



Francis Cordes

February 20, 1941 - May 7, 2021

Francis Cordes of Kankakee passed away at home surrounded by family on May 7 after an extended illness.

Fran was born February 20, 1941, in Limestone, the son of Vernon and Evelyn (Hamann) Cordes. He graduated from Herscher High School and became a Millwright First Class. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Judith Cordes, his children, Kim (Tom) Fisher, and Terry (Sally) Cordes and his stepchildren, Debi Sexton and Kimpa (Dave) Moss.

Fran was the oldest of 7 siblings and is survived by Judy (Dave) Harvey, Dennis (Betty) Cordes, Ronnie (Barb) Cordes, Lanny (Marilyn) Cordes, Jerry Cordes, and Vickie Cordes.

He is survived by his grandchildren Blake, Hunter, Clayton, Terry, Larry, Montana, Madison, Drew, Kennedy, Joshua, Chloe, Kate, Kelsey, Drew and Alexey. He is also survived by great grandchildren, Rylene, Arlen, Brynleigh, Audri, Gianna, and Kai and many nieces and nephews.

Fran served in the US Army and worked for General Foods/Quaker for 35 years.

He was a volunteer with the Kankakee County 4-H program for over 50 years. He served as the 4-H Superintendent in both the rabbit and horse barns at the Kankakee County Fair in addition to serving as Chairman of the Ag and Youth Program Committee. He was inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame in 2018.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for memorial contributions to be made to the University of Illinois Foundation, 4-H Kankakee County Fund, Harker

Hall, 1305 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, 1480 West Court Street, Kankakee, IL, followed immediately by a graveside service at Memorial Gardens, 15 Lowe Rd, Kankakee, IL.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Graveside Service

MAY 15. 1:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee Memorial Gardens
15 S. 3000 E. Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2318

Tribute Wall

CL

“ Condolences to Francis’s family and close friend’s, he seems to be the kind of person more people should strive to be. Donation in his honor to 4 H. I worked with his brother Lanny.

Charles Lambert - May 17, 2021 at 07:48 AM

LC

“ Sorry for your lose Fran will be missed by all Liz enjoyed working out in field with Fran and the goats oh and going out to eat and then the rides Judy took us on after we eat

Liz carmain - May 15, 2021 at 08:52 AM

AF

“ I worked with Francis for almost 30 years at General Foods/Quaker. It was always a pleasure to work with him. I have not seen him for quite some time. Your family has our sympathy at this most difficult time.

A Joseph Fritz - May 13, 2021 at 09:51 AM

KA

“ KathyLott lit a candle in memory of Francis Cordes



KathyLott - May 12, 2021 at 09:12 PM

KA

My. Deepest sympathy to all.

KathyLott - May 12, 2021 at 09:13 PM

PG

“ I met both Fran and Judy thru Paperback Reader. Fran even loaned us a flatbed trailer to help us move the store to a new location. Was a great family man. He will be missed.

Paula Goodwin - May 12, 2021 at 04:27 PM

VK

“ Sorry for your loss. It has been a long time since I had seen him. Vince Koenig and wife.

Vince Koenig - May 12, 2021 at 12:59 PM

JC

“ To Judy & Family...Sorry about Fran...If i do not make it Saturday, my thoughts & Prayers are with the Family!!!...Please tell the boys i said Hello & i am thinking of them!...Sending Prayers to all of you!!!...🙏❤️🙏

Love,
Joyce Cordes

Joyce Cordes - May 12, 2021 at 10:44 AM

VC

“ Francis gave many strangers a gift that will last a lifetime. I had forgotten, until recently while watching home videos that he let my dearest father-in-law drive his Haflingers around his property for a birthday present from us, bringing back old memories of Art's days working on a horse farm. The only connection I had with Francis was that he knew Lorne was our Farrier, that's it. Francis accepted nothing for this generous act.

Years later, I approached him once more. You see, a friend of mine longed to own a horse someday and had recently bought one from Mr. Hooper. The horse was still being trained and meanwhile my friend Sue was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) and unfortunately her disease process advanced quickly, preventing her from ever mounting her beautiful horse. Appealing again to Francis and his generous nature, I explained the situation. Without hesitation, Fran polished up his most beautiful carriage, his beautiful ponies and transported them across town surprising her with the opportunity to drive them on her own country property next to Horse Creek with her family by her side, holding her up while she held the reins, smiling from ear to ear. Again, he accepted nothing in return for this generous act of kindness. A memory made for Sue and her family that they will NEVER forget, nor will I. Rest in peace Francis. You will always have a special place in my heart! My deepest sympathy to his family and friends, Vikki Carlson

Vikki Carlson - May 12, 2021 at 10:13 AM

JL

“ Prayers and blessings to Fran's family. (Good old GF days!)

Judy (Art) Leake
Inola, OK 74036
Tiawahgran@aol.com

Judith Leake - May 12, 2021 at 09:59 AM

JS

“ *Fran always thought of the 4-Her, Was a dedicated 4-H volunteer all his life. He will be missed*



Jane Schwark - May 11, 2021 at 09:10 PM

DM

“ *He was a very nice man and neighbor. He enjoyed deer hunting with my father and always lend a hand when needed. I enjoyed plowing his driveway when my dad couldn't in the winter. He will be sadly missed. With our deepest sympathy, Clarence & Diane Morrison*



Diane & Clarence Morrison - May 11, 2021 at 05:23 PM

LS

“ *Linda Smith lit a candle in memory of Francis Cordes*



Linda Smith - May 11, 2021 at 04:51 PM

LS

Many good memories of Fran over the years. Worked with Terry at General Foods for many years. Was a great supporter of kids and their 4H projects. Condolences to the family from the Terry Smith family (Linda, Jeff and Jackie)

Linda Smith - May 11, 2021 at 04:57 PM

AC

“❤️



Ashlen Cordes - May 11, 2021 at 04:36 PM

JF

“ *Jackie Fitzpatrick lit a candle in memory of Francis Cordes*



Jackie Fitzpatrick - May 11, 2021 at 10:20 AM

BD

“ *Barbara Dams lit a candle in memory of Francis Cordes*



Barbara Dams - May 11, 2021 at 09:58 AM

DG

“ *Debbie Gaffield lit a candle in memory of Francis Cordes*



Debbie Gaffield - May 11, 2021 at 09:46 AM