

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Frances Costella Morgan

Fran was born and raised on a small family farm in the New Oxford school district. She is the 3rd in the family of 11 children, the daughter of Clayton and Rosella Costella. She and all her siblings still hold the record for the number of children, from the same family, to graduate from NOHS.

Fran began her New Oxfords education in a county one-room school. She became the only third grader at her school so she was advanced to the 4th grade, where she became classmate with her older brother George. She and George graduated with 33 classmates in 1954, 6 years after the founding of the New Oxford High School. Fran was an excellent student; an active member of the Latin Club, and she thrived on helping others.

After graduation, Fran decided that Nursing would be her next goal. With the support of her mother and backing from Dr. Wilber Miller, a New Oxford physician, she received a full scholarship to the York Hospital School of Nursing. Fran excelled in nursing school, applying her academic gifts and her 'farm work ethic'. During her second year, she was put in charge of the women's ward, with an average of 40 patients and the assistance of only one other student nurse. In those days there was no recovery room, surgery patients were brought back to the ward under the responsibility of the supervisor. In her senior year, Fran's interest focused on the Operating Room, where she volunteered additional hours in addition to her regular duties.

Fran graduated from nursing school in 1957 and was hired by the York Hospital as a full time nurse in the operating room. She was married in 1958 to Dr. Walter Morgan. Later that year they moved to Hanover, where her husband set up practice. Fran worked in OR at the Hanover Hospital and also assisted with her husband's practice.

In 1968 the family moved to Jamestown, NY where she raised three children and entered public service. She was elected Councilwoman for the town of Ellicott, a community bordering Jamestown. Two years later she was elected Mayor/Town Supervisor of Ellicott where she served for the next 18 years. This was a full time position responsible for the town finances, conducting township meetings, review and signing community contracts, supervise police and highway departments, planning board, assessors, town clerk, two Judges, and a member of the town board.

A unique experience during her tenure was to be in charge of coordinating a Presidential visit to the local community. She worked with the Secret Service and local law enforcement to achieve a safe and seamless Presidential visit to Chautauqua County.

Fran donated her time and talents to the Red Cross blood bank, and the Blind clinic checking children's eye. She is still going strong, very active in her church and volunteering in the church's Thrift Shop and is in charge of the pie kitchen, which is one of the biggest fund raisers of the church.

Fran is living in Warren, PA with her husband Dr Walter Morgan and the mother of a daughter, 2 sons, and 4 grandchildren.

All thru Fran's life she has given of herself to others, serving her community, and has always been an inspiration to her family.