



Gwenda Wilcox

April 27, 1952 - January 28, 2020

Gwenda Ruth Wilcox, 67, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Monday, January 28, 2020.

Gwen was born April 27, 1952, in Topeka, the daughter of Glenn and Margaret Hopkins Gunn. She graduated from Topeka West High School in 1970 and earned a bachelor's degree from Emporia State University in 1974. Gwen married James Wilcox on November 18, 1977. She was an art teacher for 40 years.

Gwen is survived by her brother, Thomas Gunn; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and brother, Glenn N. Gunn, Jr.

Gwen's wishes were to be cremated and her celebration of life will be 3:30 p.m. Sunday, February 16, 2020 at The Landing Bar & Grill, 2920 SE Croco Road, Topeka KS 66605.

Memorial contributions may be made to Helping Hands Humane Society, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

FEB **16**. 3:30 PM (CT)

The Landing Bar & Grill
2920 SW Croco Road
Topeka, KS 66605

Tribute Wall



“ *Gwenda Wilcox*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I remember Mrs. Wilcox from Holliday Jr. High. She was one of the most fun teachers I ever knew. Rest in peace.*

Madalyn Knudsen - April 05, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ *Gwen was a dear friend. We enjoyed tailgating and going to KU football games with Jim and Gwen. They were true Rock Chalk fans. Darrell has good memories of teaching with Gwen at Robinson Middle School. She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.*

Darrell and Wendy Hessler - February 06, 2020 at 08:34 PM



“ *Dear Ms. Wilcox, you were a joy to have as a teacher. You were one of the few people in my life that helped to spark my interest in art and writing. You are so very appreciated for sharing your gifts, and imparting your passions and wisdom into us (Robinson Middle School, Home of the Raiders).. You will be very much missed, but always remembered.*

*Gratefully Yours,
Mrs. Alishia Bush*

Alishia Bush - February 04, 2020 at 03:37 PM

AS

“ Mrs. Wilcox was my art teacher at Holiday Jr. High but was known as Miss. Gunn to me. She was always fun to be around with her creative and outgoing personality. You will be missed by all.
Amanda Smith

Amanda Smith - February 04, 2020 at 03:18 PM

AL

“ I will always remember Gwen’s generosity. She had a huge affect on my husband’s life and my daughter’s life. What an amazing teacher.

Allison Conklin

Allison - February 03, 2020 at 08:17 PM

AL

“ Gwen always made me feel like such a wonderful mamma, and she never made me or our young children feel like a burden. A little craziness never bothered her when we were around. And if I tried to calm them down thinking they were being too wild, she’d say “they’re just being kids.” I loved her encouragement, and little reminders.

She was also so generous. She knows how much she has done for a lot of us, and I hope to be a giver like her one day.

I have too many shoulda, coulda, wouldas.....but now it’s too late.

This type of reminder is always the hardest. Losing someone. I know life can get busy.....but send a card, make a meal for someone on your heart, or pick up the phone and call them. Remember to show love to those who love you. Be a good human. Gwen was a great one. I want her back.

Alicia - January 31, 2020 at 09:07 PM

AL



Alison - January 31, 2020 at 09:38 PM

AL

*Alicia Gunn.
Wife to her nephew Travis Gunn.*

Alicia - January 31, 2020 at 09:40 PM



“ *I loved her as my teacher, she was positive and made school a little easier. She was perfect at her work. She will be missed.*

Robin Graves - January 31, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ *Angela Gatewood sent a virtual gift in memory of Gwenda Wilcox*



Angela Gatewood - January 31, 2020 at 11:58 AM

RO

“ *She was my art teacher back 20 years ago! I could never forget her! She had an amazing craft of teaching, very great personality and her classroom always was my favorite! Bless her soul!*

ronnetta - January 30, 2020 at 11:25 PM

TT

“ Ms. Wilson, as I knew her, was a breath of fresh air for an awkward time in my life. She served as my 6th, 7th, & 8th grade art teacher. I so very much looked forward to joining her for an hour of shading or drawing those “still life’s”. I’m still determined the only reason we drew plants was because she needed to bring them inside during the winter months, and it was easy for her bring them to the school.



I will never forget the strong motivation she provided. Especially when she would tell us “I don’t know why you’re looking at me like glazed doughnuts, get busy”. It was her sass and motivation that made me come back for more.

Thank you for all that you provided all the students of Robinson Middle School. It would not have been the same without your creativity. Rest In Peace and enjoy the time with all the shih-tzus you had in your life.

- Love Tanner

Tanner Treiber - January 30, 2020 at 09:53 PM

PM

“ I was one of many students Gwen helped - with her loving gestures, delightful humor, and extreme kindness. She did so much for me through the years, getting me into theater and even taking me shopping to a Kansas City area mall when I needed a prom gown in 1980!

I loved her humor, her courage, and her caring - and she has been my friend since I met her at Eisenhower Junior High in 1976.

She changed my life for the better in so many ways, and I have been honored all these years to call her my friend.

I have also tried to continue her service to students in my own classroom for the past 33 years here in Pennsylvania.

Please know that all of you are in my heart.

[Phyllis] Elaine McNeal

Phyllis McNeal - January 30, 2020 at 07:41 PM

JB

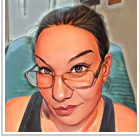
“ She and my mom used to bowl together and she would buy Avon from my mom R.I.P Gwen

Jim Berry - January 30, 2020 at 05:39 PM

 Deb Ramirez

Is your mom's name Fran?

Deb Ramirez - February 03, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ *Mrs. Wilcox was a fantastic art teacher at Robinson Middle School! Not only did she teacher me how to shade shadows of fruit in a bowl....many years later my daughter had her art class as well. I'll never forget her spunky additive and het orange finger tips from het favorite crunchie snack- Cheetos <3 RIP sweey lady!*

Rebecca Rutledge - January 30, 2020 at 05:36 PM

KF

“ *She was such a good art teacher. It was my favorite part of the day to be in her class. She taught me so much. She will always be remembered.*

Kaitlyn Ferrier - January 30, 2020 at 04:11 PM

MR

“ *She was so supportive and encouraging as an art teacher. She made us all feel special at Robinson Middle School. Such a special person.*

Martie Rison - January 30, 2020 at 08:27 AM

AE

“ *I was just talking about her the other day! I'll always remember being in her art classes at Robinson Middle School. Rest in peace, Mrs. Wilcox. <3*

Amanda Edwards - January 29, 2020 at 11:07 PM

JD

“ *She was a wonderful Lady and a Fantastic Aunt. She always wanted the best for all of us neices and nephews. She always did everything she could to help us out. Her and Uncle Jim were both special People. I'm glad she got to meet my kids a few years ago. Tell Pops, Grandma and Uncle Jim that I love and miss them. Love you.*

Jeremiah Dennen - January 29, 2020 at 09:10 PM

RM

My Dear Jeremiah and son-in-law, from remembrances you have shared, I know how much you love all of your family in Kansas and Illinois. I pray God's Peace and Comfort (Galatians 4:4-13) for you and all of your aunt's loved ones and her fellow teachers.

Rosalind K. Mixson - January 29, 2020 at 09:58 PM

AL

Gwen always made me feel like such a wonderful mamma, and she never made me or our young children feel like a burden. A little craziness never bothered her when we were around. And if I tried to calm them down thinking they were being too wild, she'd say "they're just being kids." I loved her encouragement, and little reminders. She was also a giving. She knows how much she has done for a lot of us, and I hope to be a giver like her one day. I have too many shoulda, coulda, wouldas.....but now it's too late. This type of reminder is always the hardest. Losing someone. I know life can get busy.....but send a card, make a meal for someone on your heart, or pick up the phone and call them. Remember to show love to those who love you. Be a good human. Gwen was a great one. I want her back.

Alicia - January 31, 2020 at 01:43 AM

AL

^^^
sorry, thought I posted elsewhere...

Alicia - January 31, 2020 at 09:09 PM

TS

“Gwen would always take care of the new teachers at Robinson, like a Mama hen. She looked after lost students, too, so many. She was always creating, decorating, beautifying - something. Someone. I learned patience from her, and that the process was often the most important thing, rather than the completed project itself.

Gwen taught me one very important thing during the years we worked together. "There's always more paint." While we were painting sets, or when I pondered the bare walls of the basement room I'd been moved to, she encouraged me to paint. But I'm not an artist. I can trace images and paint inside the lines, but what if I screw up an entire wall?

Tanya, she'd sigh. There's always more paint. And there is.

Blessings, Gwen. You will be missed.

Tanya Smith - January 29, 2020 at 09:03 PM

KT

“I have a pluthera of fond memories of my cousin, Gwenda but the one that sticks out is our visit to the movie theatre in Denver to see the opening of "A Star is Born" . Whiile waiting patiently (yeah right) to go in, a rather tall (the young man was 7'2 the young lady was 6'10") walked in. Without missing a beat or dropping her popcorn, soda or losing me, Gwenda walked up and asked them how tall they were while I stood there giggling. Gwenda never ceased to amaze me with her sense of timing in the humor arena, generosity, kindness and love of her students and family. I can feel the overwhelming pain you are feeling Tom and I extend my heart to you at this time. God be with you at this time. I know its going to be rough. I miss her. Love you much Gwenda. Rest in peace my Dear, wonderful loving cousin. The World has lost another great woman.

Kelly Torrez - January 29, 2020 at 09:01 PM

JO

“ It’s not everyday you can say you were close to your third cousin, but I’m lucky to have been with Gwenda! Not only did we share an affinity for Mickey Mouse, but also art, and spending time with family. I’ll never forget the time I spent with her during Thanksgiving break. She took me shopping and did not want to wait at a long light to get to the mall, so she drove on the wrong side of the road, jumped a curb, said a few four letter words and we were at the mall in no time! Gwenda was a lovely person with a great sense of humor, and a strong love for her family and animals. I will miss her dearly! May you Rest In Peace, Gwenda!

Jaime Osterlund - January 29, 2020 at 07:45 PM

MC

“ I lived with them before I got married. Caught her one time passing out my jewelry tonall her little friends. I was her babysitter many time. A very pretty little girl. Always laughing. I’m having a hard time with this. She always sent cards at Halloween or valentines rather than Christmas used to call and conversations were always begun where last one ended and we would talk for hours. Always about her beloved nieces or nephews. Then she would tell me about her dogs and she and Jim would come see us. So much fun in one tiny person. God bless you all. Especially Tom who also came to Bills celebration of life service. He needs lots of hugs now. They were very close

martha johnson. cousin - January 29, 2020 at 05:02 PM

MS

I remember Gwenda from a baby girl, they used to come down to my folks farm on a sunday, Tom, Glenn Jr, and Gwenda my sister an I would play around the farm. Mom would call dinner time, we would all rush in for a family dinner! Good memories.

I also remember Gwen and her brothers from the time I was going to business college, I would go to their house after class in the afternoon and stay with the kids until their Mom or Dad got home from work. Gwen had such a big heart, she loved others with an unconditional love! Gwen helped a large number of kids over the years, some even stayed at Jim and Gwenda's house if they needed too. She had such a great love for all the little dogs she had over many years, the were her kids! I pray she is at peace now and gets to spread her love in her new home!

Cousin Mark and Loretta Stukey

Mark Stukey - January 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM

KS

Gwen was always upbeat and you would never know what would happen next. Her off the wall ideas were fun and adventurous. One fond memory was when the Big 8 expanded to the Big 12 and she said, "Lets jump in my truck during Spring Break and visit all 4 Texas schools and bring back their logos." I said, "Lets do it!" So off we went, 4 Texas campuses and 2,200 miles later in less than 4 days. Gwen, you Rock! You, my friend are one of a kind. You are already missed!

Kim Stroud - February 07, 2020 at 10:29 AM