



## Ellene French

December 29, 1939 - August 14, 2020

Ellene Goswick French, 80, passed quietly in her sleep August 14, 2020 at Medical City Hospital in Plano, Texas in the presence of her daughter Alice. She was born December 29, 1939 at the family home in Barry Texas to Ewell Goswick and Mae Parks Goswick. She was preceded in death by her parents Ewell and Mae Goswick, her sisters Nila Jean Goswick Sinclair and Eula Mae Goswick Haynie, her husband Willie Neilan French, son Willie Neilan French Jr. and son-in-law Bert Page Hollis. She is survived by her sister Joyce Wynelle Goswick Garrison-Kaufman Texas, her children, Pepper “Maryjo French” Clark-Oklahoma City Oklahoma and former son-in-law Barry Scott Clark, Alice Elaine French Jones and son-in-law Edward William Jones-Wylie, Texas, Sarah Joann French Hollis Jones and son-in-law Michael David Jones-Haughton, Louisiana, and son Ezra Amon Eli French-Navarro Mills, Texas; her grandchildren Garret Scott Clark and Seth Smiley-both of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Michael Dain Jones-Plano Texas, Mulsby “Molly” Dawn Jones-Wylie Texas, Ashley Breanne Hollis-Lubbock Texas, Cooper Daniel Hollis-Natchitoches, LA, Peyton O’Neal French and Austin DeLane French; great-grandchildren Saber Clark and Rebel Smiley, along with a great many nieces and nephews.

Being brought up in the Church, Ellene at first attended 5th Ave Church of Christ, 2nd Ave Church of Christ, and finally was a longtime resident member of Westhill Church of Christ. She graduated from Corsicana High School,

which is now known as Drane Middle School, in 1958. Her parents had instilled an excellent work ethic; Ellene graduated high school on Friday and began work at 1st National Bank on Monday morning. Later she worked with her husband Neilan French in his real estate appraisal office before Neilan passed.

You cannot speak about Ellene without speaking about Neilan. The two met through a common friend Zoe Ann and a short few months later Neilan proposed to Ellene on the Ferris Wheel at The Texas State Fair on October 17, 1959, they were later married the same year on December 26th at 5th Ave Church of Christ.

Ellene spent many years working in the Corsicana community giving back any way she could and never hesitated to try and instill that same desire in her children. She worked with Meals on Wheels delivering plates in the community to those in need, but she always made sure to stay and visit and show those residents kindness and they had value. She was an active member of the local American Business Women's Association (ABWA) earning the title of ABWA- "Women of the Year" for her hard work and dedication in 1976. Ellene was dedicated to her family which she did not come by easily. She and Neilan adopted 4 children throughout their marriage and were open to adopting more prior to Neilan's passing. Being dedicated to her family Ellene worked beside Neilan building his Real Estate company and gained her own real estate license during that time. Somehow while being a mother, attending PTA meetings, and working beside Neilan she also managed to attend night classes at Navarro College and graduate with Honors earning an Associates in Science degree in 1980. After Neilan passed Ellene returned to her bank career working for Prosperity Bank until she retired in 2012.

Ellene was a giver and felt it her Christian duty to aid others when she could.

She had a compassionate heart, faithful dedication, and love for her mother, sisters, nieces, nephews' husband, and children. She also had a stubborn streak, was very private, and never wanted to be fussed over. She felt it was her duty to bring others to Christ and never passed up a chance to share her love of God.

Ellene will be terribly missed and we are thankful for her time with us; we are equally thankful her health struggles are over and she has been gathered home to heaven.

Due to Covid-19 constraints, a socially distanced visitation and service will be conducted Friday, August 21, 2020, at Griffin Roughton Funeral Home. Visitation from 12-1 pm, funeral service at 1 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to the Navarro Mills Cemetery fund. Please make checks out to Navarro Mills Cemetery Association and mail to Joel or Carolyn Sawyer 1080 FM 667 Purdon Tx 76679 so that an acknowledgment can be sent in appreciation, or you may make the donations directly to the Navarro Mills Cemetery Association at Citizens Bank P.O. Box 159 Dawson Tx 76639 with no acknowledgment.

# Cemetery Details

## Navarro Mills Cemetery

FM 667  
Purdon, TX 76679

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 21. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana  
1530 N. 45th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110  
(903) 874-4774  
[info@griffin-roughton.com](mailto:info@griffin-roughton.com)

## Funeral Service

AUG 21. 1:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana  
1530 N. 45th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110  
(903) 874-4774  
[info@griffin-roughton.com](mailto:info@griffin-roughton.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ellene French*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Ellene was a dear friend. She was a warm and caring person and was such an encouragement to me while I lived in Corsicana. I still miss our Sunday pew and lunch bunch.*

*I'm so thankful for our hope of heaven and I look forward to seeing her there.*

*Prayers for comfort and peace for her family.*

*Cathy Privitt*

**Cathy Privitt** - August 19, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ *I had the privilege of working for Neilan and Ellene back in the early 90's at their Real Estate Office. I was blessed beyond words by working for them. They gave me my first office job and they even bought my wedding dress for me. She was indeed an angel from God. I saw her maybe a year or so ago and she remembered me and got a hug from her. God truly received his angel back and her and Neilan are together again. Many prayers for your family and friends.*

*Keely Green Ward*

**Keely Green Ward** - August 18, 2020 at 01:56 PM

AJ

“ 20 files added to the album *The Life of Ellene French*



---

**Alice Jones** - August 18, 2020 at 12:36 PM

AJ

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



---

**Alice Jones** - August 18, 2020 at 12:11 PM

AJ

“ 15 files added to the album *Ellene throught her life.*



---

**Alice Jones** - August 18, 2020 at 12:07 PM

BA

“ *Ellene was a wonderful Christian lady and was Loved by so many. She will be missed. ❤️*

**Beverly Abercrombie** - August 18, 2020 at 11:29 AM

BH

“ *Ellene will be missed. She was a kind,gentle, and loving person. To know her was to love her. A strong Christian lady who brighten every room with her light. Words cannot express the lady I come to know and love. My condolences to the family. You were very blessed to have such a loving mother,sister,and aunt in your lives.*

*Beverly Heathcote*

**Beverly Heathcote** - August 18, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ellene French.*



August 18, 2020 at 01:46 AM

GB

“ *We were friends from high school. Ellen will be missed by friends here but was welcomed into the Heavenly Gates by her family .Prayers for her family and friends.*

**Gkenda Boyd** - August 17, 2020 at 10:40 PM

CM

“ Courtney Murphy sent a virtual gift in memory of Ellene French

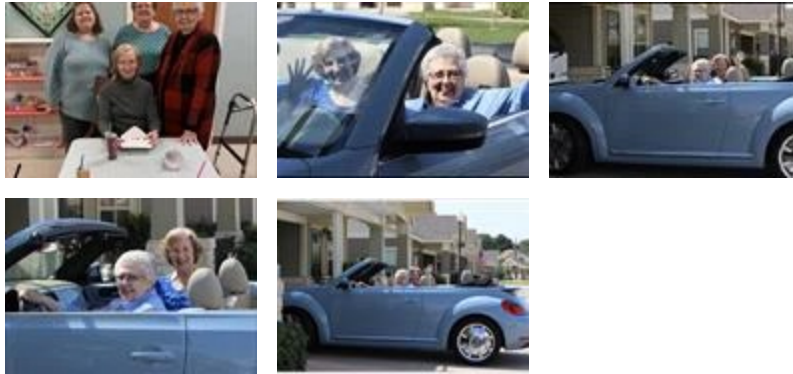


---

**courtney murphy** - August 17, 2020 at 08:19 PM

NN

“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Nancy Neal** - August 17, 2020 at 04:45 PM

ZB

“*Ellene, my dear friend, is know longer with us. I know she was a “dear” friend, because she put-up with me!! When I slept over at her house, if we heard a noise, she would pull the cover over her head and I would go to investigate! We were different, but we were the same in important things. They say opposites attract, well, that may be true. We always had each other’s back. But, the bottom line is, she kept me on the straight and narrow! If I had a dollar for each time she looked at me and in her “shaming voice” said, “WELL, ZOE ANN,” I would be a wealthy woman. I remember one time only that my friend got a bit “out of line!,” but I will never, ever tell!! By the way, I introduced her to the love of her life, RICKY NELSON!! Yes, I met the Ricky “look a like” at Navarro “Jr” College, Mr Neilan French. I am sure, as I write this, Ellene is filling him in on all he miss after he left.*

*I love you, Ellene, you are the best!!*

*P.S. I don’t want to hear about the other Angels looking unhappy with you and saying, “WELL, ELLENE!”*

*Sent from my iPad*

---

**Zoe Branch** - August 17, 2020 at 01:14 PM

MD

“ *Ellene was a beautiful sweet lady.*

*The Rose Beyond The Wall*

*A rose once grew where all could see,  
sheltered beside a garden wall,  
And as the days passed swiftly by,  
it spread its branches, straight and tall...*

*One day, a beam of light shone through  
a crevice that had opened wide  
The rose bent gently toward its warmth  
then passed beyond to the other side*

*Now, you who deeply feel its loss,  
be comforted - the rose blooms there-  
its beauty even greater now, nurtured by  
God's own loving care.*

---

**Mary Dillard** - August 15, 2020 at 08:59 AM