



## Fran Salyers

December 24, 1948 - February 1, 2021

Frankfort – Winford Frances “Fran” Crace Salyers, age 72, passed away on Monday, February 1, 2021. Graveside services will be held 11:00 a.m. at Frankfort Cemetery on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. Visitation will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021.

Mrs. Salyers was born in Lexington on December 24, 1948, to the late Winford Whitt Crace and Mildred Frances Starnes Crace. She retired after serving 27 years as a teacher and after 7 years with the Kentucky Department of Education. Mrs. Salyers was currently serving as an advisor for Eastern Kentucky University. She served as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Middle School Association and the President of the Board of National Middle School Association.

She is survived by her son, Whit Salyers, Campbellsville; daughter-in-law, Kelley Richardson Salyers; brother, Bill (Akay) Crace, Lexington; sister-in-law, Linda Crace; and grandsons, Hunter Ingram, William Salyers, and Aidan Salyers. She was also blessed with several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William Blackburn Salyers and brother, John Lee Crace.

Serving as pallbearers will be family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the Association for Middle Level Education, [www.amle.org/amle-foundation-fund/](http://www.amle.org/amle-foundation-fund/) or Stand Up to Cancer, [www.standuptocancer.org](http://www.standuptocancer.org)

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Cemetery Details

## Frankfort Cemetery

215 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-2403

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home  
312 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-4526  
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com  
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

## Graveside Service

FEB **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Frankfort Cemetery  
215 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-2403

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fran Salyers*

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October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM

DS

“ *Whit and family,*

*As a first year 8th grade math teacher in the old Elkhorn High School building in 1975, I had noticed how the students were involved in their learning and having fun in a classroom as I would take my students to lunch. The teacher of this classroom was Fran Salyers. I asked her to help me make my class better and she did. She was quick to share what was working in her classroom to help students learn. She helped me through my first year of teaching and many other students and teachers along her way.*

*Five years later, 1982, I was able to return to the same school. This school was so different. The school was organized around the needs of students. I am positive that Fran led the charge to change the school from a Junior High School to the new Middle School it was destined to be. The students became actors in their own learning. The Thanksgiving Day dinners, the Science Fairs, the Ball game trips and many, many more educational activities made learning fun for everyone.*

*Fran went on to lead in many Educational areas outside the classroom. Most of these were in helping a school become a Middle School. I remember Fran saying that the best thing about education was working with her students. Fran was a great teacher and educator. She made a difference in the lives she worked with and those for years to come.*

*David Simpson*

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**David Simpson** - February 23, 2021 at 08:55 AM

MJ

“ Mrs. Salyers was one of my favorite teachers iat EMS. It was about 75 or I think it was her early days of teaching but she was so good to us. Still remember her well. Prayers to all her family.

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**Mark Jackson** - February 22, 2021 at 05:40 PM

JS

“ Whit,  
Your mother exhibited all of the traits one would want in a mentor teacher, classroom teacher, and friend. Elkhorn Junior High was my first teaching assignment. Fran taught me how to be the best teacher I could be. She lead her classroom with respect. She valued the students as young people and worked with them as partners. She used that same approach teaching me how to manage myself as I grew as a teacher.

Francis showed me the big picture of school. She opened my eyes to understand there was more to “school” than just what happened in my classroom.

When we became a middle school she really shined.

I’m sorry your mother has passed. My father died of cancer a few years ago so I have a little understanding of what you went through. Know that all the people your mother interacted with throughout her life were better for knowing her.

Much love,  
Jeff Stamper

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**Jeff Stamper** - February 22, 2021 at 03:33 PM

CB

“ Both of our Sons attended Elkhorn Middle School. Betty and myself had the utmost satisfaction in Mrs. Salyers Instruction of and the personal knowledge of the needs of Middle School children. Our Condolences are extended to all of her family members.

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**Charles Baesler** - February 20, 2021 at 05:22 PM

SP

“ Remembering all the wonderful times that I shared with Fran at Elkhorn Middle School. It was such a great bunch of people to teach with. We were so proud of Fran becoming the President of the Kentucky Middle School Association. We hosted their conference here in Frankfort during that time. My EMS chorus sang. Tony Elam sang at our banquet. Always a positive and joyful person. Whitt, she has left us far too early but she has left her mark! Great memories and shedding tears this a.m. The weather is not permitting this old lady to be out. Sorry about that.

*Sandra Porter*

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**Sandra Porter** - February 11, 2021 at 10:49 AM

LW

“ Fran and I worked at ECU together at the CMSAA initiative that grew many other state and national grants/initiatives for middle level education, bringing much attention to the State of Kentucky. Her passion for this age group of children was beautiful, seen by the way her eyes lit up when speaking about them. Fran used the same passion in helping mold ECU college students most recently, working as a clinical supervisor mentoring ECU students in classrooms. I will miss her passion but remember all the conferences we attended, symposium in Vegas, walking on the beach in Destin one February. I miss and love you, dear friend.

*Laura Weitkamp*

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**laura weitkamp** - February 10, 2021 at 02:18 PM

MC

“ My deepest sympathies to Fran's family and friends. She was a remarkable woman--generous in spirit and passionate about middle level education. She brought joy into my life and that of my mother.

*Beyond missing her professionally, I will miss her infectious smile and warm words that she shared so freely. With love and gratitude.*  
*Micki Caskey*

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**Micki M Caskey** - February 10, 2021 at 01:08 PM

BE

“ Fran was one of the most amazing persons I ever met, and I had the joy and honor of knowing and working with her for 35 years. We first met because of middle level education, but all those experiences over all those years led to an enduring friendship. Her dedication to the education of young adolescents and the support of their teachers never ceased, even as she dealt with her own personal health issues. It was important work to her, and her voice and impact will be felt for years. Her work with the Kentucky Middle School Association, Schools to Watch and with student teachers at Eastern Kentucky University will be felt through the middle schools across Kentucky and will impact the lives of future generations. Her work with the Association for Middle Level Education as a board member, President, book reviewer and chair of the AMLE Foundation has been and will be felt across the country.

*However, not only was she a great and dedicated educator, she was a wonderful friend. She was always thinking of others before herself, and we are all better because of her. If you needed her, she was there. She was a true friend to so many, and all of us will miss her deeply.*

*Betty Edwards*

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**Betty Edwards** - February 08, 2021 at 11:00 AM

NW

“ A long connection with the Kentucky Middle School Association brought me in contact with Fran. She was dedicated to everything she undertook. We shared many conferences, state, regional and national. A genuine professional in all she did. Work times were fulfilling, and downtime was enjoyable. I shall miss her smile and the lilt in her voice.

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**Nicole Woodward** - February 05, 2021 at 04:45 PM

CP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.  
We have lost a portion of our past. But people like Fran Salyers are the reason our middle level education profession thrives today -- and can look forward to a promising future.

Fran was part of the golden age of middle schools. Her dedication to advocating for middle level youth and those who serve them is appreciated and admired. She helped so many achieve success, touched many hearts and left a glow to keep us warm.

Another chapter of history closes as the middle level education world has lost a great friend and pioneer. I cherish the many years of memories. My life is richer having known Fran.

Char Pike

AMLE Foundation member

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**Char Pike** - February 05, 2021 at 02:59 PM