



## Frances C. Kamstra

January 20, 1940 - May 21, 2017

Frances C. Kamstra, born January 20th 1940, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Bedford and Eunice (Wilson) Cornwell, passed away peacefully at home May 21, 2017, surrounded by family. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She attended school in Oil City, LA. On June 8th, 1954, she married Lyle R. Kamstra who was stationed at Barksdale AFB, Bossier City, LA. They were also stationed at AFB's in Missouri and Alaska, later making their home in Dickinson, ND, where she owned and operated Fran's Pizza Parlor until 1969. She then moved to Louisiana where she was employed at Western Electric until 1986. She moved to North Dakota where she obtained her GED in 1986, then enrolled in VCSU and proudly graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree at the age of 53. After graduation, she earned her certification as an Archaeology Field Tech, for the University of North Dakota, and worked for UND from 1992-2004 before retiring.

She enjoyed going on archaeology digs, scuba diving, fishing, golfing, metal detecting, and diesel and automotive mechanics. Spending time with her family was very important. She enjoyed teaching her grandchildren how to hit apples with golf clubs, swim, fish, and how to fix their cars. She instilled good values and beliefs in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren that will influence them for many generations to come. The one thing her entire family can agree upon is that Frances C. Kamstra could fix anything.

She is survived by her 6 children, Dwyle A. Kamstra (Pam), Truman L. Kamstra, Martin L. Kamstra, Cynthia K Rohde (Scot), Troy L. Kamstra

(Robin), all of Valley City, ND, and Tonya L Mergele, of Anna, TX, brothers, Forest Cornwell, Shreveport LA, Butch Cornwell, Stephens AR, and sister, Cissy Pitner, Austin TX, 19 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 3 brothers, 4 sisters, and son-in-law Paul E Mergele.

The memorial service for Frances will be 7 pm Tuesday, May 23 at the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City, with a reception to follow at the Sheyenne Care Center.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel. An online guestbook for Frances is available at [www.oliver-nathanchapel.com](http://www.oliver-nathanchapel.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY **23**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Traditions Funeral Services - Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel  
251 Central Ave. S.  
Valley City, ND 58072  
(701) 845-2414  
o-nchapel@bektel.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Oliver - Nathan Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Frances C. Kamstra



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**Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel** - May 23, 2017 at 05:17 PM

CW

*Great presentation. So much in so short a time. Great memories. Love to all*

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**Carole White** - May 23, 2017 at 06:56 PM

TM

*This is beautiful!!!*

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**Tammy Teakell Martinez** - May 24, 2017 at 09:52 PM

BT

*You were to me an inspiration. The many things that you taught me. Not just my Aunt but also my mother too. I will always love you and I will always miss you. Thank you for being a big part of my life.*

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**Barbara Turley** - May 30, 2017 at 04:52 AM

NK

“ *She's was the sweetest to me. I miss her every day. I'm so glad I had a piece of her. Love you Great Grandma Kamstra. Still can't believe you left me at 9. She would always try to go metal detecting with me.*

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**Natalie Kamstra** - July 02, 2021 at 07:54 PM

TM

“ You were there when I came into the world, Mom, it was my privilege to be there with you when you left. Your loving daughter,  
Tonya

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**Tonya Mergele** - May 29, 2017 at 08:56 PM

WB

“ She was one of those strong women who you could trust without drama. When Francis let you be her friend you lit it and knew it was forever! If life gave me too much she'd hold you up on your feet=gave back a facade of dignity. When both our sons went to Desert Storm.....it was her that taught me to pray every breathe in and out. Francis let me know she felt my pain.....in all those horrible hours....for decades...there was a bond as women = it had zilch to do with the job. I have 100s % respect!!!!!! And love of her children!

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**Wanda Bakke** - May 26, 2017 at 02:05 AM

JR

“ Fredericka and I always enjoyed our time with Frances who was my sister's best and longest friend. Her kindness, strength and hospitality will be missed.

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**James Rodman** - May 24, 2017 at 10:42 AM

CP

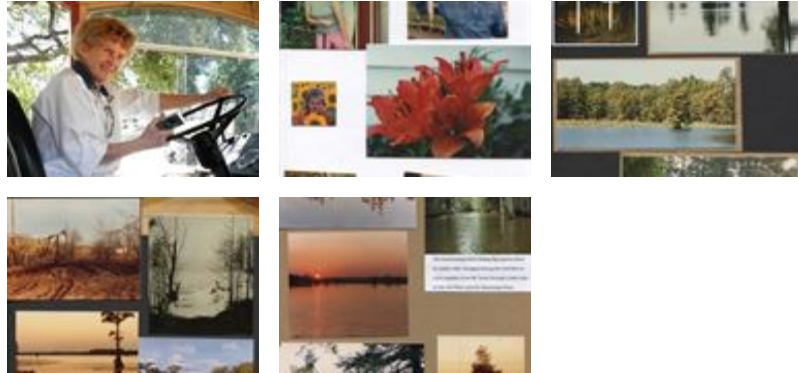
“ Frances was a second Grammy to my boys Blaise & Philip when they were just wee lads. We all remember her fondly. May the peace that passeth all understand be with her family & friends at this time..

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**Candy Pasenow** - May 24, 2017 at 12:02 AM



“ 70 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - May 23, 2017 at 04:55 PM



“ I have many memories of Frances and they are all special. She was a strong and a loving friend. I remember trips, fishing on Caddo Lake, camping, family reunions, dominoes and the baby pig that got stuck in her fence and so many more.

*My thoughts, prayers and love are with the Kamstra Family*

*Carole White*

Carole White - May 23, 2017 at 10:56 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Trips*



Carole - May 22, 2017 at 10:18 PM

CW

“ *Carole White purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Frances C. Kamstra.*



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**Carole White** - May 22, 2017 at 09:52 PM

VR

“ *We want to say how sorry we are about Fran passing away. She fought hard and lasted as long as she could. She is at peace now. Take care family and we are thinking about you.*  
*Vicky Royse and Marv Wimmer*



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**Vicky Royse** - May 22, 2017 at 07:27 PM

BE

“ *We remember a beautiful spring day when we had had a heavy rain that left a low spot on old 10 between Tower City and Buffalo full of water. She decided she needed to wash her car, a Simca, in that water.*

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**Bonnie Erickson** - May 22, 2017 at 06:32 PM