



January 2018

Special Edition



Francie!



Everyone's Sister Francie

It's been a week now and I still find it hard not to cry, but as Francie keeps reminding me in my head "no tears only smiles, if you want to be on Team Francie" Yes, I most definably want to be on Team Francie! I grew up with her, I have known her my entire life, I have seen her highs and lows... but what I really can say is I didn't really know her as well as I thought...

Francie died early Saturday morning (before 3:00am) on January 20, 2018. She died peacefully with Lyle by her side. Her body may have ceased to function, but Francie simply moved to a new state of living. One where we may not directly see or hear her, but one where we will always feel her presence. Within hours of her last breath on earth, she was heard again through all the people she touched.

I started to read all the stories people were posting on Facebook and quickly realized how little I really knew France. I always knew what a force she was and how she could always be counted on whenever you needed her. But I never really knew how much she meant to so many people. There were so many stories, no, that's not right, act of kindness would better describe it, posted that I was overwhelmed at what Francie had accomplished in her sort time with us. As soon as I started to read them I knew that they had to be put together in a Special Edition of the Riel Family Newsletter (the first one ever).



I simply can't find the words to describe how much I love Francie. She was always there, she cried with me, laughed with me, she always gave me great advice, she called me out when needed and knew when all I needed was to be held. She is my sister, but I never knew until now that she has lots of brothers and sisters, all over the world. People she touched, mentored, helped, but most of all just provided some kindness when it was needed most.

I now understand much better why Francie had so many customers at the Final Cut. OK,

she really did know how to cut hair, but I also think she provided a place people could go just to feel good about themselves. Francie has this unique talent to take even the worst situation and turn it into a positive moment. In truth, a session with Francie made you a much better person.

If you really want to know Francie better, I encourage you to read everything in this issue. Then go to her Facebook page and read all the other posts I didn't get to put in. I am sure it will raise your spirits and as Francie always does... leave you a better person after the experience.

Over the past few months I knew someday soon I would have to deal with the loss of my Sister. I also knew that somehow, I would have to celebrate her life in the pages of the RFNL. I just wasn't sure if I would be up to the task or if I could even do it... Once again Francie has come to my rescue by providing so many friends willing to share their life with her. Francie, I know you, Dad and Bruce (among many others) are reading this, and I wish I could do better at letting you know how much you have meant to so many people, but my words will always fall short of what I truly feel, but they are all I have... I love you – Brother Bob





Mother-in-Love

By Bridget Sorem

Francie is now my mother-in-law only since June 2nd, but since Bryce took way too long to propose, I've luckily known Francie much longer. The reason I call this dedication "Mother-in-Love" is because Francie called me her "daughter-in-love": I was definitely not a daughter-in-law to her. This, to me, describes a lot about the woman Francie was and always will be to me, to us. Who wants to think that Bryce and I are married by the law? Francie most certainly did not! I was her daughter through LOVE. That's just one instance in which Francie taught me something new to live by. Francie taught me that traditions are not followed, they are created. Francie most certainly created her traditions that we will all continue, and love is most definitely more important than the law, just as Taco Tuesdays are more important than Saturday Nights.

Time with Francie was always so full of life, light, and love. First, let's get back to the fact that I met Francie while she was celebrating her 60th birthday in late August about a month after her birthday. Immediately, my first impression was, 'I love this mom. Her birthday was July 21st, but she's still celebrating in August.' At the time, I still wasn't completely convinced that I wanted to be with our Brycey, but after that night, I did a little bit more! If she was his mom, he must be a wonderful guy, right? Honestly, what I loved the most about Bryce was that our second date was with his friends, and our third date was with his mom. Deal sealed! Anyway, back to our Francie. She was a woman who loved New York City and I'm so lucky to have been part of the visits she made to Bryce. I remember going shopping with Francie in Herald Square, and I couldn't believe that she was at least 10 paces in front of me in heels. We got into the Macy's and as we walked in, a salesperson tried to get us to try anti-aging cream. Francie's reaction was to walk away and say, 'No thank you, I like my wrinkles.' All these moments, I just fell in love with my future mother-in-love. Francie said it how it was and never held anything back. I've learned a lot from Francie, especially that I, too, can walk through NYC in heels! Not kidding, that becomes important in your 30's.

Francie always taught me that life is too good to sweat the small stuff. Bryce and I partied a little too hard in Pacific Beach once and missed our flight back to NYC. Instead of reminding us that we were irresponsible adults, Francie did just the opposite. She said, "If your biggest problem can be solved by money, it's really not a problem." Bryce flew back the next day and I spent it with Francie doing all the greatest things we always did together: shopping, hair, and chardonnay. Francie accepted me no matter what happened. At the end of the day, we loved each other because we both had Bryce to love. Francie, I promise you that I will love your Brycey always. I wish you were around to be such an amazingly fun and loving grandma to our kids. We will keep you at the center of their lives by telling them all the amazing stories so that they too can live by your traditions full of life, light, and love. Through their laughter, I know you will be right there shining through.

I love you Francie, my mother-in-love.

I have always said that my husband and I are so lucky. Our son in law Mike is wonderful, in fact, our daughter Caitlin says we love him more than her. Then Jacqueline became part of our family and once again we felt blessed. You see not only did we have a terrific son and daughter in law but their parents and families were just as terrific.

Then Bryce came along. How could we not love Bryce especially when we knew how happy he made Bridget. Would we be so lucky a third time in the “in law” department? The answer was YES!!!!

I remember the first time I met Francie. It was a Saturday a couple of weeks before Christmas. Bridget had called me at work the day before to say her school had extra tickets to a Broadway show in NYC and Bryce’s mom was going and would I like to join them. Sure, I was up for a free play ticket. Well, it wasn’t free and the rain that day was torrential but I did get to meet Francie. I met them in Hoboken at Bridget and Bryce’s apart-



ment, Brett was there too. Francie had brought Christmas gifts for Brett, Bryce and Bridget, and if I remember correctly she even brought them their Christmas tree. It was a collapsible tree and fit really nicely in their apartment. Did she always think of everything? I could tell she was a dynamo.

Francie impressed me from the start. After the play we went for a favorite past time, a glass of chardonnay. When it was time to leave Francie said she was going to visit friends, on her own she was taking a NYC subway, but wasn’t she from California? And how did she appear so comfort-



able? I was in awe from the first time I met her. I wanted to be just like Francie when I grew up!

I thought she and Lyle were moving in when the doorbell rang the day of Bridget and Bryce’s engagement. They were at the front door with luggage. The suitcases were filled with personalized water bottles, goodie bags for the party bus she arranged for and Dr. Who lanyards to name just some of what Francie had prepared for our trip to the winery. Francie even managed to locate a Dr. Who restaurant a few miles from the winery. She orchestrated all of this from 3000 miles away. In my eyes this woman was amazing.

Francie was on our deck having some BBQ and chardonnay of course when she mentioned she had some rib pain. We didn't think much of it. A few weeks later came the diagnosis and once again I was in awe of Francie. Her spirit and spunk, and her I am going to do whatever it takes to beat this thing attitude so impressed me. I had family and friends start praying hard for her. We were part of her "prayer warrior team." Her monthly emails kept all of us up to date on her battle front.

As you know we didn't know if she would be able to travel to attend the wedding. She called me with a backup plan in case she couldn't be there, of course she would. She wanted the DJ's number. She was going to arrange for a big video screen to be at the venue so she could make an appearance and give a toast from home to surprise the new bride and groom using some technology that Francie was so good at. I don't think I ever told them this.

Thankfully, that wasn't needed, and Francie was at the wedding looking glorious. We were so thrilled for her to be there and I know that this was a goal for Francie. I know she was tired and had pain, but she never complained. She once again showed all of us how to live life to the fullest making me think of a poster in my chiropractor's office...In the end it is not the years in your life but the life in your years.

I know Francie loved her family dearly. She was so open minded she even accepted all of us crazy NJ people as part of her extended family. Thanks to Francie we all learned a new word- Ohana: family. Her Ohana here didn't know her for very long and we looked forward to many more great times together, but life doesn't always go as planned. We hurt for all of you that knew her and loved her so well. We are honored to have known her for the short time that we did. Please know that we will always watch out for her Brycey.

Love, Denise McCarthy, Bridget's mom and Bryce's mother-in-love



Here is a story that probably no one knew about. It involves my old girlfriend Nancy Nancy and I were able to re-connect via Facebook about a year ago. The following is a message Nancy sent me after I told her Francie had passed. I had no clue this had happened. - Alan Sorem

Alan,

I am so sorry for your loss and how difficult it is for everyone. It makes you stop and remember all the wonderful shared times and all the love that you all created together. You and your boys have been imprinted with her love forever - what an astonishing gift. The change is difficult and the love endures. Create new traditions and include her in your family gatherings. Tell stories about her.

I have one - I met Francie one time at your apartment. When I left San Diego and moved to Texas for whatever reason I cannot fathom - I was soooo lonely and homesick. I did not have the means to return right at that time. I wrote a letter to you - maybe you both? It was during the dark ages of letter writing and postage stamps. Francie wrote back to me. She was so sweet and encouraging to me- someone she just barely knew. I knew you were in the right place in your life after that letter and I was so touched by her kindness. Kindness changes everything. I hope the pain of the physical separation runs its course quickly and the connections from the other side are strengthened quickly. Loss has many gifts wrapped within the experiences. Your hearts are all forever connected. New chapter. The story goes on.... Nancy





The Color and Sound of Francie



Last Saturday morning I got a call from my oldest sister Margaret, telling me my sister Frances Jane Riel known to me as “Francie” had joined my Father Frank and my brother Bruce in heaven. Francie was named in honor of Frank, our father and like him made it thru Christmas before going to see God.

The hardest thing about the sting of death is the loss of the color of life. We live our lives surrounded by our birth family and later our extended family. Growing up is not a process, it is an experience. The difference between being young and being old is the time spent getting there. You are young when you chaff at the advice of those older than you, you are old when you realize the wisdom of those older than you. Words are faulty in expressing feelings and thoughts. I write of the color of life, I live each day experiencing the color of interaction, the symphony that is in the participation of living. With each passing death the color fades, the symphony is different.

Francie was the bright red trumpet in our lives. She was sound, lights, fury, energy and rebellion in a form that radiated this to all who knew her. When you spent time with Francie it was intense. She was high energy, high standards but most of all it was her life and you were part of it. Francie

never took directions she blazed a trail. There was no joke she would not tell, no prank she would not pull, her joy was infectious. Parents had a curfew, no problem sneak out the window. Parents wanted you to go to college, not what Francie wanted, not what Francie did.

When you live in a family of eight brothers and sisters you are in competition for the limited parenting time of the saints that brought you into the world. Francie was never in the competition, she knew what she wanted and how best to get it. She never compromised with our parents. If her goals and those around her were in accord, life was good. But telling Francie to do something she did not want to do was like telling the tides to stop. Francie never doubted who she was or what she was capable of. In our family Francie stood out. Everything she did was Francie style, sometimes it got her in trouble but like Sinatra, she did it her way.

The color of experience may fade but the masterpiece of life vibrates with the life's that have touched us. Francie touched us because she lived intensely, fearlessly and uncompromisingly. In the montage of my life her red trumpet calls to my heart.

- Rich Riel



It has been barely a few days, yet I can't describe the sadness that comes with losing a sister like Francie. She taught us all so much whether it was during a special Francie party in her backyard, sitting in her chair at Final Cut, reading a special poem she wrote, or through her runny nose description of how she was going to fight the cancer that we all learned to hate.

They say that the only way to survive a disaster is to do something good in return. National Francie Day helped me find something good to do

that I knew wouldn't cure her or make her better, but it did let her know that even cancer couldn't kill the spirit of Francie that lives in all of us. I will miss her forever... Listy

The Final Cut

For most of the time I knew Francie, I had my hair cut at Supercuts. I had always found the experience there to be very expedient, allowing me to move quickly on to my ever-present "list" of things to accomplish. In, out, and on my way...

Nevertheless, Francie's legendary expertise and hair-cutting culture were well-known to me, linked as I am to two of her most ardent fans and clients, and I marveled over the years, however indirectly, at the deeply personal understanding and care that underscored those relationships.

And so, when I found myself sitting in a chair in Francie's new family room over the holidays, her scissors poised over my head in trembling hands, I instantly understood what I'd been missing for 41 years. Despite the ravages of her illness and the lack of some of the tools of her trade, Francie deftly cut and snipped her way to my best haircut ever, all the while explaining to me the science of her craft with her words and hands.

When later I commented on the superb job she had done, she gave me a momentary glance that seemed to say, "... well, duh," and, "... this is me, this is what I love to do," in the same instant. Only then did I understand the depth to which Francie had whole-heartedly dedicated herself to her friends, her family and her vocation.

If there's a heaven, I suspect its inhabitants, Bruce and Frank among them, will be forever cared for through the loving hands and special talents of a recent arrival. Rest in peace, Francie. - Bob Gillingham

You made our wedding Francie, and that was the greatest gift Bryce and I received, and I think it was a gift to every guest there as well. You always seemed to be that wonderful generous person who always found a way to give to everyone. Sometimes it came in the form of tacos, sometimes shopping sprees with all those fun knick-knacks you'd find us, and sometimes it was you doing everyone's hair just because you traveled with your scissors no matter what. You always managed to make everything a party and the more the merrier. There are so many stories and memories that Bryce and I will be able to hold dear and tell to the family we will have some day. I wish you could be there with us always, but I know you're in a better place still protecting us with your joyous beautiful spirit. Love you Francie. I'm so lucky to have had a mother-in-love like you. -Bridget McCarthy



Everyone should have an Aunt Francie. She had all the coolest gadgets, the best hairstyles, the most fashion-forward clothes. She was never afraid to stand out in a crowd, but always somehow made you feel like you were right there with her. She transformed me into a princess on my wedding day, and every single time I stepped into her salon after that. Aunt Francie, I am smiling right now thinking about all those lucky angels who are lined up in Heaven waiting to get a haircut from you. We love you always. xo, Kristy & Seamus

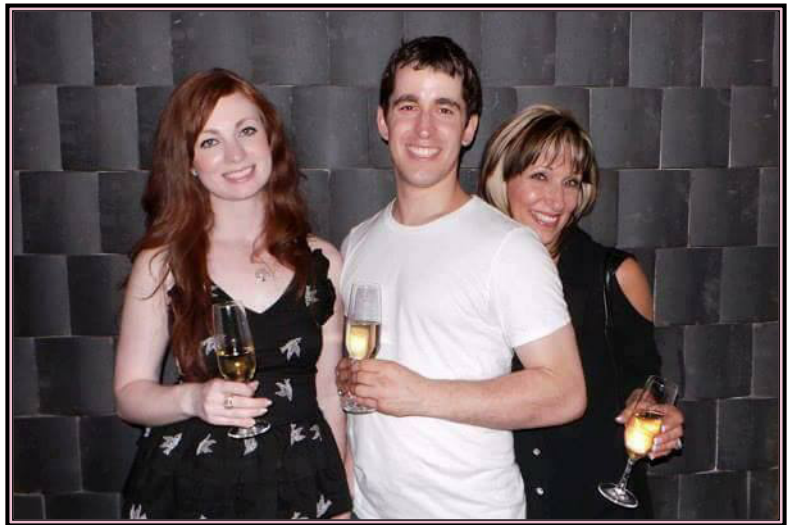


Celebrating a successful Francie Sorem tradition which we all know is Taco Tuesday. The sign behind us says "Live everyday like it's Taco Tuesday!" A daily reminder to live life. - Carinda Lee

Francie, I will miss you so much. You were the life of the party and always put your family first. Down to your last days, when you were weak and tired, you were still doing things for others. You were such an amazing role model for me and an incredible aunt that I could always count on. You looked out for and loved us all with all your heart. You will be missed so much, especially at our family parties which will definitely be lacking without your spirited presence. We will try our best to make you proud and pass on the love and kindness you gave to us everyday. It comforts me to know that Uncle Bruce is with you and you are partying together in Heaven. Love you always, Annie



By now, most of you already know. I have been floored by the continual support flowing in my way that spans continents. My mom was truly loved, not only by her family, but by all of her son's friends she influenced with wisdom, grace, and tacos. I could write a book about everything I have learned from my mom that has sculpted me into the person I am today, but I want to highlight just one recent dose of knowledge she shared with me on her way out of this world. For Christmas she got Carinda and I this coffee table book. I immediately knew she felt she was nearing her flight to "Hawaii," as I'd like to imagine where she is. "Do more of what makes you feel alive" many of you have graciously reached out to me offering condolences, a helping hand, and a shot of Jamo to bond over. All I want is for you all to do a little more of what Francie reminded me to do. So, I took some time today to do just that. I love you mom! You will be with me always, I see you in all of my friends you have blessed. And we are all in a good place because of you. Love ya. Brett Sorem



I don't know what I will do without you mom. You were always there for me when I needed you, and you brought so much happiness to everyone's lives. Brett Sorem and I will try to continue to make you proud. We love and miss you more than anything. I know you are in a better place. Love you Mom. - Bryce Sorem



My dearest Francie

There are no words to describe how much you mean to me. You were not only my mentor, you were also my best friend. You taught me so much not only in the hair industry, but also in life. You were truly an amazing person that befriended anyone that you could. Your smile and laugh were contagious and you always lent a helping hand. This world got a little bit darker but heaven just got a little bit brighter. I only wish to make you proud. And live with the hope that someday I will see you again. See you later my friend. - Leonor Hernandez



I love you FAF! And I thank you for all you taught me. Our Quorum of Sorem's is missing some spirit and color. - Karin Evon Sorem



We have been taking "sisters" pictures since my dad took them every Easter while we were growing up. Today, sadly, we are no longer 5 sisters, but 4 sisters and a spirit (and three brothers). Francie, in the center, has lost her year and half mighty fight with cancer and each of us has lost a bit of our hearts and identity. Francie has been the anchor of our family and without her I feel adrift in a sea of painful sadness. The loss of her wisdom, humor, and creativity which ties our large family together is felt by all of us today. She has lived life well, made everyone around her more beautiful always seeing what others miss and finding ways to touch hearts and souls. And now it is left to us to find her heart and soul in the universe beyond. We miss you sis- (I hope you can see that the flower bulbs you gave all of us are blooming.) Margaret Riel



Love you Francie! Here's to the wonderful memories. Jan Strange



In loving memory of our dear friend, Francie Sorem. She is an inspiration to all of us who have been blessed to know her. May she always remind us to live each day to the fullest! – Dr. May-Ling Hutchins



Today, I lost my dear friend Francie Sorem I'm struggling to find the right words while flooded with a mix of emotions. I will forever be grateful to Francie for being one of the biggest influences in my career. I will never forget everything she taught me about motherhood, friendship and beauty. Francie gave of herself to so many of us.... so many people love her, and she will be terribly missed.

Until we meet again "Francie pants". Brett Sorem Bryce Sorem & Lyle Hall thinking about you and sending love - Dilek Onur

Lost a sweet friend today to cancer. Francie Sorem was the first friend I had in the mysterious world of San Diego, she and Allen Alan Sorem lived next door. I was alone a lot in this new town but Francie Sorem made sure I stayed busy. She and Alan introduced me to the world of bowling and the ins and outs of keeping score, before these fancy new computer boards, she heard even convinced me to join a league and I continued to bowl up until 5 years ago, when I got sick. Her next project was the world of the padres, she taught me to keep score, so I wouldn't be bored and gave my own official scorebook, still keep score and was the official score keeper for my son's little league. Thanks Francie. she was my first stylist in San Diego, fun times in the kitchen. Brava street was the place to be... we had progressive dinner parties and impromptu potlucks. She made my move easier and fun. You don't always have neighbors as friends, but I was blessed to be her neighbor. Francie, you changed my life and brightened what could have been a depressing time. You were so brave and fought a mighty battle, time to rest. Prayers to her sons and Lyle. Blessings on you all, she will be the bright star shining tonight. You will be missed friend. The world is not as bright today. Rip - Laurie Leopold Lockman

Today is one of those days you pray would never come. Today is a day that cancer got the very best example of a friend. Francie Sorem is an inspiration to so many people. She leaves two sons and a fabulous husband and siblings that adore her. But today she gets to hang out with her dad again whom she loves and adores. We reflected often on how special it is to be a "daddy's girl" and it is those and so many other conversations that I will cherish. Please pray for Brett, Bryce and Lyle, her siblings, mom and the extended family she loves so much. Cancer took the very best today and heaven has a new energy and overwhelming spirit. #FrancieStrong - Julie Lanthier Bandy

My heart is broken, and I'm at a loss for words to hear of the passing of my dear friend and mentor Francie Sorem, the one who taught me to love texture! May you Rest In Peace" Perminator" the beauty industry has lost a great soul. - Christopher Fiffe



Thanks for everything you did for me and so many others. You will be missed but never forgotten. - Kathleen Connolly



This lady changed the way I do things in my career. Today we lost her. She was generous, tough, funny and fierce in her love for her family and friends. I am blessed to have been part of that. RIP Francie Sorem and when you get where you're going, kick cancers ass for us xxx - Joanne Hall



I'm sure many were curious about the way Francie became my "Dad". It may seem silly to think of a woman filling an exclusively male role. Our intent was not to be silly.

She was my other parent.

My mom and my father separated when I was only 6 months old. Francie was there for my mom and they (we) became roommates. She was there to jump on the bed with me (when Mom wasn't looking), slurp spaghetti, family trips to the zoo.

She was my other parent.

She made sure I took time to be silly and encouraged me to take risks. Her spirit reminds everyone that one person CAN make a difference. She demonstrated amazing strength, perseverance and vigor. She was my sounding board whenever I needed it.

She was my Dad.

Im grateful that she is no longer suffering and know that God has great plans for her.

Dad, I love you. Forever. Thank you
Gena Singer

Dear sweet and beautiful Francie. You are a true Angel now. I woke up this morning to hear of your passing. You were a force to be reckoned with and a fighter like no other. I will miss you forever and never forget your smile, sweetness and your zest for life. Rest In Paradise with the Angels now. My thoughts and prayers are with Lyle, Brett, Bryce and the rest of your family. I hope this poem helps everyone find a little peace and comfort. (click on the photo)



- Teresa D'Adamo

Today I'm heartbroken...no words to explain the sadness of loosing such an amazing friend, Francie. I know that she does not want us to be sad so I'll try NOT to stay in this place for too long!

Francie first and foremost was a fiercely proud mom. Brett & Bryce were here everything! She couldn't have loved them more. She also loved her Lyle & her fur babies.

She was an amazingly talented artist, business woman, mentor, confidant, travel companion just to name a few.

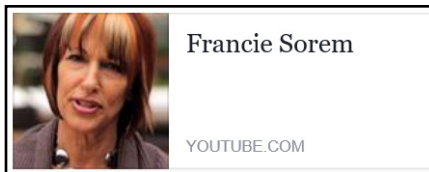
I'll miss you friend...your humor, honesty, direct point of view, creativity, since of humor. I miss you Eric Mayes



Today is a sad day in the beauty industry. One of the most amazing and talented hair artist, Francie Sorem, passed on and it breaks my heart.

I was in line at the airport in Orlando (leaving a hair show) and was lucky enough to be talking about hair when Francie overheard my conversation. She turned around and we began talking about goals and dreams and I told her how much I loved sharing with other stylists. Who knew she was who she was (the perm queen)....lucky me!

Before I got home I had been contacted by Joico for an interview and spent the next few years learning with the best, traveling the US and becoming the stylist I am today. A few years back Francie and I talked about the moment we met and I was able to thank her for not only helping me become part of a great company but for being such a great teacher and mentor! Thanks so very much Francie - Jennie Walpole



[Francie Sorem on You Tube from 2010](#). I needed to see this video today...I love and miss you Francie. Thank you Jeanne Byrd for introducing me to your fantastic friend! 10 years was not enough...but it will have to do... - Grace Kelly



I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next.

Delicious Ambiguity.” Gilda Radner

I was so hoping to have at least one more hike with my muse, my Friend, my Francie.

Dear God, thank you for bringing this angel into my life - Cindie Roeder Leonard



Many years ago on my 17th birthday this heart shaped jewelry box was given to me with the enscription “Christen , happy 17th birthday. Your wicked stepmother”. Many years later i saw her when she came to a hair show in my town. She introduced me as her daughter. The woman i was being introduced to looked confused. Francie’s response “its Jose’s daughter but we divorce parents, we don’t divorce kids”. This memory has always stuck with me and always will. There will never be anyone so kind, well spoken, loving, and amazing than Francie!
- Christen Goff



“What makes you think that you should be able to find yourself at your young age? It is a journey that is only fruitful if you take the time and make the paces. But make no mistake, you are the real deal. You are still searching because just as you reach the bar, you set it higher. i am grateful to be your friend and mentor. Keep aiming for the sky, you are on track and will arrive there sooner then you think, xoxoxoxoxo” - Francie Sorem

I'm sitting here in the little gym at my Mom's place crying because Francie has passed on and is with God and so many others up there in Heaven. I'm sure she would tell me to stop crying and to finish my workout, lol.

This note up there is a reply Francie sent me to an anxiety-filled message I sent her after I made the decision to stop teaching full-time in 2012 due to consistent lay-offs and b.s. I dealt with my first 5 years teaching.

In that one reply Francie was able to help me get my confidence back, focus on my strengths that I wasn't able to see anymore and remind me of how proud she was of me no matter what was happening.

The reminder that this Life journey is only fruitful if we take the time and make the paces is something I have to remind myself quite often, so thankful Francie put it in words for me to look back at whenever I need to.

St. Columba kids were very blessed with many great Moms and Dads from our friends' families. Francie was another mother to me, and so many other kids, and I am so glad she and my Mama Juanita became such great friends.

Francie, thank you for being such a strong, loving, steadfast Mentor. Thank you and Alan for raising two of my favorite men, Brett and Bryce are so full of your spirit and humor and heart, I know you will be proud of them forever. Please keep your eyes on all of us, we will need your guidance everyday. Love you, Francie. Vaya con Dios. - Taylor Jean

My heart breaks hearing the news of the passing of this beautiful soul! Francie Sorem, words cannot truly describe how much you have touched the lives of so many, from your sheer genius life as a hairdresser to the proudest mom of two amazing young men and everything in between, you were a force to be reckoned with and this world will definitely not be the same without you! Rest in paradise my dear, sweet friend and know you leave behind an amazing legacy!!!

Laurie Hingada Aguinaldo



Francie Sorem you were an amazing woman, teacher, friend, mother & mentor. My life was better because of you-and I will CHERISH all of our memories. I am so sad, but know you are no longer struggling. Thank you for sharing your passion of the beauty industry. My love & condolences to Brett Sorem, Bryce, Lyle & the family. I will be having Taco Tuesday in your honor.

You will be missed but NEVER ever forgotten. - Valerie Robinett Joico

I get home to find out one of my mentors has passed. Francie Sorem you fought till the end with a smile on your face! I will NEVER forget what you have taught me. You made me a better hairdresser and person. You inspired so many and will be truly missed!! R.I.P. sweet friend. - Erica At Joico



So sad to hear that one of the best hairstylist someone I have always admired passed away today Francie Sorem. She was one of the most inspirational people I have ever meet. Because of her I became the hairstylist I am today. My heart goes out to her husband, boys and all her family. She was always a star now she shines above us still inspiring RIP Francie you will forever be in my heart and a great hair legend!! - Missy Gonzalez



Thank you Francie Sorem, you embraced us, you inspired us and you will forever be in our heart for marrying us. We are so blessed to have know you, R.I.P. until we meet again. Rest assured we will take good care of your Lyley All our love Toshi Toshie Komai and Clive Sharp



Not only was Francie Sorem my hairstylist, she was also my friend. We shared our enjoyment over "So You Think You Can Dance" and this was one of the years we went to their annual performance in San Diego. Francie didn't just think, she did. Her joy of people and enjoying life will always be remembered. - Stephanie Samuels



Almost 40 years ago I joined a bowling league at Kearny Mesa Bowl. There I met Francie Sorem and Alan Sorem. To say I bugged Francie was a serious understatement. You see Francie was a hairdresser and I knew it!! For weeks, ok MONTHS, I would bug her about this cu and that cut and of course I wanted that Farrah Fawcett hair. With straight, thin and limpy hair that was not happening.

Did Francie say no, or leave me be, or anything NO. She put up with my questions and always was gracious and polite. The first haircut experience I had with Francie was for my daughter Suzanne's 5th birthday. Francie gave her the cutest hair cut. Now my 5 year old was happy, so was I.

Moved to AZ for a few years in the 80's and flew back and forth for her haircuts. I remember round trip was 38 back then. So worth it!!

Here we are almost 40 years later and Francie was still cutting my hair, at least until she got sick. I was SOOOOO BLESSED to have had her in my life.

The ANGELS came and peacefully brought Francie home. You see GOD is way overdue for a haircut and his disciples were starting to talk.

Francie, your human life will be so missed but your spirit, heart and goodness, will NEVER be forgotten! Bless You Lyle Hall, Brett Sorem, Bryce Sorem and Alan Sorem as well as Francies family and friends.
Sharon Wilbur



I am very sad today to learn of the passing of my friend Francie Sorem. Francie, you have taught me so much throughout my career. Not only technical skills, but you taught me to have faith in my own skills. You will be truly missed by so many of us around the world. Rest In Peace my friend. - Carol Redwine



I just heard that my dear friend Francie Sorem has lost her battle with Cancer today. I'm deeply saddened & heart broken. I know how strong your Mom was Brett Sorem & Bryce and how her eyes lit up everytime she spoke of you guys. We loved sharing the latest techy gadgets and even came up with a few ideas of our own. She had a blast and in her element when I took her to CES. We also compared fun stories about our kiddies being that we were both St. Columba Mom's. She was so proud of you boys.

She touched so many with her infectious laugh and wisdom. She guided me many times when I needed her advice and so honored to have known her. Francie was such a talented hair stylist and was magic with color. My daughter and I looked forward to getting our hair done as I snuck into the wine cabinet! :)

I'm so very sorry for your loss but know she's looking down on all of you... Please let us know if there is anything you guys need. (Your Mom @ CES), Love & Light, Diane Kane



Miss you already...so gifted, so generous, so positive. I will never forget Taco Tuesdays with Brett, Bryce and the gang, or helping Lyle search for Cabo (sleeping peacefully under the Greyling house), going to Padres games, the Riel newsletters (how many kids in your family?!) and definitely the hostess with the mostess...throwing an impromptu wedding celebration for Vicky and me. Love to all her family and friends. See you later, friend. - Jeanne Byrd

Francie Sorem you will always be my favorite hairdresser and friend. I've missed you these last couple years but have been cheering you on from here. I'm truly heart broken today but know you are no longer suffering. You were a special lady Francie, and I will cherish every time I sat in your chair and learned about you and your family, your boys especially, you always beamed with so much pride when you spoke about them. Thank you for being so kind always and for always making me laugh. Thank you for making me beautiful on my wedding day, and always when I left your chair. I feel blessed to have known you. - Angelina Duran Stordahl

Francie Sorem.. You may have sterilized your shears (state board rule) and placed them in a covered, marked container for the last time. You may have mixed your last tint (whatever amazing color you just made up) you may have whipped up some bleach (thank goodness for Olaplex) for your last highlight but never ever will you be forgotten for your talent....your love of life your joy whenever your boys or your family were in your presence...never will we who were privileged to be your friend forget how you fought the fight of your life and yet always took the negative and turned it into a story filled with knowledge how the "assholes" known as party crashers had invaded you and you were going to fight to get them out of your backyard (F-cancer)

They didn't win...You did!!! You won at having raised two wonderful sons and living life with Lyle being in tune with Alan when it came to your boys. You adore the two women that came into their lives...Your sons chose women so much like their mom.. So when I see a rainbow or a beautiful butterfly or flowers blooming with colors that are so brilliant...I'll know there's Francie Sorem...she's got a tint bowl and a brush in her hand and she's going to color the world!!!! I love you Francie Sorem and will miss you so much...I'm happy for our times together lately.. even tho you wanted to trim my hair! XOXOXO To Brett Sorem and Bryce and Lyle and Alan I am so sorry - DeeDee Larson

A really great friend of mine past this weekend. (Francie Sorem is next to me) You always made a point to stay in touch and I was blessed to see you a few months back.

She was the perfect person to balance me on stage when we did platform work together for ISO. Really kept me grounded with lines like "Are the lights working over here?!" , whenever I was getting attention from the audience and it wasn't because of anything I was saying! Lol! She was honest loyal and always saw the glass half full. I always referred to her as my buddy! I love and will miss you Buddy! She will truly live on in so many she touched through her time here on earth. Now watch out Heaven there will be some angel makeovers happening starting now. This is why I am so blessed to have had her be such a big part of who I'm and continue to work at being. Love always my buddy! -Mitchell Wade Eubanks

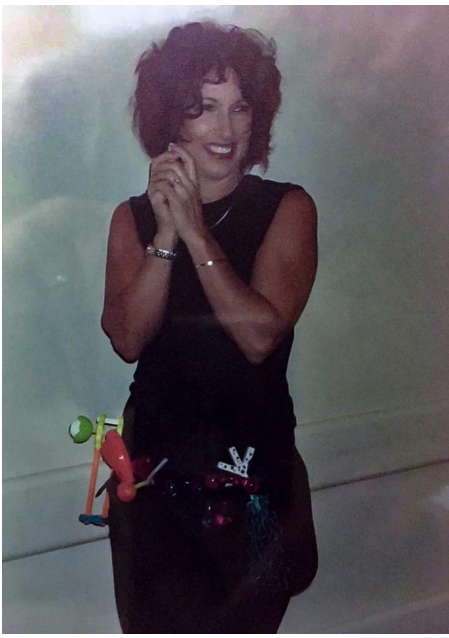
There was no one else like Francie Sorem. She brought wit and wisdom and a lot of fun. I have missed her. Best of love to Lyle, Brett, and Bryce and all of her family. You have lost a bright star who will now shine her light in your grief. For whenever I think of Francie, I smile.

- Paula Renkin

In the very short time I worked for Francie I learned so much. I also followed your journey which has now come to an end. Cancer sucks, but by reading all the fabulous things those who knew you much better than I, I realize how much more this world has lost. Thank you for your help, your words of encouragement, your confidence in me when there were times I questioned my own abilities. May your wings take you to the places you always need to be.

MaryAnne Miller Terrell





Francie Sorem. You were the “Perminator” of all time. You were one of my first mentors when I started with ISO. You taught me so much that I have carried on. I will always remember your smile because you were always such a happy person.

It was an honor to work with you on stage and to learn all your crazy techniques.
-Tonya Trego Calacino

Our dear Francie would have loved this Irish poem: -Debby Burger

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see
if the sun should rise and find your eyes filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
and each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.



I was so sad to hear the news about Francie Sorem. She did my hair for for over 30 years. I used to go to her salon in the Balboa Shopping center with my mom and then started going myself. There were a few times in those years that I didn't go to her or one of her people and I always regretted it. I bowled with her many years ago which was always entertaining and she did my hair, my sister's and my daughter's hair for my wedding. She did it as a gift in her own home.

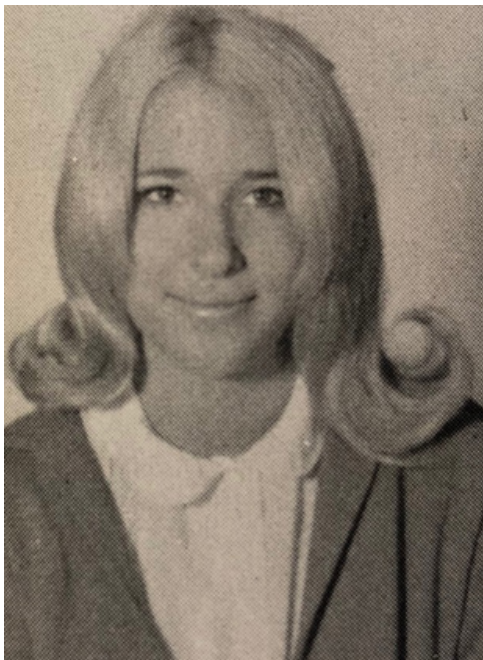
I envied her style, something I have never had. I am sure she grew tired of me getting the same hair style most of the time but she only picked on me a little for it. Teasing me when I was brave enough to cut more than an inch or add some different color. I always looked forward to seeing what hair style she would have when I came. I enjoyed hearing about her family. Her boys that she loved so much. Her husband, siblings, parents and the many other members. I always thought how great it would be to have that big family. I loved hearing about the games at Christmas, the newsletter and all the pictures she had to share. She was so open and welcoming every time.

Many years ago we had a little fun on a Sunday..I think it was Superbowl Sunday..and she permed me, my mom's, sister's, and friend's hair. I was so impressed with how she overcame some tough things in life and worked her butt off to buy her own place. How she traveled to so many places and knew people everywhere. How beautiful her backyard was, how she got up early to exercise and took such good care of herself. It seems unfair that



this happened and I am sad for her family and friends but I know that those who knew her got to spend some time with someone very special, a unique person who brightened the room. She had so much energy, so much life to live and so much that she gave. I am so sad for her family and friends that she is not here but I know she did so much living in her time here. You will not be forgotten. - Tammy Glatfelter-Clanton





Our favorite twin picture!!



Francie, my twin, big sister, hair designer, role model, keeper of secrets... no healer of secrets and insider with good scoop, (the keeper part would be a stretch) social planner and director, gift giver, smile maker, poem writer, inventor, fixer upper, always there especially at 4:00am, movie buddy, popcorn pal, text master, dream maker, promise keeper, always, ALWAYS, near is now far but close to my heart and daily life.

I love you Francie and always will...
your sis





There will never be anything like the Love of a Sister...



