



## Dr. Marilyn Geiger

August 27, 1931 - December 23, 2020

Dr. Marilyn L. Geiger, 89, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. She was born in 1931 to George and Lena Yost Geiger in Salina, Kansas. Dr. Geiger lived on a farm three miles Southeast of Brookville, Kansas, until 1942, when they moved to Salina. She had lived in Topeka since 1956.

Dr. Geiger graduated from Salina High School in 1948 and received an Associate in Arts degree in piano from Colorado Woman's College in Denver in 1950. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in history from Kansas State University in 1952 and 1958, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas in 1979. Dr. Geiger taught in public schools for ten years at Sylvan Grove High School and Highland Park High School in Topeka. She taught history at Washburn University from 1962 to 2000, becoming a Professor of History in 1984. Dr. Geiger was the department chair from 1981 to 1991. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she advised all history majors going into teaching and supervised their student-teaching experiences. Dr. Geiger also originated the History Day competition at Washburn University.

Dr. Geiger was a founding member of St. Augustine's of Canterbury Anglican Church and served on its vestry for many years as Clerk, Treasurer, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden. Honoraries in which she had been chosen included Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Kappa Phi, Nonoso, Alpha Delta Kappa, La

Tritonne, and Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa. Dr. Geiger was active in professional organizations such as the Kansas Council for the Social Studies and the Kansas History Teacher's Association, serving as past president of both organizations. She volunteered for many years at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

Dr. Geiger is survived by two brother, Charles of Daytona Beach, Florida, and Larry of Salina, Kansas; two nieces; and dear friend, Karen Moore.

Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at St. Augustine's of Canterbury Anglican Church, 2140 SW Hodges Road, Topeka, KS 66614, with Father Venson Valenciano officiating.

Graveside service will be 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 30, 2020, in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Brookville, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Augustine's of Canterbury Anglican Church, the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, or to the Marilyn Geiger Scholarship in History at Washburn University, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS 66614.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

DEC 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Augustine's of Canterbury Anglican Church  
2140 SW Hodges Road  
Topeka, KS 66614

## Graveside Service

DEC 30. 3:30 PM (CT)

Calvary Cemetery  
Brookville, KS 67425

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Marilyn Geiger*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Dr. Geiger made a real impact on me when I was a student at Washburn University. I majored in both English and history, thanks to the courses I took from her. I loved hearing tales about her early teaching in western Kansas when a fear of feathers prevented her from venturing outside her apartment. In a misguided peace offering some of her students who had played hooky to go hunting, left some of the birds they had killed on her doorstep, not knowing about her phobia. She had to call the superintendent or principal to remove them. I was lucky enough to be working on my MA in English at KU when Dr. Geiger earned her Ph.D. and took her walk down the hill. She stopped by my apartment afterwards for congratulations. She was a very special professor and influence on my life. I know she impacted countless other students as well!*  
*Karen (Kline) Ford*

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**Karen Ford** - June 05, 2021 at 12:11 AM

TP

“ I remember well that, shortly after I came to Topeka and Washburn University's History Department in 1997, Marilyn invited my wife Marcia Cebulski and I to dinner at La Siesta, the family-run restaurant in the heart of Topeka's Oakland neighborhood. She was no longer chair of history at the time; this was not in any sense an "official" act. This was simply Marilyn's way to welcome us to the community, and to share with us one of its treasured secrets (that restaurant, which I am unlikely to have found on my own; the rich heritage of that neighborhood, to which no one else had taken us yet). It was such a wonderful welcoming gesture. Tom Prasch

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**Tom Prasch** - January 07, 2021 at 05:23 PM

EF

“ Marilyn was a 1st cousin of my deceased husband, Gilbert Geiger Fritz, and the niece of my mother and father-in-law, Cora Mae Geiger Fritz and Wilbert Gerald Fritz. She was the flower girl in Wilbert and Cora Mae's wedding when she was 3. When she was teaching, she would come visit us every few summers for Cora Mae's birthday. I also remember that she bred Persian cats; love of cats is something that she and I shared.

*She loved to travel as did Mom and Dad, and I believe they traveled together from time to time.*

*My family and I took one trip to Kansas to see relatives and and show our children, Amy, and Dan, where Grandma and Grandpa were from. We enjoyed a visit with Marilyn in Topeka and then went to Hutchinson to see another of Cora's niece's family on their farm.*

*I am very glad I had the opportunity to know Marilyn.*

**ELLEN FRITZ**

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**ELLEN FRITZ** - January 03, 2021 at 02:46 PM

JF

“ *Marilyn was special friend and neighbor. A group of our friends would have lunch on our birthdays. We have spent many wonderful times together. I will miss you. So glad that you were a special part of my life. Jeannette Frank.*

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**Jeannette Frank** - December 30, 2020 at 01:29 AM