



Martha Frances McIntire Longnecker Hildebrand, 84, of Franklin, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007.

She was born Feb. 8, 1923, in her parents' farm home in Madison County, Ohio, to the late S.F. and Blanche Higgins McIntire. She weighed only two pounds and was kept alive in the wood cook stove. She grew up in the village of Irwin, Ohio. She then lived in Springfield and Dayton, Ohio; in Ocoee, Fla., for 34 years before moving to Franklin, the best move she ever made.

She was a newspaper and radio reporter in Springfield and Kettering, Ohio; worked in the office of Beacon Mutual Insurance Co., Dayton, Ohio, and retired as a workman's compensation claims adjuster and supervisor at Corporate Group Service in Orlando, Fla.

She was married to Richard L. Longnecker who died Sept. 9, 1962, to Donald E. Longnecker, who died Jan. 14, 1994; and to Victor F. Hildebrand, who died Nov. 22, 2004. In addition, she was preceded in death by a stepson, Jack Hildebrand, who died January 16, 2007.

She traveled to all 48 states with husbands, Don and Vic, in a travel trailer and motor home, enjoying camping, golfing, dancing, pontoon boating and fish fries with friends in Florida, a very good life. She was a volunteer at Angel Medical Center and a member of Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church, where she served as Sunday school superintendent and teacher, member of the choir, Lay Leader, delegate to General Assembly at Lake Junaluska, editor of the church newsletter, publicity chairman, volunteer photographer and served on a number of committees. She had no children of her own, but loved as her own, five stepchildren and their families. She is survived by three stepdaughters, Carolyn Longnecker Ramey and husband Virgil of Pinckney, Mich., Janet Longnecker Render and husband Arnold of Howell, Mich., Cindy Hildebrand Kepplin and husband Wayne of Rolling Prairie, Ind.; one stepson, Charles Hildebrand of Leesburg, Fla.; daughter-in-law, Grace Hildebrand of Grand Rapids, Mich.; 15 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Ruth E. McIntire of Franklin; and her Chihuahua, Joey; also, special friends, Jerry and Rachel Arndt of Franklin; Robin, Mary and Larry Sibley of New Port Richey, Fla., Larry and Janet Peterson of Hamlet, Ind., Ralph and Donna Nehmelman of Fouts, Ind., and her Hickory Knoll Church family.

The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 23, at Macon Funeral Home.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 24, at Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church, with Rev. Tim McConnell officiating.

Burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Jerry Arndt, Bill Gallman, John Wilde, Carl Alexander, Larry Conley, Larry Ringle and Ed Carpenter.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Building Fund, C/O Debbie Smith, 546 S. Tryphosa Rd., Otto, NC 28763.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences are available by visiting www.maconfuneralhome.com.

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