



Cynthia Swoboda

September 28, 1957 - June 5, 2026

Cynthia Ann Swoboda, 68, left this world and entered the next on Friday, June 5, 2026. She died the way she lived her life; with grace and dignity and surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Cindy was born September 28, 1957, to Dan and Rosemary (Miller) Etzel in Topeka. She spent her early years living in the Highland Park neighborhood where she attended St. Matthew Catholic School and then Hayden High School through the ninth grade.

The family moved to Lake Shawnee and Cindy graduated from Shawnee Heights High School in 1975. She enrolled in cosmetology school and earned her license before going to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1977. Cindy retired from AT&T following a 36-year career in 2013.

Cindy married Tegan Swoboda on November 24, 1989. They enjoyed a love story of nearly four decades, raising two daughters and a son, traveling the country, and doting on eight grandchildren and numerous granddogs. Cindy loved to plan a vacation. Door County, Wisconsin, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Sanibel Island, Florida, Boise, Idaho, and Eureka Springs, Arkansas held special significance in her heart.

Cindy returned to college and earned an associate degree in early childhood

education from Highland Community College in 2014 and then spent more than a decade caring for and shaping the development of her own grandchildren. Grammy was Cindy's most prized title, as evidenced by her steady attendance at soccer games, dance recitals, school programs and preschool helper days.

Music was an integral part of who she was, and she could often be heard listening and singing along to the silly and serious soundtracks of her life, which included Carole King, James Taylor, Peter, Paul, and Mary, John Denver, and Billy Joel.

Cindy enjoyed working in her flower beds and walking with friends outside or at the mall, was an avid reader and an accomplished seamstress, crafting projects and gifts for the people she loved. She volunteered with many civic and youth organizations in the community over the years, including Kansas Neurological Institute, Girl Scouts, Capital Area Democratic Women, and Junior Achievement, and served as a youth basketball coach, athletics team mom, and the Seaman High School Afterprom chairperson.

Cindy will be remembered for her kindness and acceptance of people from all walks of life. Her persistent and determined spirit will live on in those who loved her, as will her penchant for the occasional spoonful of peanut butter.

Cindy is survived by her husband Tegan; her children, Shanna Martin (John), Sarah Barkemeyer (Scott), and Michael Swoboda (Olivia), all of Topeka; her grandchildren, Eleanor Martin, Ryan Sloyer, Jonah Martin, Kate Sloyer, Charlie Martin, Miles Swoboda, Cameron Swoboda, and Hartley Swoboda; her beloved terrier, Annie; siblings, Diane Etzel-Wise (Pat Wise), Dan Etzel (Sarah), Linda Hoopes (Brad), and Lisa Hecker (Paul); sister-in-law, Deidre Michael (Harold); brothers-in-law, Seth Swoboda (Joe Anarella), and Shad Swoboda; along with many cherished nieces, nephews and friends. Cindy

was preceded in death by her parents and an infant brother, Michael John.

A celebration of life is planned for Tuesday, June 23, 2026, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Reynold's Lodge at Lake Shawnee in Topeka, 3315 SE Tinman Circle. Please dress casually and come ready to celebrate Cindy's memory.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Midland Care, and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

JUN **23**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Reynold's Lodge at Lake Shawnee
3315 SE Truman Circle
Topeka, KS 66605

Tribute Wall

EM

“ Tegan and Deidre. I knew you guys from the 1950s on Easthill. My sincere condolences to you and your extended family.

Eddie Michael - June 26 at 10:08 AM

KH

“ I met Cindy while teaching at Pleasant Hill. Shanna was in my class. Cindy was a wonderful parent to communicate with and a special person. It was a pleasure to continue interacting with Cindy when Tegan and I worked together at Lyman.
Tegan, Shanna, Sarah, Michael and Family,
Please accept our sincere condolences. We are so very sorry. Life just isn't fair.
Kyle & John Hicks

Kyle Hicks - June 23 at 05:47 PM

MM

“ Mary M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cynthia Swoboda.

Mary M. - June 23 at 10:19 AM

RB

“ Michael & Tegan,
I'm so sorry for your loss. It's such a difficult time but with that comes peace in knowing her suffering is over. May God comfort your family as you face the days ahead.
Fly high with the angels sweet lady💔🙏

Rena Blomberg - June 16 at 12:44 PM

JS

“ Tegan and family, I am so sorry to hear of Cindy's passing. I worked with Cindy at SWBT/ATT over 20 years ago and when I was given notice that my job was going away, she was the one who worked so hard trying to find another job for me within the company. She was a sweetheart and I'm sorry I didn't stay in touch with her more. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Janet Scheidegger

Janet Scheidegger - June 15 at 03:00 PM

MR

“ Cindy and her family have been part of my life since St. Matthew grade school. Cindy was the friend who knew everything about you and never judged, she just listened. Sending love and condolences to the Etzel's and the Swo's. Mary Rochelle

Mary Rochelle - June 12 at 05:40 PM

AR

“ Angela Rasmusson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Cynthia Swoboda.



Angela Rasmusson - June 12 at 03:01 PM

AR

“ Angela Rasmusson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cynthia Swoboda.

Angela Rasmusson - June 12 at 03:01 PM

RR

“ I am so sorry to hear of Cindy's passing. I have known Cindy all of my life through my sister Mary. Cindy was always a joy to be around. Such a quick wit and beautiful smile.
May God bless her and her family.
Ryan Rochelle

Ryan Rochelle - June 12 at 12:04 PM

KL

“ Tegan, I was so sorry to hear of your loss of Cynthia - condolences to you and your family. Karen Lindstrom

Karen Lindstrom - June 11 at 11:05 PM

RC

“ Tegan & Michael:
I remember Cindy from the boy's Cub Scouts days. She was so nurturing to every child. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family
Bob, Brenda, and Nicholas Casper

Robert Casper - June 11 at 07:41 PM

TL

“ To the entire Etzel family- we Lairds have nothing but fond memories of our time together on Shawnee Court. Cindy, our babysitter when we were young, will especially remain in our hearts. She made the world a better place. Tim Laird

Tim Laird - June 10 at 08:49 PM

KB

“ When I think of Cindy, I think of her wonderful smile. She was such a generous, kind and caring person who had a joyous and hopeful spirit! I'm so sorry for your loss.

Katy Browne

Katy Browne - June 10 at 12:28 AM

BB

“ Tegan and family, I so sorry for your loss. Cindy and I knew each other from Hayden but we reconnected years later serving jury duty. Each time we ran into each other we would reminisce about our experience serving on that trial. She was a sweet and beautiful person. May God be with you all.

Beth Blumreich - June 09 at 10:59 PM

CS

Tegan, please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of your beloved wife. I know what a great partner she was to you in all your years of officiating. May she rest in peace.

Christopher STANFIELD - June 11 at 11:04 AM

MC

Tegan, I'm so sorry for your loss.

Marilee Casarona-Orton - June 12 at 11:53 AM

PS

“ I knew Cindy briefly between 1989 and 1996. But in July of 2015 Tegan and Cindy visited my late wife, Sharon, and me in Idaho and we spent 2 fabulous weeks with them as we traveled across the great northwest and visited Seattle and the Washington coast together. Cindy and Sharon became instant friends and I learned more about this amazing woman with a kind and gentle heart, a great sense of humor, high intellect and a remarkable amount of tolerance for the absurd. When Tegan and Cindy left Idaho and returned to Kansas I felt like I had established a new and wonderful friendship with a uniquely outstanding woman. Her love for Tegan and her family was so obvious and it was impossible to not fall in love with her. She made this world a better place and we all will miss her. My heart goes out to Tegan and all of Cindy's family and I send them all my deepest condolences.

Patrick Simons - June 09 at 08:14 PM

KS

“ Once in a while, you meet someone that truly leaves a mark in your life. Cindy was one of those few that left one for me. She was everything her obit said. One of the kindest and smartest woman I have known. I am blessed to have known her. I am so sorry cancer has taken her from you. I pray for strength for all of you. Karen Strobel

karen strobel - June 09 at 04:58 PM

KM

“ Tegan and Family: Coach and I send our condolences to you in the loss of your beautiful wife. May she rest in peace. Ben and Klara Meseke

Klara Meseke - June 09 at 02:21 PM

BG

“ Tegan and family my thoughts and prayers are with all of you

Bob Grace - June 09 at 01:44 PM

CP

“ Tegan, Shanna, Sarah, and Michael, I am so sorry for your loss. Cindy was so kind and easy to talk to. She had the most beautiful smile. May you find some comfort in knowing your mother touched many lives and is remembered with much love by those who knew her.

Connie Poort

Connie Poort - June 09 at 09:32 AM

KH

Tegan, please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Cindy was a kind and beautiful woman.

Keith and Debbie Hunter - June 11 at 04:14 PM

ER

“ Tegan and family, Please accept my condolences on the passing of Cindy. May the many memories remain with each of you and her legacy of kindness be continued to be shared Peace and prayers to all of you. Emil Ramirez.

Emil Ramirez - June 09 at 07:28 AM

MB

“ Sarah, Scott and family - my deepest sympathy to you and your family for the death of your Mother. God Bless You!



Michael Browne - June 09 at 03:22 AM

MS

“ *Tegan & Family: Rita and I are so very sorry to hear of Cindy’s passing. She was a real sweetheart, great to work with, and we always enjoyed seeing and talking with her at the W.U. Basketball games. You’re in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mark & Rita Snyder - June 08 at 10:41 PM

LI

“ *Dear Tegan, Shanna, Sarah, Michael, and families:
My heart is breaking for all of you. Cindy was a fun, loving person, and her favorite hobby was her family. She loved you beyond measure. I know you will miss her dearly. But you can keep her with you always by remembering all the wonderful times you had with her. Tell your kids, your nieces and nephews, and your grandchildren about how she celebrated holidays and created Halloween costumes. Talk about vacations and school projects she helped with. What a great cook she was and an amazing seamstress. She will never be far away because you have these wonderful memories. I have so many great memories of Cindy, as do her other siblings. You can ask us about her anytime.
Prayers, love, and hugs for you all.
Lisa (Etzel) Hecker*

Lisa - June 08 at 10:38 PM

CB

“ *Tegan and Family:*

I am so sorry to hear about Cindy. We worked on after prom together and had lots of good memories. May you find comfort and all the wonderful times you shared. Sending prayers of comfort.

C Brown - June 08 at 08:58 PM

TR

“ Tegan and family, My dad Phil Reilly spoke of you and had deep admiration for the Swoboda family. May God grant Cindy eternal rest, and may His peace comfort you all during this difficult time.

Tom Reilly - June 08 at 08:25 PM

DB

“ Dear Tegan & family, I got the chance to meet Cindy at our 50th reunion. She was so friendly, welcoming (and a former volley baller)! I thought you were so lucky to have found such a wonderful life partner. So very sorry for your loss. Bet Sister Corita is one of the many welcoming her to heaven & telling the rest of the stories on you. 💕💕💕

Debbie Brown - June 08 at 08:00 PM

KD

“ Condolences, hugs, and strength for her wonderful family. She was such a great person and work partner of long ago. Will never forget her. ❤️

Karen DeShazo - June 08 at 07:27 PM

CS

“ So sad to hear the news. Thoughts and prayers to the Swoboda family. Cindy and I worked together for years in Marketing at AT&T. I will always remember her wonderful smile and laugh. So many great memories.

Chris Schick - June 08 at 06:36 PM

KB

“ Sarah, Olivia, & Family—

I know Cindy through her daughter, Sarah, & daughter-in-law, Olivia. Cindy was Sarah's person & my heart breaks for her knowing she will be without her person. I also know, however, that Cindy's legacy will on through Sarah, Olivia, & all the folks she loved & that loved her. I especially want to thank Cindy for giving me Sarah. Sarah has been such a blessing in my life, my girls' lives, & everyone's lives at our school. I can't imagine life without Sarah, as I know Sarah can't imagine life without Cindy. "Don't worry about a thing, because everything little thing is gonna be alright." Rest easy, Cindy. 💖

*With love & gratitude always,
-Katie Bivens*

Katie Bivens - June 08 at 06:20 PM

KB

****I also know, however, that Cindy's legacy will live on through Sarah, Olivia, & all the folks she loved & that loved her.*

Katie Bivens - June 08 at 06:24 PM

SW

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Cindy's passing. I worked with Cindy at Southwestern Bell/AT&T. She was such a joy to work with. Cindy was always smiling and had a positive attitude towards life and her work. I send my sincere condolences to Cindy's family and friends.

Steve Walters - June 08 at 06:00 PM

PB

“ *Tegan and Family,
We are so sorry to hear of Cindy’s passing. What a terrible loss for
all of you. We are thinking of your family.
Pam & David Besser*

Pam Besser - June 08 at 05:41 PM

JH

“ *What a beautiful, beautiful soul! When I think of Cindy, I think of the
calm in the storm with a determination to leave this world better than
when she came into it. It brings me peace to know that her love and
care for others lives on in her dear family. In the words of John
Mellencamp, “There is nothing more sad or glorious than
generations changing hands.” Since you noted a love for Carole
King, I hope this song brings you all a little comfort. [https://youtu.be/
G8se6T5d3K0?si=6yHkUCW9Ph0ukyiy](https://youtu.be/G8se6T5d3K0?si=6yHkUCW9Ph0ukyiy)
Peace be with you all, Swoboda family.*

Janeen Horton - June 08 at 04:50 PM

DB

*Tegan and family,
May God grant you His peace during this difficult time!*

Donna Brooks - June 09 at 09:32 PM

N(

“ *I had the privilege of going to school at St. Matthew’s with both
Diane and Cindy. She was a most loving fairly quiet person always
had a smile never a complaint about anything. So beautiful inside
and out. God certainly gained a beautiful angel his gain is our loss.
RIP my friend until we meet again.*

Nancy White (schiefelbein) - June 08 at 03:50 PM

RC

“ *Tegan and Family. Sorry to hear of the passing of Cindy. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers in this difficult time in life.* ”



Rick Cyr - June 08 at 03:18 PM

JA

“ *Tegan and family, our prayers are with you.* ”

"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen"

John and Delphine Anguiano

John Anguiano - June 08 at 02:41 PM

MW

“ *Cindy was a dear friend, she was a reflection of the wonderful family she was raised in.* ”

Tegan my condolences.

Rest well dear friend..

Mary Reyer Wells - June 08 at 02:10 PM

PO

“ *Tegan, I never really met Cindy, but I know many spoke highly of her and prayers for you and your children and let the memories heal your heart...* ”

Patrice Ostmeyer - June 08 at 01:08 PM

BF

“ Tegan and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I still remember her coaching Aaron in basketball. She will be truly missed.

Bobby Freeman - June 08 at 11:42 AM

DM

“ Tegan & Family....Cindy was such a special person that I'm proud to call my friend! I will always cherish our fun time together working at GCCA. This world has lost a great one! May your memories bring comfort to you all!

Donna Maple - June 08 at 11:35 AM

ML

Tegan we are so saddened to hear of Cindy's passing. She was a beautiful person inside and out. She will be deeply missed. Prayers and hugs to you and your family. 🙏🙏🙏

Mark Laird - June 08 at 02:20 PM

KM

“ Tegan & family,
I am so very saddened to see this and so very sorry for your loss.
Praying for all of you.

Kathy McKee - June 08 at 10:44 AM

KS

Tegan and family, I am so sorry to hear about Ci dy! Im sending prayers to all of you. 🙏❤️

Kathy Speaker - June 08 at 11:13 AM

TW

Shanna and family, sorry to hear about your mom's passing. I would see her at a lot of grandkids activities and always enjoyed talking to her. May the many memories help you through this difficult time. You are in my thoughts and prayers

Tammy Wiltz - June 08 at 11:27 AM

MK

Tegan & family, we are so sorry for your loss. May your wonderful memories get you through until you meet again. Keith & Mary Kay (Grace) Hendrickson

Mary Kay - June 08 at 12:13 PM



My deepest sympathy to Cindy's family. We worked together at Southwestern Bell/AT&T and became friends away from work as well as coworkers. Rest in peace my sweet friend and say hello to Linda Crace. I will miss you until we meet again.

Rebecca Balestrere - June 08 at 08:40 PM

LS

I graduated SHHS a year before Cindy. She was one of my favorite people because she was fun and optimistic. Condolences to her entire family. God bless you all.

Linda Lord Stumbaugh - June 08 at 09:23 PM

CC

We are so sorry for your loss. Your family will be in our prayers.

Jeff and Cassie Cowan

Cassie Cowan - June 10 at 06:59 AM

BD

Tegan, we are sorry for the loss of your special wife. I remember working with Cindy as she led one of Seaman's Prom AfterGlow events and quickly realized how organized, caring, and kind she was. Keeping you and your family in our prayers.

Brad and Marlene Dietz

Brad Dietz - June 20 at 08:05 PM