



Phyllis Rames

SEP 28, 1928 - JAN 19, 2025



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Phyllis Rames

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Phyllis Johnson Rames peacefully passed away, surrounded by family, on the morning of January 19, 2025. Phyllis was born on September 28, 1928, in Elmhurst, Illinois to Dr. Richard George Johnson and Laura Evelyn Johnson. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Speech from the University of South Dakota and a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Illinois. While at the University of South Dakota she met and later married Donald H. Rames. In 1956 they settled in Vandalia, Illinois where he started his medical practice, and they raised their four children.

Phyllis' accomplishments exemplify dedication to her family, the church, and the community. Her contributions are too many to list but to name a few: Founder of Vandalia Meals on Wheels, Evergreen Outreach, Operation Outing, GEM volunteers, and Vandalia Correctional Center Bible Study. She also co-founded Friends of the Evans Public Library, Friends and Families of Fayette County Hospital, and Our Place. Additionally, she served on numerous state and local boards, with a particular passion for service to First United Methodist Church of Vandalia. Because of her extensive involvement and devotion to serving others, she received many awards including the American Healthcare National Volunteer Award, the Illinois Healthcare Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Governor's Hometown Award. In 2003 she was inducted into the Illinois Senior Hall of Fame. Public speaking was one of Phyllis' many gifts. She presented to church groups, healthcare organizations, senior centers and women's clubs as well as many other social groups.

A natural-born teacher, Phyllis taught English and French at St. Elmo High School and English Composition at Greenville University. One of her most impactful experiences was teaching English Composition at John Graham Prison in Hillsboro, Illinois.

Amazingly, Phyl found time to nurture some of her favorite interests. She could often be found on the tennis courts, usually playing, but sometimes teaching. She also squeezed in time for her growing love of golf and travel.... All this without missing any of her children's many activities.



Obituary

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Although her accomplishments were many, her greatest joy in life was her children and grandchildren. She is survived by daughter, Ann Rames Duncan of Coppell, TX, son, Richard D. Rames, MD (Sue) of Ladue, MO, and daughter, Mary Rames Orr (Mike) of Brentwood, TN. Lovingly known as Gerr, her grandchildren include Katherine Rames, Sarah Edgren (Tyler), Laura Murphy (Luke), Mary Bester (Christiaan), David Rexroat (Rachel), Andrew Rexroat (Paige), Lindsay Robertson (Derek), Richard Rames Jr., MD (Jenn), Douglas Rames (Kelsey), Alexandra Rames, Michael Orr (Casey), Christopher Orr (Stellena), Andrea Sanders (Kennan), and Sam Orr (Jill). Gerr is also survived by twenty-three great grandchildren, with more on the way!

Phyllis is survived by one sister, Barbara Brothers of Sturgis, MI. She is preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Dr. Donald H. Rames, son, Dr. Douglas Rames and his wife, Betsy. Also preceding her in death are her parents and her brother, Dr. Richard Johnson. Undoubtedly, Phyllis was warmly welcomed into Heaven by these family members as well as her beloved Shih Tzu, Dolly.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church of Vandalia with a reception immediately following. The service will be live-streamed for those who cannot attend. In lieu of flowers, the Rames family requests that memorials be made to the First United Methodist Church of Vandalia, 127 N. Fourth Street, Vandalia, IL 62471. Online condolences can be expressed at www.hohltandfilefh.com.



Events

Phyllis Rames

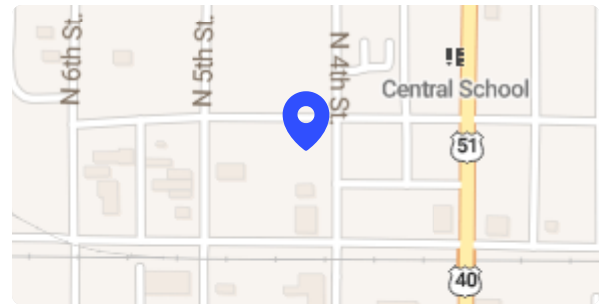
SEP 28, 1928 - JAN 19, 2025

Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, March 29, 2025

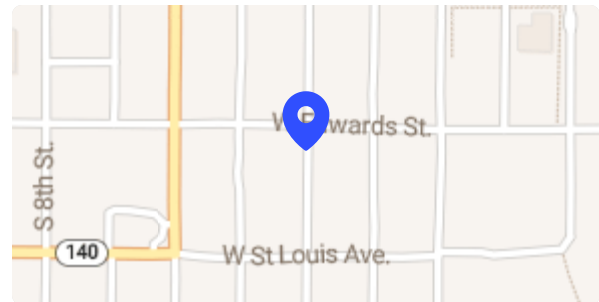
 2:00 PM CT

 **First United Methodist Church**
127 N. 4th St., Vandalia IL 62471



Cemetery Details

 **Fairlawn Cemetery**
South 6th St, Vandalia IL 62471





Tribute Wall

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TE

Tammie (Cripe) Evers posted:

I am grateful to have known both of your parents. Dr. Rames saved my life as a five year old. He assessed how very sick I was and sent me to St. Louis children's Hospital for specialty care. Years later, I was living in NC and he called me to say it was time to come home to visit my Dad before he passed away. Because of his call, I was able to spend some good time with my Dad before he passed six weeks later. Your Mom was such a kind and confident woman. She was a role model for me. She tried to give this very non-athletic teen tennis lessons one summer. She was so very patient. She was also very special to my Grandma who volunteered at the Senior Citizens Center. What a blessing for older adults that carries on to this day. I am sorry for your loss. I pray all the good memories brighten your days. Tammie (Cripe) Evers

May 3 at 6:52 AM

BE

Berniece Etcheson posted:

Wish that I were able to come to the tribute to your mother. It would be so good to get to see all you kids. I have been at Brookstone Estates for 7 years, it is home. We have so many memories that just keep us going, and when I think of my kids I think of you all too. Have a blessed day!

March 29 at 9:02 AM

SB

Sharon Boatman posted:

To the entire Rames family. We want to express our sincere condolences to all of you. Your mother was quite a pillar in Vandalia, and she wore many hats. Organizing Evergreen Outreach is one that stands out to me. A Christian woman, teacher, Doctor's wife, community leader, mother, tennis player, etc. Mary worked with us one summer as ward clerk. It was great to get to know her better. And Joan (Robbie) Robertson talks often about old "hospital business", like when (now) Dr. Rich worked with her in OR. She said he was so tall, it was difficult for him to 'scrub in' at the low sinks. Good memories of the wonderful Rames family. And I can't go without mentioning your dad, who also very well liked and respected in our community. May the peace of the Lord be with you all. Van and Sharon Boatman

March 29 at 5:35 AM

CT

Carl & Gail Thomas sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Rames family.



March 26 at 6:21 PM



Tribute Wall

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Elizabeth (Manion) Rathburn posted:

Dear Rames Family, My parents are Robert (Bob) Manion and my mother, Sally. Both of your parents were so important to our family. Doc taught dad to play tennis and shared so many important life lessons. Your mother was always my dad's biggest supporter. I have fond memories visiting them in Vandalia every summer and heading to the lake, playing tennis on their court and always having cookies and lemonade afterwards. Your mom was one of the first people my parents called after my brother Chuck was diagnosed with cancer. Just having your parents advise and love helped our family immensely. It's been decades since we have seen you all, but I have been tasked with digitizing all of our family photos, so many of them include your parents. Please know you are all are in thoughts and prayers. While we still have family in Vandalia, when I visit, I always remember fondly the Rames family and their kindness. Fondest Regards, Elizabeth (Manion) Rathburn and family

February 20 at 10:20 AM



Sally Miller March 29 at 7:09 AM

So sorry to miss the service today. Dick is homebound now and I am his caregiver on the weekends. I loved your mother and enjoyed our friendship in this life. You all took such good care of her. Consider yourselves hugged by Sally and Dick Miller ♥



Charlene Jett lit a candle in honor of Phyllis.

You have me deepest sympathy. I have such wonderful good memories of Phyllis, and they are mostly surrounded by our church. She had towering faith, a commanding presence and gentility that would not stop. She is with us always and like you I will always miss her!!

February 13 at 11:57 AM



Allison Foster-Letico lit a candle in honor of Phyllis.

February 5 at 5:32 AM





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Allison Foster-Letico posted:

Dearest Ann and the whole Rames family - Your mom / grandmother / aunt has been in many many prayers over the years. What is so beautiful is that even though I did not know Phyllis personally, I have felt as if I knew her through the beautiful legacy of love, grace, and warmth that she has bequeathed to the world through her children and grandchildren. You have been such loyal and devoted stewards of her character and spirit. She will live on through generations, and I am certain she is filled with pride as she sits in the heavens and beholds the beautiful people she helped form. She lived well and certainly fulfilled a holy purpose. Blessings to all of you. Allison Foster-Letico (loving friend of Ann Duncan)

February 5 at 5:32 AM



Daniel Tippitt posted:

Mrs. Rames was my English professor at Greenville College in the '70s. She was a very good teacher. She was kind, gracious, and composed. She took a genuine interest in helping her students learn the subject matter. My condolences to the family. Daniel Tippitt

February 1 at 2:32 PM



Connie Frailey posted:

Phyllis was a fantastic person. I know firsthand I worked at long-term care, but I drove operation outing for the residence and never never was fell against anywhere that I decided that we would go. May she rest in peace.

January 29 at 11:38 AM



Connie Frailey January 29 at 11:45 AM

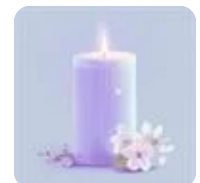
Ann I was working the night you had grandma Johnson with you for pictures. Ltc was never forgotten, Phyllis always had a love for people.



Bobbye Eulberg lit a candle in honor of Phyllis.

A beautiful lady with a beautiful soul. Always so welcome in her home. Prayers of comfort to her family.

January 28 at 1:30 PM





Tribute Wall

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ME

Mike Eulberg posted:

I used to work on her computer. Might take 20 minutes to fox it, but it would be an hour before I could get away. We had many a good conversation about a lot of things. She was always pleasant and had a smile, and never failed to offer me something to eat or drink. She was truly a wonderful person. She will be greatly missed.

January 28 at 4:43 AM

ME

Mike Eulberg lit a candle in honor of Phyllis.



January 28 at 4:38 AM

LP

Linda Misewicz-Perconte posted:

Dear Anne and family,Your mother was one of a kind. And she was so kind. She accomplished so many things for others. Her marriage and children and grandchildren were most important to her. I met her and Dr Rames while I attended college with Anne. They were both such caring people and also liked a good laugh. At Laura's wedding she so enjoyed watching her children and grandchildren have a good time. God's blessings! love Mez and Jack.

January 27 at 9:59 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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