



## Mr. Luther Francis

February 24, 1923 - June 10, 2024

Luther Vernon Francis

~ A CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL LIVED ~

We bid farewell to LUTHER V. FRANCIS who departed from this world on June 10, 2024, at the distinguished age of 101 years old. Luther V. Francis was a gentle giant who walked through life with strength and conviction, touching the lives of so many in unimaginable ways.

As the only child of Ethel Mae Francis, this Centenarian was born in Paris, Texas. Luther's life was a testament to dedication, intellect, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. He exhibited a precocious nature and quiet demeanor in his early life, graduating as Salutatorian from Gibbons High School in Paris, TX.

Luther continued his journey with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression, where he contributed significantly to the development and conservation of rural America's natural resources. At the CCC camp in Bogota, Texas, he sent his modest earnings home to support his mother, exemplifying his early sense of duty and selfishness.

In 1942, Luther enrolled at Prairie View College (now Prairie View A&M University) where he acquired both baccalaureate and master's degrees. Luther later served honorably in the United States Army during World War II. Recognized for his exemplary surveying skills, he underwent advanced training in South Carolina and Alabama. His military service was marked by dedication and excellence.

After the war, Luther completed his master's degree and joined the faculty at Prairie View A&M College. As Head of Engineering Graphics, Advanced Surveying, and Business Law, and later as Business Manager for the Athletic Department and Director of Physical Plant, Luther's contributions were pivotal in shaping the institution's future. His work in designing and landscaping the Prairie View campus remains a lasting testament to his vision and keen attention to detail.

The multi-talented Luther V. Francis was a man of many interests. He was known for his elegance and charm. Additionally, he was an accomplished pilot. He frequently was known to fly his private plane across Texas. His intimate knowledge of the terrain earned him the nickname "Prairie View Veteran." Despite facing challenges, including a mistaken arrest on the night of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination due to his light complexion, Luther remained a steadfast pillar of his community.

A devout Christian and dedicated family man, Luther was a beloved father to his daughter, Delores "Dodie" Francis White, who he proudly saw crowned "Miss Prairie View A&M College," in 1968. All six of his children matriculated and received degrees from Prairie View A&M College, with three of those children 'walking in their father's footsteps' by majoring in Engineering. Additionally, his architectural prowess was well-recognized, having designed notable structures such as the Leroy Moore House and the homes of esteemed individuals including Robert and Sarah Williams and Dr. J. C. Williams. His passion for architecture was matched by his dedication to mentoring, and guiding students and colleagues with wisdom and kindness. In honor of his centennial journey, the CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW declared February 25, 2023, LUTHER VERNON FRANCIS DAY.

Luther's life was indeed a testament to resilience, intellect, and an unyielding spirit of love and an indelible mark on the Prairie View community. Left to continue his life learnings are his sons Deryl Vernon Francis (Sally) Raani Travon Francis (Deborah); daughters, Delores 'Dodie' White (Ronnie); Tanya Banks; Vanie Francis, and Cheryl Briscoe. Fifteen grandchildren; Fifteen great

grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren, as well as a long-time friend Bobbie Garrett, and a host of friends, former students and other family members.

Even though he is gone from this earth, we are still attached to the threads of his greatness now and forever more.

Professor Francis lifelong commitment to education, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to  
Dallas Prairie View Alumni Chapter

Zelle: [dallaspv@yahoo.com](mailto:dallaspv@yahoo.com)

Cash app: \$dallaspv

or mail to Dallas PV Alumni

P.O. Box 765314

Dallas, Texas 75736

# Cemetery Details

## Little John Cemetery

1099-1001 Center Street  
Paris, TX 75460

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 21. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Singleton & Sons Funeral Home  
627 New Orleans  
Hempstead, TX 77445  
(979) 826-2425  
info@singletonandsonsfh.com  
<https://www.singletonandsonsfh.com>

## Funeral Service

JUN 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel  
Campus of Prairie View A&M University  
Prairie View, TX 77446

## Burial

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JUN **25**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Little John Cemetery  
1099-1001 Center Street  
Paris, TX 75460

# Tribute Wall



“ *Condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Luther Francis. Mr. Francis was a long time friend of the U. S. and Gladys Wallace family. My sister, Michelle Wallace Bailey and I, Sheila Wallace Wolf, were PV Kids growing up in the community of Prairie View. We enjoyed and still cherish friendships that grew and we connected to Mr. Francis.*



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**Sheila Wolf** - August 08, 2024 at 09:44 AM



*We enjoyed and still cherish friendships that grew and were connected to Mr. Francis.*

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**Sheila Wolf** - August 08, 2024 at 09:47 AM



*were not we*

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**Sheila Wolf** - August 08, 2024 at 09:50 AM

CK

“ *Cheryl King lit a candle in memory of Mr. Luther Francis*



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**Cheryl King** - June 29, 2024 at 07:33 PM

CM

“ *Carolyn M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.*

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**Carolyn M.** - June 24, 2024 at 06:43 PM

CB

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes to the family of Mr. Luther Francis. May you be comforted in the following days knowing that Mr. Francis was a vessel that didn't mind sharing his thoughts and talents with those of us in the community. He shall be missed.

Charles "Charlie" Brown

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Charles Brown - June 21, 2024 at 04:02 PM

CH

“ Condolences to the family of Mr. Luther Francis. Mr. Francis was well loved by many. Definitely full of wisdom, guidance, and a good laugh he shall be missed by neighbors, friends, and family. He often spoke of Paris, TX and his many trips there and back even while in his 90's. His expertise on surveying, landscape, and engineering was most welcomed by our family. On two occasions when our riding lawn mower was down, he noticed the shape our yard was in and cut it for us. We never had to ask, he was just that type of man. We shall miss his smile, his bike rides, and the many trips he took on his riding mower cutting lawns throughout Prairie View well up into his 90's.. Always full of energy and good advice, he was a landmark for Prairie View, period. Our prayers are that his memories and love live on, and the talents and gifts he shared continue to remain a part of us all.

Frances Hardeway & Children (Vanessa, Terry, & Carol)

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Carol Hardeway - June 21, 2024 at 03:57 PM

PF

“ *Principal Lou Smith and Kimball family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.*



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**Principal Lou Smith and Kimball family.** - June 21, 2024 at 07:52 AM

MM

“ *Please accept our deepest condolences to the family over the loss of Mr. Francis. We offer you our heartfelt support and friendship during this difficult time.*



*Sincerely,  
Marc and Sophia Morris*

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**Marc and Sophia Morris** - June 20, 2024 at 01:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.*



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June 20, 2024 at 01:30 PM

ML

“ *Marie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Luther Francis*



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**Marie Lewis** - June 20, 2024 at 12:43 PM

MP

“ Mark S. Falls, Sr./39th President purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



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Mark S. Falls, Sr./39th President - June 20, 2024 at 12:24 PM

MP

“ Mark S. Falls, Sr./39th President planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.

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Mark S. Falls, Sr./39th President - June 20, 2024 at 12:24 PM

MB

“ Marc, Nina, and Bernice purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



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Marc, Nina, and Bernice - June 20, 2024 at 10:13 AM

SY

“ I cherish the memories of our Sunday Blackeyed Pea dinner dates with Trelita during our Freshman year and the road trips to Paris, TX. The conversations and wisdom shared by Luther V. will always hold a special place in my heart. A true PVAMU legend!

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Stacy Young - June 20, 2024 at 07:29 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.*



June 20, 2024 at 07:13 AM



“ *Juanita, Mickey and Stephanie White purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.*



**Juanita, Mickey and Stephanie White** - June 19, 2024 at 05:26 PM



“ *June, Kim & Celeece purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.*



**June, Kim & Celeece** - June 19, 2024 at 03:58 PM



“ *June, Kim & Celeece planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.*

**June, Kim & Celeece** - June 19, 2024 at 03:58 PM

CF

“ Cornell and Jackie Perry and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



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**Cornell and Jackie Perry and family** - June 19, 2024 at 02:59 PM

MS

“ I wanted to send prayers to the family and friends. Luther and myself shared a birthday, only 40 years apart. He was a great friend and a great person. It was an honor to know and spend time with him. Mark Shaffer

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**Mark Shaffer** - June 19, 2024 at 09:35 AM

HB

“ Harold and Pauline Bonner purchased the Laven der Reflections Spray for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



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**Harold and Pauline Bonner** - June 18, 2024 at 04:07 PM

HB

“ Harold and Pauline Bonner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.

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**Harold and Pauline Bonner** - June 18, 2024 at 04:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



June 17, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ The Hills, Sonya, Larry, Harold & Stephen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.

The Hills, Sonya, Larry, Harold & Stephen - June 17, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ The Hervey Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



The Hervey Family - June 17, 2024 at 03:29 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



June 17, 2024 at 03:07 PM

NE

“ Near & Dearest of HB's Evolution planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.

Near & Dearest of HB's Evolution - June 17, 2024 at 03:07 PM

IC

“ To Cheryl and family.  
I am so sorry for your loss. I pray that your family will be comforted and find peace in God's holy word. I pray you will remember me from the Registrars Office at PV. May your dad Rest in Peace. He will be missed by the community.



Ida M Beal Campbell - June 16, 2024 at 03:38 PM

SD

“ Sorors Pam, Dawn, and Danielle purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.



Sorors Pam, Dawn, and Danielle - June 13, 2024 at 10:24 PM

SD

“ Sorors Pam, Dawn, and Danielle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.

Sorors Pam, Dawn, and Danielle - June 13, 2024 at 10:24 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Luther Francis.*



June 13, 2024 at 12:48 PM



“ *Eta Beta Chapter, Spring 1990 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Luther Francis.*

**Eta Beta Chapter, Spring 1990** - June 13, 2024 at 12:48 PM



“ *SENDING COMFORT, STRENGTH AND PRAYERS TO THE FRANCIS FAMILY. I WORKED WITH MR. FRANCIS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING. I LIKED THAT HE SPOKE HIS MIND ON ANY SUBJECT AND TOLD IT LIKE IT IS, EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE I. HE WAS A STRAIGHT TO THE POINT PERSON. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY US ALL. REST IN PEACE SIR FRANCIS*



**THE RAGSTON AND TAPSCOTT FAMILY** - June 12, 2024 at 11:32 AM



“ *Beverly Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Luther Francis*



**Beverly Walker** - June 12, 2024 at 10:49 AM