



## Frances Van Aken Stoutamire

May 4, 1948 - March 8, 2016

Frances Van Aken Stoutamire, 67, passed away March 8 from complications of ovarian cancer that cut short her life but also motivated her to teach others how to face death with dignity, honesty, wit, grace, and acceptance. For some 33 years Francie worked for the State of Florida, finishing up as a website/graphic designer in the Department of Environmental Protection. That work resulted in a passion for photography during retirement and enabled her to capture extraordinary beauty from the ordinary especially during expeditions to Europe and Nebraska. A favorite quote by Br. Geoffrey Tristram sums up her abilities: "I expect you have had such experiences in your lives, when you saw God's presence, perhaps in something astonishingly beautiful or in something actually quite ordinary...the gift of being able to see an object or a person as God sees them: transfigured, and shot through with the divine." Her work is posted at [www.francioustamirephotography.com](http://www.francioustamirephotography.com). Francie's love of nature led her and husband Jim to create a backyard wildlife sanctuary filled with birds and butterflies. She raised monarch butterflies and loved watching their caterpillars develop into a golden mass of wings.

Francie is survived by Jim Stoutamire, her husband of almost 40 years; son William Stoutamire, director of the G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture, Kearney, NE; and her sisters Carol Oppel, Austin, TX and Scootie Prior, Burke, VA.

Details regarding the schedule of Francie's celebration of life and scattering of her cremated remains are posted at [www.caringbridge.org/visit/francioustam](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/francioustam)

ire. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to the St. Marks Refuge Association (<http://www.stmarksrefuge.org/index.htm>) to support a slice of natural Florida that she loved and where she took many beautiful pictures.

# Tribute Wall

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“*Francie is at peace with our Creator God who made all of the natural beauty that she so truly loved, enjoyed and captured. I will always remember her courage and the friendship that we formed at St. John's Episcopal Church in our youth, continuing through high school. May you, her dear husband and son find comfort now and in days to come as you move toward that time when you meet again.*”



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**Betty Piephoff** - March 12, 2016 at 03:59 PM