



Frances Anita Bryner

July 4, 1942 - February 8, 2026

Frances Anita Sessa Bryner was born July 4, 1942 in Washington, D.C., to John Sessa and Antoinette (Cataldi) Sessa. She passed away peacefully on February 8, 2026, in Waldorf, MD.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Catholic University and a master's degree in instructional systems development from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Frances and her husband, Bill Bryner, raised their 5 children in Waldorf, where she co-founded Our Lady Help of Christians (OLHC) church and worked as Director of Religious Education. She later led the ESOL program in Charles County, dedicating her career to helping students learn English, creating lessons and materials that made language feel accessible and welcoming. She and Bill made many life-long friends through OLHC.

In addition to OLHC, Frances also cherished time in Ocean City, NJ, and visits with family in Northern Italy.

Frances was known for her generous spirit, deep love of family, and abiding faith in God. She gave of herself freely — to her family, her students, and her community — and in doing so became a quiet light in the lives of many. Her compassion reached far beyond what she did, living on in the hearts of all who

were blessed to know her.

She is survived by her son John (Julie); daughters Theresa, Anita, Michelle, and Jeanna (Evan Clark), her grandchildren Jonathan (Eliana), Joey (Connie), Janie, Emmett, and Oliver and great-grandson Bruin, and her brothers John and Joseph Sessa. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Bert (Bill) Bryner.

A memorial service to celebrate and commemorate Fran's life will be held on Friday, February 27, at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady Help of Christians in Waldorf, followed by a repast in the church hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Joseph's Indian School, a favorite charity of Fran's.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 27. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church
100 Village Street
Waldorf, MD 20602

Tribute Wall



“ Ms. Bryner was really kind and a nice teacher. When I was struggling to learn English she comes up to me at school and she taught me English in nice and fun ways. She even come up see me when she retired from teaching. Her kindness and support made me who I am now and shaped me for the future.

Kohshi Meneses - February 27 at 11:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frances Anita Bryner.

February 27 at 09:11 AM



“ Terry Davis purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Frances Anita Bryner.



Terry Davis - February 26 at 10:25 AM



“ Terry Davis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances Anita Bryner.

Terry Davis - February 26 at 10:25 AM

MR

“ Mike Rauer purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Frances Anita Bryner.



Mike Rauer - February 25 at 05:05 PM

MR

“ Mike Rauer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances Anita Bryner.

Mike Rauer - February 25 at 05:05 PM

WE

“ With Love, Natalie, Stan, M & E purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Frances Anita Bryner.



With Love, Natalie, Stan, M & E - February 24 at 11:26 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances Anita Bryner.



February 23 at 11:56 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frances Anita Bryner.

February 23 at 11:56 AM



“ I did not know Fran, however, I do know her precious daughter Anita from Church. Anita is one of the nicest, sweetest people I know, and it is obvious that Fran did an amazing job of raising her into the woman she is today. In reading some of the other tributes, it is quite clear that Fran deeply touched the lives of many, many young people she taught. To do that shows her love for those children, and our world. I pray God's Peace which surpasses all understanding will comfort all of Fran's family and friends. I also pray that everyone will focus on all the love they shared with Fran, and will know this is not goodbye, this is just 'so long for now'. May God bless everyone touched by Fran's passing.

Bill Beavers III - February 22 at 08:05 PM

EM

“ Our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Fran’s family and friends.

When my son and I moved from Japan to Charles County in April 2016, Ms. Fran was his EASOL teacher. Even after her retirement, she kindly continued to come to school as a volunteer to support his learning. He had a difficult time adjusting to school in the United States, but Ms. Fran always looked for his strengths and interests, like fishing and golf, and prepared special materials just for him. Her kindness helped him feel accepted and confident.

When my son competed in the state championship during his senior year of high school, she came to cheer for him with her daughter Thereasa. We were so touched by her love and encouragement. My son is now preparing to pursue a master’s degree, and we truly believe Ms. Fran’s support helped make this possible.

Ms. Fran was a devoted and compassionate educator who touched the lives of so many EASOL students. To our family, she was like an angel. We will always be grateful for her love, her patience, and her belief in my son.

We believe she is now resting peacefully in heaven, still watching over all the children she cared for.

Thank you so much, Ms. Fran. We miss you dearly.



Eriko Meneses - February 22 at 03:47 PM

FM

“ From Kohshi, Jesse and Eriko Meneses purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Frances Anita Bryner.



From Kohshi, Jesse and Eriko Meneses - February 22 at 03:31 PM

FM

“ From Kohshi, Jesse and Eriko Meneses planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances Anita Bryner.

From Kohshi, Jesse and Eriko Meneses - February 22 at 03:31 PM

CS

“ Fran Bryner was instrumental in starting the ESOL program in Charles County Public Schools. It was after taking one of her introductory classes that I decided to switch from Special Education to ESOL. She shared her passion for teaching English Language Learners with educators and parents. Her kindness and empathy for others was felt by all. I am saddened by her passing but know her effect on us all will last for a long time. My condolences go out to her wonderful daughters , son and their families.

Carolyn Magnuson Sienkiewicz - February 21 at 03:31 PM

JM

“ Thank God for Fran!!!! Raising our children in Waldorf and attending OLHC and participating in Families Involved in Religious Education was a profound positive experience for our sons and ourselves. She and Bert were a dynamic pair!!!! Joy McLaughlin

Joy McLaughlin - February 20 at 07:26 PM

CC

“ *Client Support Division- Census purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Frances Anita Bryner.*



Client Support Division- Census - February 18 at 09:52 AM

AC

“ *Amy Chu purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Frances Anita Bryner.*



Amy Chu - February 17 at 09:29 PM

TC

“ *My deepest sympathies to the Bryner family.*

Teresa Cardascia - February 17 at 04:39 PM