



Frances Elizabeth Readus

JUN 18, 1947 - MAR 1, 2022



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*Taylor Funeral Home
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Frances Elizabeth Readus

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Frances E. Readus, 74, of Chattanooga, passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2022. Known previously by her maiden name, Frances Dowdell, Mrs. Readus grew up in Chattanooga, then at 18 joined the United States Army where she proudly served from 1965 until she was honorably discharged in 1968. In 1980 she moved to Los Angeles, CA where she successfully handled bookkeeping responsibilities for a private medical practice, while also raising her daughter as a single parent. Then, she returned to Chattanooga in 1994 to aid in the care of her mother, Willie Mae Hawkins, who succumbed to cancer in 1995.

Her love for serving others was always at the forefront of her mind throughout her life, and after returning to Chattanooga, she resumed working in the healthcare sector until she retired from CIGNA Healthcare in 2013. She married the love of her life, Bernard Readus, on October 16, 2018, and he lovingly accepted her daughter as his own. The story of their romance didn't start in 2018, however, it began when they were both in their 20's, when they dated briefly. Having reconnected at a Howard High School reunion back in 2007, the two became inseparable and have remained best friends and confidants throughout their marriage and until Frances' last breath. A local celebrity, Mrs. Readus enjoyed sharing stories of the time when she modeled for Jet Magazine, a lifestyle magazine well-known and adored by the African-American community. She enjoyed getting dressed up and receiving compliments that she did not look her age. Even at 74, she could easily be mistaken for a woman in her 50s. She loved that.

Frances will be dearly missed and always remembered. Frances was predeceased by her mother, Willie Mae Hawkins and her father, Till Dowdell. She is survived by her husband, Bernard Readus; daughter, Sommer (Shana) Dowdell-King; stepson, Chad (Rebecca) Readus; stepdaughter, Leandra Lloyd; stepson, Daryl Collier; brother, James (Debra) Hawkins; niece, Erin; sisters-in-law, JoAnn Cooper, Evelyn (John)



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Moore, and Zebedee Williams; niece, Franchesca; 5 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; cousins, the loving Readus family, her dearest friends, Rose Prather, Uretha Shropshire, and countless others who will forever cherish the time spent with Frances. Her joyous spirit, infectious smile and timeless beauty will remain forever etched in our memories. Brother John R. Taylor, Sr. will serve as the eulogist.



Events

Frances Elizabeth Readus

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Lie-In-State

Thursday, March 10, 2022

9:00 AM ET

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411



Service

Thursday, March 10, 2022

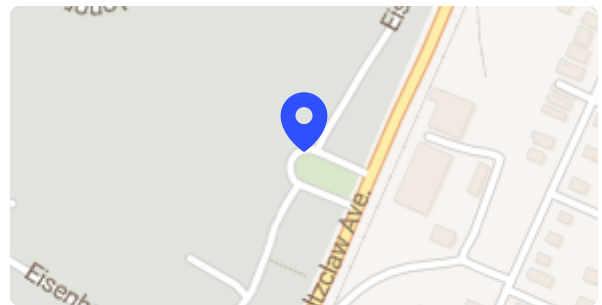
11:00 AM ET

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411



Cemetery Details

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Ave, Chattanooga TN 37404





Tribute Wall

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Donna Debardeleben lit a candle in honor of Frances.

March 10 at 4:58 PM



Arletra D Bolden lit a candle in honor of Frances.

March 10 at 7:02 AM



Ruthie Flemister lit a candle in honor of Frances.

March 10 at 6:06 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Readus family.

March 8 at 6:56 PM



Tristan Djaun Ford sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Readus family.

March 8 at 5:46 PM



Euretha Shropshire lit a candle in honor of Frances.

March 6 at 10:07 AM





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Sommer Dowdell lit a candle in honor of Frances.

I remember how we would always crack jokes with each other. You were the funniest person I knew, and my best friend. I love you mom ❤️

March 4 at 12:21 PM



Bonita Johnson March 9 at 7:56 AM

The Howard HighSchool Class of 1967, send to the Readus, family our love, sympathy and prayers in the loss of your loved one, may God comfort you today as you say your good byes.



Harriet Nelson March 6 at 10:09 AM

You were like a second mom to me, thanks for being my moms best friend since childhood, and a great influence to me while living in California. I'm gonna miss your laugh



Tristan Djaun Ford posted:

My dear Cousin Frances you was an amazing lady I loved having your around for family functions always had a good time laughing I'm deeply saddened by your transition who knew that Christmas would be my last time seeing you. I remembered that we were suppose to sit on the porch the next time i came home to visit I love you dear cousin Rest in The Presence Of Our Lord.

March 4 at 5:56 AM



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DE

Delores Readus-Elder posted:

Frances was a beautiful person always smiling and such a nice lady. She was always nice to me and I'm proud to say we were friends. When they got married, she asked me if she should wear leggings or a dress. I said a dress. She sent me a picture saying she took my advice. My sincere condolences to Bernard and her family.

March 4 at 4:24 AM

DB

Delma Perkins_Brooks March 8 at 4:05 PM

My condolences goes out to the entire Readus family that I have known for many years. Frances was a beautiful person, and always had a beautiful smile on her face. She will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace classmate (1965) God Bless and Keep U 🌹🌹🌹

BP

Betty A Parham March 5 at 4:50 PM

To the Readus Family, I am sending love from Betty and the family in Atlanta. We are sending our condolences to you.

KG

Katherine Gibbs Garth March 4 at 7:49 PM

Katherine Gibbs Garth would like to let the family you're in my thoughts. I pray that God encourage your hearts and give you peace. Frances was a classmate at Howard, class of 1965 and attended our class reunions and gathering. She was a nice person. GOD COMFORT your hearts.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Frances by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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