



Virginia "Ginny" Higgins

February 26, 1940 - September 9, 2024

Virginia (Ginny) Helen Higgins passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, Monday, September 9, 2024, at the age of 84. Ginny was born February 26, 1940 to Vivian Ansel and Mary Helen (Nee Rhodes) Bundy in Kansas City, Kansas.

After graduating from Emporia State University, Ginny taught debate at Topeka High school for one year before being recruited to Emporia State University to teach communication, debate and speech. She received her 40-year retirement pin from Governor Kathleen Sebelius, May 3, 2005. Her awards for excellence in service were many.

During the height of the AIDS crisis, she was a co-founder of H.E.A.R.T., "Helping Emporians With Aids Resource Team," formed to educate the public and college and support persons with Aids. In addition, she brought a large segment of the Aids Quilt to ESU and the Emporia community.

Fishing, playing golf, bowling and playing softball were her sports of choice. Watching KU basketball was the highlight of her year. She found great joy in watching the Olympics this summer as she tried to recover from a heart attack. At McCrite Plaza, for a few last months, she received much love, outstanding care and challenged a few people. The last few years of her life she lived with many medical challenges and met them with her Christian faith,

hope and strong determination to regain her strength and active life. She did all this with a positive and “never give up attitude.”

May 25, 1992, Ginny and Nancy Goddard received God’s blessing on their relationship through the Rite of Holy Union from the Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka. They made their home in Topeka in 2013 after moving from Emporia, Kansas.

Ginny served in many leadership roles in MCC of Topeka and played drums for worship. She had a passion for justice and equality for all people and gave generously to help the hungry and hurt. She believed that following Jesus meant being a force to make God’s beautiful world better and peaceful for all. She planted gardens, trees and flowers wherever she lived and worshipped. She was a generous friend and quick to offer her help when needs arose.

Ginny was preceded in death by her sister, Mary Ann Bogard earlier in 2024; nephew, Kerry Roberts in 2015; Mother, Helen Bundy in 2008; and Father, Vivian Bundy in 1952. She is survived by her partner, Nancy Goddard of the home; her niece, Melinda (Steve) Luthye of Shawnee, KS; nephew Bill Roberts of Kansas City, MO; great nephew, Michael (Shannan) Booth of Lee’s Summit, MO; great niece, Jennifer Booth of Lee’s Summit, MO; and two great-great nieces, Sophie Booth and Avery Booth of Lee’s Summit, MO.

Visitation will be at 10 a.m. September 21, 2024, followed by the memorial service at 11 a.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 4425 SW 19th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66604. The service will be live streamed on the Facebook page for MCC of Topeka. Later the recording will be uploaded on YouTube.

Memorial contributions may be made to Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka (to upgrade the sanctuary sound system for the hearing impaired and online congregation) or to Helping Hands Humane Society in care of Kevin

Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka
4425 SW 19th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Memorial Service

SEP 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka
4425 SW 19th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Ginny was an inspiring educator and remarkable woman. She has truly earned the chance to rest in peace! David Schramm, BFA 1985 ESU

David Schramm - September 14, 2024 at 11:09 PM

MM

“ Ginny was a longtime friend and mentor. My sympathies and prayers are with you.

Marie Miller - September 14, 2024 at 08:27 AM

MC

“ Ginny was one of my absolute favorite college professors. She made a huge impact on my life and career and our world is a little less bright without her. I'll forever remember her fondly.

Meg Cannon - September 13, 2024 at 12:20 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginny" Higgins.



September 12, 2024 at 03:44 PM

SL

“ Steve, Melinda, Duncan & Joelle Luthye planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virginia "Ginny" Higgins.

Steve, Melinda, Duncan & Joelle Luthye - September 12, 2024 at 03:44 PM

BB

“ I met Ginny at Topeka MCC around 2003/2004 and she soon became a friend. She will be missed greatly. She had a wonderful sense of humor that at times could sneak up on you. She was wonderful.---Brandon B.

Brandon B. - September 11, 2024 at 04:54 PM

KR

Ginny was one in a million She was my mentor and my friend. You were loved. You will be missed. I will treasure seeing you on July 9th and spending time with good friends. My heart is a little broken. 💔

Kenna Reeves - September 12, 2024 at 04:23 PM

CS

Ginny will always be remembered for her laugh, her integrity, and dedication to being her best at all times. So many wonderful memories of a friend and colleague for the past 40 years. We will always treasure our time together.

Glen and Carol Strickland

Carol Strickland - September 13, 2024 at 08:44 PM

JS

Another of Mom's friends has joined her!

Judy Shorman - September 15, 2024 at 05:59 PM