



Catherine Ann Houchins

January 23, 1938 - May 6, 2025

Catherine Ann Houchins, 87, of Frankford, Missouri, passed away on May 6, 2025, in Hannibal.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 9, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Frankford, Missouri. Funeral services will follow on Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. also at the First Christian Church. Reverend M. Faye Vaughn and Ethan Colbert will officiate. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Frankford. The family is being served by Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes & Crematory in Bowling Green, Missouri.

Catherine Ann was born at home on January 23, 1938, in Frankford, Missouri, to Sam Brown and Mary Catherine Updyke. She is survived by her siblings: Cuff (Margie), Tom (Mary Catherine), Judy, and Joe (Lorraine).

She was a graduate of Frankford High School, where she was the salutatorian of the 1956 class—which did have more than two people. Almost immediately after graduation, she swapped her cap and gown for a wedding dress and joined her life with Floyd Houchins on June 17, 1956. Floyd was soon drafted into the Army, and the couple spent the first three years of their married life in Tacoma, Washington, living in a trailer so close to the road you had to look both ways before opening the door.

They returned to Frankford in 1959 to welcome the birth of Sam, followed

shortly thereafter by Suzanne and Steve. Their marital home was described as a “shack” with no running water or indoor plumbing, but they transformed it into the home we all know and love today. Catherine Ann and Floyd shared their lives until Floyd’s death in January 2016—at which point she had to take over completing the crossword puzzles and Sudoku, in ink.

In addition to being an avid Jeopardy! watcher, Catherine always found time to write weekly letters to her grandchildren. These letters, which detailed her daily life, time spent gardening, canning, and the happenings in Frankford, are now prized possessions of her grandchildren.

Catherine Ann worked at her siblings’ general stores while keeping a lively household running, designing costumes, and occasionally moonlighting as the magician’s mysterious assistant, Shagondala, at Frankford community events. Once the kids left home and the grandkids stopped riding ATVs over the grass, her garden truly blossomed. She also became a prolific quilter. Irises from her garden now bloom in multiple states, and her children and grandchildren sleep under her quilts every night.

She was a longtime, active member of the Frankford First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where she was recognized as a Golden Member for having been a member for more than 50 years. At the church, she supported the AWANA program and was a member of the Christian Crusaders group.

She was also devoted to service, having donated untold gallons of blood to the American Red Cross and for years organized blood drives in Frankford.

When asked to list her top three life accomplishments, Catherine Ann said: 1. Gave birth to three remarkable kids; 2. Good grades in school; 3. 2020 knee replacement.

She is survived by two children: Steve (Kathy) Houchins of Frankford and Suzanne Hollinrake of Albia, Iowa; and by her daughter-in-law, Nickie Houchins. Her memory lives on through her grandchildren: Catherine (Jared) Hollinrake of Des Moines, Iowa; Clayton (Sarah) Caldwell of Killeen, Texas;

Caylene (Cory) Swearngin of Des Moines, Iowa; Mallory (Tyler) Behlmann of Bowling Green, Missouri; Nicholas Hollinrake of Albia, Iowa; and Renee (Jordan) Yarrington of Hannibal, Missouri.

She is also lovingly remembered by eight great-grandchildren: James Mitterling, Caden Caldwell, Avery Yarrington, Zella Swearngin, Max Yarrington, Jessica Caldwell, Ranger Swearngin, and Benjamin Behlmann. She will be missed by Sally Jane, her loyal dog, and a rotating cast of very fat outdoor cats. She is also remembered by Rhonda, Scott, and Jolynn.

Catherine Ann was preceded in death by her parents; siblings Dick and Harry; husband, Floyd; son, Sam (Nickie); sister-in-law, Ella; son-in-law, Ed; and numerous beloved basset hounds. Her family finds comfort in the countless memories she created, stitched, and planted into their lives.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Christian Church of Frankford's Building Fund in support of the Stained-Glass Window Restoration effort.

Pallbearers will be her grandchildren, and honorary pallbearers will include her great-grandchildren, members of the Christian Crusaders, and Rhonda and Scott.

Cemetery Details

Fairview-Frankford Cemetery

Pike 56
Frankford, MO 63441

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Frankford First Christian Church
111 N Main Cross St
Frankford, MO 63441

Funeral Service

MAY 10. 10:00 AM (CT)

Frankford First Christian Church
111 N Main Cross St
Frankford, MO 63441

Burial

MAY 10. 12:00 PM (CT)

Fairview-Frankford Cemetery
Frankford, MO

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Jana van polen purchased the Heavenly Grace S pray for the family of Catherine Ann Houchins.*



Jana van polen - May 09, 2025 at 04:33 PM

JP

“ *Jana van polen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Catherine Ann Houchins.*

Jana van polen - May 09, 2025 at 04:33 PM

SC

“ *St. John's 7/8 grade class. purchased the Pink P otpourri Bouquet for the family of Catherine Ann Houchins.*



St. John's 7/8 grade class. - May 09, 2025 at 10:37 AM

SC

“ *St. John's 7/8 grade class. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Catherine Ann Houchins.*

St. John's 7/8 grade class. - May 09, 2025 at 10:37 AM

EW

“ Catherine Ann was an amazing person! I’m sorry to learn of her passing. She had such a fun personality and kind demeanor. Always something nice to say to everyone. I fondly remember running through her spooky Halloween trails as a kids, where she’d invite the whole town of Frankford, Catherine Anne engaging all of us kids in conversation when we’d go buy 3-cent candy from The Country Store when we found a quarter on the ground, and riding past her house on my bike and trying not to let the Basset Hound see me so it wouldn’t howl alert and chase me and is ran die. The driveway to protect its people while Catherine Ann was gardening and Floyd was working on his...was it a lawn-mower powered train? They’d holler “Don’t worry! He’s all bark, no bite!” while I’d pump the pedals, just in case. Such sweet people and a good family.

Emily Woodall - May 08, 2025 at 09:48 PM

EW

*As it ran down the driveway**

Emily Woodall - May 08, 2025 at 09:50 PM

AY

“ Andy Young purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Catherine Ann Houchins.



Andy Young - May 08, 2025 at 08:05 PM

AY

“ Andy Young planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Catherine Ann Houchins.

Andy Young - May 08, 2025 at 08:05 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Catherine Ann Houchins.



May 08, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Catherine Ann Houchins.

May 08, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Catherine Ann Houchins.

May 08, 2025 at 11:47 AM



“ Susan King lit a candle in memory of Catherine Ann Houchins



Susan King - May 08, 2025 at 10:29 AM

CM

“ *Carla Mills lit a candle in memory of Catherine Ann Houchins*



Carla Mills - May 08, 2025 at 10:14 AM

JM

“ *A true lady with many talents who will be sadly missed. Love, prayers and comfort to her sweet family.*

Joyce and Mark - May 08, 2025 at 08:10 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Catherine Ann Houchins.*



May 08, 2025 at 08:01 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Catherine Ann Houchins.*

May 08, 2025 at 08:01 AM

GA

“ I am so sorry, Tom and Judy for your loss and all the family. Your sister was a nice lady.
Gloria(Frazer) Armstrong



Gloria Armstrong - May 07, 2025 at 11:25 PM

JD

“ Sincere sympathy to you in the loss of your dear mother Suzanne. She accomplished much in her 87 years. You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Jerry & Diane Durian

Jerry & Diane Durian - May 07, 2025 at 11:12 PM

GW

“ Sending my prayers and condolences to the family. Sharing in your sorrow and loss for a sweet lady that is now in the presence of Jesus. We can only imagine what she is seeing now.

Catherine Ann's light will live on in the people who knew and loved her.



Ginny Watkins - May 07, 2025 at 10:04 PM