



Francis Leary Jr.

February 10, 1946 - January 29, 2026

Francis Aloysius Leary, age 79, passed away peacefully on January 29, 2026, while receiving compassionate care at Heritage of Irene Woods in Memphis, Tennessee. He was born February 10, 1946, in Waterbury, Connecticut, to Francis “Frank” Leary and Jeanette Vanasse Leary. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Daniel Leary, and his beloved wife, Lynn Leary.

In 1978, Francis moved to Memphis with his first wife, Lois Campbell, through his work as a chemical engineer, where they raised three daughters. In later years, he married Lynn Leary, with whom he shared a devoted life in Germantown, Tennessee. With Lynn’s loving support, Francis pursued entrepreneurship and founded Mid South Chemicals. She also stood faithfully by him throughout his long battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

A devoted Christian, Francis was baptized in Jesus’ name and was a longtime member of East Win Christian Church in Memphis. He was known for his deep faith and for leading

heartfelt prayer in church, with those in need, and at family gatherings.

Francis is survived by his children: Christine Watts (Thomas Watts, Jr.), Nicole Hughes (James Hughes, Jr.), Michele Bailey (Michael Bailey), and Christopher Riordan (Lynn's son). He was a proud grandfather to six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren: Thomas Watts III; Brandy Muse (Jason Muse) and their children Jason, Grayson, and Jaxon; Tim Hughes (Jenna Hughes) and their son Bennett; Marisa Hughes; Shelby Blount (Ryan Blount); and Tyler Bailey.

Francis had a lifelong love for the beach and made it a cherished yearly tradition with his family. He valued togetherness, faith, and enduring family bonds, which will continue to honor his memory for generations to come.

The family will hold a private Celebration of Life in honor of Fran Leary and appreciate your thoughts and prayers during this time.