



Freda Champion Harris

May 18, 1920 - July 5, 2013

HARRIS, FREDA CHAMPION

Freda Champion Harris, 93, of Albuquerque, New Mexico passed away on July 5, 2013. She was the daughter of Teresa (McBride) and Arthur B. Champion, born on May 18, 1920, in Raton, New Mexico. She graduated from Raton High School in 1937. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UNM. In 1941, she graduated from UNM and worked in the UNM Business Office for 5 years. In 1943 she married Joe D. Harris. After raising her family, she taught language arts at John Adams and Garfield Middle Schools, retiring in 1982. She was passionate about making a difference in the lives of her students. When she retired, she traveled to all fifty states and over twenty countries, played in numerous bridge clubs, volunteered in various community groups, and tutored children in reading. Freda loved to have picnics in the mountains as well as support the Lady Lobos. She was an active member of Central United Methodist Church, Albuquerque Association of Retired Educators, New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees, Mortar Board Alumni, and P.E.O., Chapter X. She was a loving person with a strong faith, who enriched the lives of all those around her. She was preceded in death by her parents, Teresa and Arthur Champion; her husband, Joe D. Harris, her sister and brother-in-law, Kay and Dr. L.D. Barbour of Roswell, and her stepson, Jerry Harris. She is survived by her son, Jeff Harris and his wife, Aletha, of Houston, Texas; daughters Diane Galbraith and her husband, Bob

Galbraith; and Debbie Barnett and her husband Rich Barnett. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Aletha B. Harris, Houston, Texas; Dr. Thomas J. Harris and wife, Stephanie, Waco, Texas; Tyler Barnett and wife, Alice, Odessa, Texas; Krista Barnett, Albuquerque; and three great granddaughters. She was truly an extraordinary person who will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Because Freda was committed to public education, the family requests that memorials be made to the Lena Clauve/Mortar Board Scholarship, UNM Foundation, 700 Lomas Blvd. NE, 2 Woodward Center, Albuquerque, NM 87102. A memorial service will be held on July 13, 2013 at 2:00 at Central United Methodist Church. Please visit our online guestbook for Freda at www.FrenchFunerals.com.

FRENCH - University
1111 University Blvd NE
505-843-6333

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ *Jill and Jeff purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Freda Champion Harris.*



Jill and Jeff - July 10, 2013 at 08:06 AM

MB

“ *Sweet Diane, Debbie and Harris Family. What an Honor to have known Freda even for a short time. It wasn't a lifetime, but she made an impression on my life. I will miss her sweet Spirit and smile. She kept her sence of humor even when she was not feeling so well. Best of all she leaves behind this amazing family of hers to whom I have grown to know and Love. You remain in my thoughts and prayers. Monica Blaschke*

Monica Blaschke - July 08, 2013 at 02:14 PM

PS

“ *Memories are wornderful. I remember making Christmas Cookies shaped like candy canes and seeing her every morning as Diane and I walked to the bus stop. A wonderful person. Patricia Bowra Schooley*

Patricia Schooley - July 07, 2013 at 11:14 AM

JH

“*Freda was like a second mother to me and my family. She knew me before I was even born, as she and my mother, Helene Durret Ginn, were best friends growing up in Raton, New Mexico. They both lived in Albuquerque as young professional women starting out so they could be close to each other. Freda was a presence in my life from the day I was born, always there to be by "Mother", friend and helpmate when I was in need. The wisdom she earned in her lifetime she freely shared with others experiencing the same situations. Her love of reading is something she passed on to all willing learners. Freda always had a book in her hand! If she had even five minutes to wait in the car Freda was reading. So many of my family moments were shared with this great lady that she will be sadly missed by all of us including my son Dr. Barton Staat. Rejoice with your family and friends in Heaven, Freda, for you have lived a great life and made a difference to so many. You truly deserve eternal peace and joy.*

Judy and Jim Hedgecock

Judy Hedgecock - July 07, 2013 at 09:30 AM