



## John E. Francis

January 24, 1936 - November 28, 2020

John E. Francis went to a wonderful homecoming on Saturday, November 28, 2020 where he was welcomed by his Lord, his wife, and many family and friends.

John was born on January 24, 1936 in Jefferson County, Tennessee to Jack and Maggie Clevenger Francis. He grew up near uncles, aunts, and cousins as they all lived on his grandfather and namesake John Edward (Ned) Francis's farm.

He attended Rainwater School, a few miles from the farm, where he was taught by his beloved teacher, Miss Gypsy Rainwater. She paid him to carry water from a nearby creek and to keep the fire going in the wood stove during the winter at the little school. He also attended Chestnut Hill Elementary.

As a child, he was excited to see the rolling store come to the house and was fascinated with all the items in the store, which was a sign of things to come later in his life. He learned to drive after the family bought their first car from the proceeds of selling some cattle, and once he had a driver's license, he began helping his uncle, Tossie Clevenger, haul fruits and vegetables to sell. He met his wife, Jeanette Jones, at a tent revival being held in Newport by Rev. Joe Bullard, and he married the couple at his home in Knoxville on July 9, 1955.

Although John worked at several local factories, he found he really liked being a truck driver and delivering groceries. He worked for Hugh Taylor at Taylor Grocery Company as a driver delivering groceries to various businesses in

several counties. Later, he went to work at Mohawk Milling Company first as a driver and then later as a salesman. During these years, he developed many lifelong friendships with his co-workers.

In 1978, he and Jeanette started Francis Produce, a wholesale grocery and produce business, which they operated until their retirement in October 2000. The business motto was "Known for Quality and Dependable Service," which we think his customers would agree that John lived up to that motto. During this same time, he also owned and operated the Enka bus line.

In retirement he and Jeanette traveled some, but most days he was content to have a good meal and then sit on the front porch with Jeanette in their rocking chairs and just talk. He and Jeanette also loved and appreciated visits from good friends Bob Worley and Emogene Buckner.

As a Baptist, John loved southern gospel music, especially The Inspirations, and for many years attended Mull's Singings in Knoxville. He also owned a couple of antique trucks that he liked to drive from time to time, and he loved Jeanette's good country cooking, homemade ice cream, watermelon, and Zagnut candy bars.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Jeanette; parents, Jack and Maggie; sister, Mary Norwood; and son-in-law, Benny Conley.

He is survived by daughter, Joyce; sons Mike (Connie) and Mark; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; and sister, Anna Mae Abbott.

The family would like to thank family member, Wilma Tipton, for all her help and support, as well as Caris Hospice and caregivers Holly Murphy and her team: Missy, Terri, Teresa, Heather, Katie, Melinda, Robin, Jennifer, and Denise.

Guests may call at their convenience between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm on Monday, November 30, 2020. Graveside service will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 2:00 pm, in Union Cemetery with Rev. Dennis Strange officiating.

Family and friends may sign the guest register on line at: [www.manesfuneralhome.com](http://www.manesfuneralhome.com).

Per CDC please practice safe social distancing and masks are highly recommended.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Drop By and Sign Register Book

NOV **30**. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Inc.  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821  
(423) 623-6952  
manesfuneralhome@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.manesfuneralhome.com/index.cfm>

## Graveside Service

DEC **2**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Union Cemetery Inc  
420 Mineral St  
Newport, TN 37821-3900  
(423) 623-6918

# Tribute Wall



“ *John E. Francis*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Sorry for the lost of your brother. Praying for you.  
Frances Byrd and all of the family*

**Frances** - December 02, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ *David Smith and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John E. Francis.*



**David Smith and Family** - December 02, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ *I always liked Mr and Mrs Francis I grew up a block away they were such great people my condolences and prayers to the family*

**Bonnie Thornton Ray** - December 01, 2020 at 09:53 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of John E. Francis.*



December 01, 2020 at 08:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John E. Francis.



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December 01, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ I first met John while I was in high school, and became friends with Mike and Joyce and Mark. John was one of the finest men I have had the privilege of knowing. He was a kind, gentle and loving father and husband and was a very smart person. I remember him most as he would sit and smoke his pipe and have conversation. His home was one where I always felt welcomed. May he Rest In Peace and be with Jeanette once again in Heaven.

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David Smith - December 01, 2020 at 06:31 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. John was such a nice man and always reminded me of my grandpa Dave Francis as they looked alike. You all are in our prayers

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Tim & Teresa Grooms - December 01, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ Such a kind soul and wonderful man. I'm so very sorry for your loss.

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Linda Daniels - December 01, 2020 at 08:58 AM



“ Mark, I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family now and in the days ahead.

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pam keller - December 01, 2020 at 02:19 AM

LH

“ Prayers!



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**Louise & Jimmy Hux** - December 01, 2020 at 12:07 AM

MC

“ Our thoughts and prayers for the family and friends during this time of loss.

*Jay & Mary Ann Chrisman*

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**Mary Chrisman** - November 30, 2020 at 08:53 PM

PC

“ Our deepest sympathy. John was such a pleasant humble man. I'm sure he is rejoicing now. Prayers for you all.



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**Preston & Kay Cureton** - November 30, 2020 at 06:17 PM

MW

“ We were saddened to learn of John's passing. He was a fine man and a good friend.  
Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.  
*Mackey & Michelle Winter, ( Lincoln Ave. Grocery )*

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**Mackey Winter** - November 30, 2020 at 01:13 PM

MC

“ *Very sorry for your loss my prayers are with you!*

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**mitch Coakley** - November 30, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John E. Francis.*



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November 30, 2020 at 09:53 AM

SC

“ *Mark and family,  
So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and  
prayers are with you.  
Mary McGaha Naillon  
Barbara McGaha Lancaster  
Sheryl McGaha Clevenger*



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**SHERYL CLEVINGER** - November 30, 2020 at 08:01 AM

DK

“ *Dan and Gail Watson, Almo, KY purchased the S  
entiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John  
E. Francis.*



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**Dan and Gail Watson, Almo, KY** - November 30, 2020 at 07:56  
AM

VT

“ Vicki Turner lit a candle in memory of John E. Francis



Vicki Turner - November 29, 2020 at 06:17 PM

VT

“ The very first time I met John and Jeanette, they both treated me like they had known me forever. What a wonderful and precious man he was, God sure has gain another special Angel. The Sunday before Thanksgiving I saw John and held his hand, I believe in my heart he knew I was there. Much love and prayers for all the family.

Vicki Turner - November 29, 2020 at 06:14 PM

JK

“ Prayers for the family...



Jeff Kyket - November 29, 2020 at 02:27 PM

MR

“ He was a great man.He tought me a lot every time I was around him.He told me things that would be big in the future and he was right if only I had only invested in them. I loved and thought the world of this man.Love you John you will be missed.Have fun in heaven.

Mack Reneau - November 29, 2020 at 01:52 PM

PH

“ *John was a good man with a big heart and always looked out for others.*

Pat Hughes - November 29, 2020 at 12:22 PM

AP

*Prayers to the family of John Thinking of you Anna*

audrey pettis - November 29, 2020 at 05:14 PM

JR

“ *June Holt Russell lit a candle in memory of John E. Francis*



June Holt Russell - November 29, 2020 at 12:20 PM

RM

“ *Our Prayers are with The Francis Family as we pray God will Lift you all up and fill the void in your hearts! Mr. John Francis will be remembered as a perfect example as a man of Christ. Rae & Karen Massey*

Rae Massey - November 29, 2020 at 12:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John E. Francis.*



November 29, 2020 at 11:38 AM