



## Ayner G. Franks

July 7, 1914 - September 15, 2019

Ayner Genevieve Franks was born in Ridgeland, WI on July 7, 1914, to Gary and Mildred Dawson; she passed away on September 15, 2019, in Kingsford, MI. Ayner had an older brother, Kenneth and four younger, half siblings. Her father was a farmer, and her mother was a homemaker. Her maternal ancestors were pioneer residents of Barron and Dunn Counties, WI. They carved a homestead out of the wilderness during a tumultuous period of history, encompassing both the Indian and Civil Wars.

Ayner began her education in Ridgeland in a one-room schoolhouse but quickly advanced by skipping grades, and she attended Barron High School at a very early age. Her right leg and pelvis were crushed in an automobile accident at age seventeen. Rejecting the plan to amputate her leg, she convinced the surgeon she would walk again. She succeeded and still went for walks in her mid-nineties. In her teens, Ayner loved to dance and enjoyed being the “Belle of the Ball.” This was during the boisterous era of the 1920s and early 1930s.

Ayner met Oscar Franks in Dallas, WI. They were married on August 27, 1936, in Ironwood, MI, and returned to north central WI to raise their family in Ladysmith. During the ensuing years, Ayner and Oscar established numerous business enterprises, including a gas station, repair shop, cab company, and an extremely successful restaurant during WWII. In 1948 they opened an

automobile agence in Ladysmith, selling and servicing Hudson automobiles. Ayner was the general manager during this time.

Despite the earlier projections of not being able to have children due to her injuries, Ayner had three sons, Dr. Bruce Franks (Sharon) of Iron Mountain, MI, Dr. Terry Franks (Carol) of Rainier, WA, and Corey Franks (Linnea Perreault) of Minneapolis, MN.

After selling the Hudson Agency, Ayner and Oscar accepted positions with the senior citizen centers in Wisconsin's north central region. Ayner went on to become the director of all senior citizen centers for Wisconsin's Indianhead Region.

Following the loss of her husband, Oscar, Ayner ultimately moved to Iron Mountain/Kingsford, MI, the home of her eldest son. While living there, she volunteered at the Victorian Pines Nursing Home, teaching Tai-Chi and Chi Gong while in her mid-nineties. She recently celebrated her 105th birthday.

Ayner passed away in peace, the proud mother of three sons, grandmother of four, great-grandmother of eight, and great-great-grandmother of one. Her past interests include picking wild berries and making preserves and special culinary treats. She also enjoyed participating in outdoor sports such as fishing, hunting, and touring the natural wonders of the outdoors. Her life interests embrace family first, church, business successes, and friends. Ayner is survived by a half-brother (Cecil Deutsch of Rice Lake, WI) and numerous relatives in the immediate area. A private graveside service is being held for the family.

The Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain was in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ *She was a beautiful person. I always appreciated her warmth and acceptance so sorry for her parting she will be missed.*

*Ann*

**Ann Schalk** - September 17, 2019 at 11:43 PM



Corey Franks

*Ann,  
She always Spoke so Highly of You! Thank You!*

**Corey Franks** - September 18, 2019 at 12:21 AM

OW

“ *Dr Bruce Franks and Family,  
My sincere sympathy and prayers for you in the loss of your mother. She obviously lived a good life for over 100 years. I know she was a neighbor to my sister Betty, who entered heavens door on the 8th at 91 years, on Deveraux St. Aprtmts. Never easy to lose your Mother no matter how old. May you be comforted with all the good memories shared.*



*Keeping you in thought and prayer.*

*Orice Walters*

**Orice Walters** - September 17, 2019 at 10:59 PM



Corey Franks

*Thank You!!*

**Corey Franks** - September 18, 2019 at 12:15 AM

CW

“ Dear Bruce, Terry, and Corey,

*Your Mom was so special to our family. We have many wonderful memories of our two families enjoying time together. Our moms and dads were very close friends. I remember her giving me lots of home permanents, and when we had surprise parties for my Mom your Mom was always a part of the planning and festivities. She was an exceptionally talented woman who wasn't afraid to try anything. I think she helped me with sewing projects for 4H too.*

*Lots of happy memories have gone through my head the last few days. She lived to be an amazing 105. My mother-in-law just passed away on July 1, 35 days before her 105th birthday. Their legacy lives on through children.*

*Cindy (Leroux) and Doug Winter*

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**Cynthia A Winter** - September 17, 2019 at 02:11 PM



Corey Franks

*Thank You Cindy. So True We Were Blessed 🙏*

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**Corey Franks** - September 17, 2019 at 04:43 PM



Corey Franks

*Thank You Cindy, Your Family was and Always will be Special to Ours too!*

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**Corey Franks** - September 18, 2019 at 12:17 AM



“ *She was my favorite grandmothers best friend.*

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**Dave Wilson** - September 17, 2019 at 12:46 PM



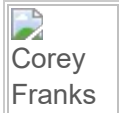
*Dave, She had so many Great times with Your Grandmother. And was So Glad we reconnected again so many Years Later. Thank You My Brother!*

**Corey Franks** - September 18, 2019 at 12:23 AM



“*Ayner and my mother were dear friends...what a delight to come in the house and there was Ayner and Mother talking and laughing and sometimes crying over coffee and cookies! Ayner always said hello to us, no matter our age...no matter the shape we were in(full of dirt, or popsicle juice, or blood from a scraped knee)! She was a sweet, lovely lady who I remember fondly! God Bless you all!*”

**Gail Wood** - September 17, 2019 at 12:31 PM



*If Youd like to talk with Bruce send me a PM . I'll send you his Private Number. And Thx Your Family was always Special to ours Too! Still are!*

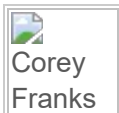
**Corey Franks** - September 17, 2019 at 07:00 PM



“*Ayner was my favorite aunt, who never forgot a birthday or holiday, took the time to listen, and always had a kind word. She was a tough ol' bird with a heart of gold - and I'll miss her <3*”



**Karen Hulene Bartell** - September 17, 2019 at 12:10 PM



*Karen. She was So Proud of You!*

**Corey Franks** - September 18, 2019 at 12:20 AM

CY

“ So many memories of growing next to the Frank's on Menasha Ave. I don't remember Ayner objecting when Terry and I raided their cupboards to find ingredients for a kool aid stand or to mix up a lethel concoction to get rid of the caterpillars that were infesting the trees in front of our house. You boys are lucky to have had your mother for such a long time. Love and best wishes to you. Carole (Goldsmith) Young.

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**Carole Young** - September 17, 2019 at 12:05 PM



Corey Franks

Carol i"ve heard so many Great stories about our Families interactions as Well. Thank You!

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**Corey Franks** - September 18, 2019 at 12:18 AM

SH

“ One of the neighborhood moms on Menasha Avenue, where it was fun for a kid to grow up. Rest In Peace, Mrs. Franks.

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**Susan Hotchkiss** - September 17, 2019 at 11:24 AM



Corey Franks

Sue. She always spoke so Highly of You! Thank You!

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**Corey Franks** - September 18, 2019 at 12:20 AM