bill of 50+ years and son John both predeceased her.

Daughter Meg Johnson and her partner Scott Dorris and grandsons Will and Bryant Johnson

remained the primary focus of her life. Gay was an only child with little family; early in her life

she learned to take beloved friends into her heart as if they were family. And there they

remained.

Born in Miami, Oklahoma, on November 26, 1939, to Frank and Gladys Pauly,

she was

educated in the public schools in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, following her family's move there. Gay

continued her formal education at Lindenwood College in St. Louis, graduating in 1962. She

worked as Director of Programming for KMOX Radio after graduation.

Following her marriage

and her move to Alton with Bill, however, Gay devoted her life to her family, her friends, and the

many organizations she served.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, July 29, 2016 at Gent Funeral Home and again

Saturday, July 30, 2016 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10 East Third St., from 9:00 a.m. until the funeral mass at 11:00 a.m.

Memorials may be made in Gay's memory to Alton Memorial Hospital Foundation, Riverbend

Headstart, Family Services, or the Episcopal Parish of Alton. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **29.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

JUL **30.** 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall



“ *Frances Gay Bryant*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Frances Gay Bryant*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *We have been out of town for the last 2 weeks were saddened to learn of the death of Gay Bryant. Her contributions to the greater Alton/Godfrey Community are without peer. She was a devoted leader of her family as well as of the community and church.*

Upon the return of the General Assembly back to Springfield, I will be filing a Senate Memorial Resolution in Gay's memory.

May she rest in peace.

*Senator William Haine
Illinois State Senator - 56th District*

William Haine - August 08, 2016 at 12:18 PM

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“ Anyone who ever served in any organization with Supervolunteer Gay Bryant (and who didn't?) knows of her keen insight, wisdom and sincerity. Anyone who knew Gay and Bill Bryant can attest to their genuine goodness. I'm proud to have known the Bryants over the years. Kudos to Gay for her tireless service to and passion for the Riverbend community.

Tom Dehner

Tom Dehner - July 31, 2016 at 10:39 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Frances Gay Bryant.



July 29, 2016 at 03:09 PM



“ *John Dunphy lit a candle in memory of Frances Gay Bryant*



John Dunphy - July 27, 2016 at 03:37 PM



“ *I was so sorry to read of Gay's death. We served together on the board of Piasa Area Habitat for Humanity in in the 1990s. She always brought a great deal to the organization.*

John Dunphy - July 27, 2016 at 03:35 PM

MM

“ *It was a pleasure to know and work with Gay, she will be sadly missed. I hope your warm memories will provide you all comfort at this time.*

Martha Morse

Martha Morse - July 27, 2016 at 09:01 AM