



Frances Hickman Perry

February 12, 1929 - October 10, 2025

Frances Hickman Perry of Huntington, WV, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2025, surrounded by her family, at the age of 96. She was born on February 12, 1929 in Delbarton, WV to two loving parents, James William Hickman and Effie Connolly Hickman. She graduated high school from Williamson High School as a Westinghouse Scholar, enabling her to attend Marshall University. She was a double major in chemistry and education and was president of her sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha. She began her teaching career in the impoverished, coal camp town of Chatteroy, WV, where she became an activist for the poor. She later joined the faculty of Williamson High School as a chemistry teacher, and it was here that she met the love of her life, Simon Perry. They were married in 1956, and Frances taught school as Simon finished his Masters and PhD. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan where they had their oldest child, David. Frances longed to return to WV, and when she heard of an opening at Marshall, she encouraged Simon to take it. In Huntington, they welcomed three more children, Paul, Kelly, and Thomas. Frances taught at Cammack Junior High, Lincoln Junior High, and Huntington High School. She served on many local boards and remained a champion for the marginalized until her dying days. She is survived by her sons David and Thomas (Jennifer Perry), daughter Kelly Vaziri (David Vaziri), granddaughters Kelli Dixon (Shawn Dixon), Elizabeth Vaziri (Jake Van Koevering), Charlotte Vaziri, Madeleine Vaziri van Arkel (Jake van Arkel), Carolyn Vaziri, Katherine Perry, Anna Perry, Leisl Perry, Elizabeth Perry, and

Genevieve Perry and great-granddaughters, Chloe Dixon, Lilly Dixon, and Emily Dixon, and great-grandson James Van Koevering. She is preceded in death by her parents, siblings, and son, Paul Perry. She is also survived by her niece, Frances Lynn Graven (Chris Graven). Frances and Simon welcomed an honorary family into their circle two decades ago, Razia Bennoui, and her children Eddie, Elias, Nadia, and Riyad. She loved Paul's wife, Diane Perry, with all her heart. She leaves behind many beloved in-laws, nephews, nieces and friends. A visitation will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 from 1-2pm at Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services 1592 E. Pea Ridge Rd. Huntington, WV near Barboursville. A service will be held at 2pm. Burial will follow in Spring Hill Cemetery, Huntington, WV. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to her cherished alma mater, Marshall University, and The Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family by visiting www.hensonandkitchen.com .

Cemetery Details

Spring Hill Cemetery

1427 Norway Avenue
Huntington, WV 25705

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services
1592 East Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705
(304) 736-8986
fredkitchen@hensonmortuary.com
<https://www.hensonandkitchen.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services
1592 East Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705
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Tribute Wall



“ *Henson & Kitchen Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Frances Hickman Perry*



Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services - October 15, 2025 at 04:54 PM

LD

“ *Dear Perry Family,
Thoughts and prayers are being lifted up for you during this time.*

*Love,
Laura Frampton Disney
Martha Frampton Hagan*

Laura Frampton Disney - October 16, 2025 at 10:33 AM

JC

“ *I just seen Frances Obituary. i did not know until now. I sure will miss her and the good talks we had. she is my cousin but was more like my Aunt. I grew up next door to my Sweet Frances. She would buy me pretty dresses and a winter coat. She would take me to town , and We would go to Hurley Drug and when I was A senior in High School I worked at Hurley Drug. She was always so good to me. I Love You Frances*

Johnnie Mae Connolly - October 16, 2025 at 12:35 AM

SC

My deepest condolences to Frances's family. She was my husband, Art's, cousin and welcomed me into the family immediately. She and Simon invited us to stay overnight numerous times wen they lived in Huntington, WV. They were both advocates for the less fortunate. She was a great mother and homemaker and made each individual who knew her feel special. Art and I loved she and Simon immensely. I will miss her bubbling personality but they will both be in my heart and memory forever!

Sharon Connolly - October 16, 2025 at 02:04 PM

CV

“Charlotte V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances Hickman Perry.

Charlotte V. - October 15, 2025 at 11:14 PM

VS

“Vita, Gretchen and Hannah Shoemaker purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Frances Hickman Perry.



Vita, Gretchen and Hannah Shoemaker - October 15, 2025 at 10:02 PM

WC

“I enjoyed working with Fran at Huntington High. Her kind heart and dry wit were such positive parts of a good school climate.

Wanda Addair Crawford - October 15, 2025 at 05:39 PM



“ 102 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services - October 15, 2025 at 04:22 PM

DF

“ *I will never forget the day that my brother, Simon, brought Francis home to meet his family. I was enamored with this petite, outgoing young woman who literally took us by storm. She was vivacious, not afraid to express her opinions and even had the audacity to argue both religion and politics with my dad. She was movie star pretty and dressed like one. She not only gave me pointers on how to dress but also bought me the cutest dresses that a ten-year-old little girl could want. She and my mother loved each other from the beginning, and she was always there when my mother needed her. In fact, she and Simon were always there for all the family with their love and support. Fran, we will miss you, but I can just see the enthusiasm and joy with which you entered Heaven and I'm betting you took it by storm also! And I say that all those waiting for you knew exactly when you arrived! We love you, Drema.*

Drema Ferrell - October 15, 2025 at 03:19 PM

KV

Beautiful, Aunt Drema. Mom loved you and was a great champion of your writing, insisting that everyone in the center read your book! I love you!

Kelly Vaziri - October 15, 2025 at 09:24 PM

RP

“ *Ron Punturi purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Frances Hickman Perry.*



Ron Punturi - October 15, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Frances Hickman Perry.*



October 15, 2025 at 11:25 AM

TF

“ *the Mafi Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances Hickman Perry.*

the Mafi Family - October 15, 2025 at 11:25 AM

LS

“ I had Mrs Perry for 7th grade Science at Cammack Jr High in 1965-1966. She was a good teacher and very entertaining. I had Dr Perry in 1997 while getting my Masters. He told stories of her often with that twinkle in his eyes. When I'd see her around she never forgot my name. She was a good person.

Lillian Cummings Sergent - October 15, 2025 at 07:03 AM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Frances Hickman Perry.



October 14, 2025 at 09:25 PM