



Mignon A. Francis

July 9, 1931 - January 28, 2008

Mignon A. Francis, 76, of Bigelow, will be forever remembered for the love for his family, courageous service to his country, and his passion for politics. He was of the Baptist faith and a long-time member of the Bigelow Baptist Church. Mignon passed away Monday, January 28, 2008. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him, and memories of him will always be cherished.

Born July 9, 1931 in Bigelow, Arkansas, Mignon was the youngest of nine children and was the only boy. He was adored by his parents and his eight older sisters. He was a graduate of Bigelow High School and went on to attend college at Arkansas Tech.

He then joined the United States Navy where he served on the USS Corson for forty-eight months during the Korean War. He was honored by the Navy with an award for a heroic act of bravery when a U.S. Air Force aircraft crashed near his ship. Without hesitation and despite highly flammable material, he entered the water and helped recover the victims of the crash. All personnel were rescued. In the years he served our country Mignon formed life-long bonds with his fellow servicemen.

His involvement in the Republican Party began with the Winthrop Rockefeller Administration where Mignon served as Governor Rockefeller's personal Administrative Assistant. In this position he represented the Governor at various political events throughout the country. At the Governor's request, Mignon had the privilege of accompanying Mrs. Rockefeller to the funeral of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Atlanta, Georgia and participating in a three and a half mile walk in the procession honoring Dr. King.

At the end of the Rockefeller Administration Mignon returned to his roots in Bigelow. In 1974 he ran for state representative but was defeated by incumbent Paul Van Dalsem. Although he was not successful in this race, through his campaign he was able to enlighten the people of Perry County of the corruption and abuse of power in their current local government, and was able to begin to change the minds of Perry County residents about their current representation, which paved the way for positive change in Perry County politics.

Among his many accomplishments, Mignon was a proud member of the East End Masonic Lodge #758 and was a 32nd degree mason, and through his involvement in freemasonry, was able to make positive contributions to his community.

In the early 1980's he began a career as an investment broker and remained in this field until retirement. Mignon was just as comfortable shaking hands with Presidents or selling securities by phone, but he was most at home on his farm.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gola Holland Francis and Wes Francis, daughter Suzanne Riley, sisters Mada Bishop, Automease Williams, Monteen Baker, Loease Woodall and Verna Cobb-Fisher. He is survived by son Michael Francis, daughter Holly Francis, grandsons Ryan Welter and Dylan Doughty, granddaughter Madelyn James, sisters Freeda Batson, Ilene Windle and Juanita Powell.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 1, 2008, at the First Baptist Church in Bigelow with Dr. Bill Brown officiating. Burial will be at Oak Grove Cemetery near Bigelow, by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 31, 2008, at the funeral home in Morrilton. Memorials may be sent to Baptist Hospice

Tribute Wall



“ *Mignon A. Francis*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *I am sorry for your loss. Mignon was a good person and easy to work with. (investment business) He will be missed by many.*

June 30, 2018 at 12:44 AM



“ *Michael....I remember summers when your family came to the lake with our family. How many Jerry Lewis telethons do you think we watched on that old black-and-white t.v.?!?! And I remember some visits to the farm in Bigelow....one in particular when everything was very muddy....and also when your dad lived near Roland. I have often wondered what happened to all of you and would love to catch up sometime. I am sorry to hear of your father's passing. My dad, (R.Jerry Rogers), died 22 years ago and I still miss him every single day. I remember him as a very fun and interesting man and I always enjoyed the times our families spent together.*

Mary Jane

June 30, 2018 at 12:44 AM



“ *mike sorry to hear about your dad, he was always a nice man. i fell your pain i lost my dad on jan 10th. i will be thinking of the family*

February 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ mike sorry to hear about your dad he was a wonderful man.and a good father it has been a long time since i've seen him .or the kids .our hearts are with the family.p.s.mike if you need to talk too some please feel free to e-mail me or call me. e-mail address is boofita8@yahoo.com\1-813-532-2830,,,,,,,i would love too hear from you :-)

February 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My Grandmother was Myrtle Mae Tolleson of Bigelow. When she was close to leaving us from pancreatic cancer, she planned every detail of her funeral. Among those details was that Mignon would sing at her service. The pain of that day blurred many of my memories, but I clearly remember Mignon's heavenly voice Singing How Great thou art and In the Garden.
Mignon and my mom, Johnnie Fay Tolleson, grew up together. I also knew Mignon through the Rockefeller young Republicans. He was always such a kind and gentle man and exuded goodness. May you find the comfort that Mignon gave us with his voice and kindness. He was a dear dear man. His memory will live on through his exemplary life.
Patrick and Danna Carver

February 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ THIS FROM G.C. LOWERY
U.S.S. CORSON AVP 37
SHIPMATES
MIGNON WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND SHIPMATE. WE MOURN HIS LOSS.
G.C. LOWERY

February 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Holly and Mike, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dad. Just remeber that he is in a better place with his sisters and parents. My mom Brenda told me the news last night. Our thought and prayers are with you and your families.

Stuart and Annabelle Salomon

February 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ MIGNON WAS A GREAT FRIEND FOR ALMOST THIRTY YEARS. WE LOVED HIM AND WILL MISS HIM. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.

February 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We are sorry for your loss, Mignon was a long time good friend

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Mignon's passing. I've known him for years thru working with him in the investment business. He was a sweet man and my sister and I loved to kid around with him.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Mignon's passing. He was such a sweetheart. While working with Mignon in the investment business we had many talks about his experiences. He truly had a full and interesting life.

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. My prayers are with you.

January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM