



Mary Sue Higginbotham

August 25, 1937 - August 14, 2016

Memorial services for Mary Sue Thedford Higginbotham and Richard Greer Higginbotham will be held on Sunday, August 28, 2016 at 2:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Michael Ace and Morris Hallman officiating.

Visitation with the family will be immediately following the service.

Sue passed away on Sunday, August 14, 2016 in her home at Prestige Estates Assisted Living Facility in Tyler, surrounded by her family and close friends. Her husband of 62 years, Dick, sat beside her awaiting his turn to meet her in heaven. Dick joined his bride less than 3 days later, on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. It had always been their prayer that they leave this life together so that neither one had to live on this earth without the other. As always, God's timing is perfect.

Sue was born August 25, 1937 in Bryson, Texas to William L. and Virginia Thedford. Dick was born on September 7, 1933 in Gorman, Texas to Frederick E. and Bertha Higginbotham. Their love story began when Sue was just 15 and they were married to each other at the ripe old ages of 16 and 20. Immediately after their wedding they moved to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina where Dick was serving in the United States Marine Corp. Their early married life included living in San Antonio and Beaumont, while Dick was working and attending college. He graduated from Lamar University and began a lifelong career in the health care industry. They had four children and lived in Olney, Houston, and Dallas before moving their family to Tyler in 1971.

Dick began a long and distinguished career with Blue Cross Blue Shield of

Texas. He left BCBS for ten years to become the first administrator of the East Texas Cancer Center in Tyler. He then returned to Blue Cross for his remaining work life and retired in 1998. Dick served on a number of boards and committees, including the Regional East Texas Food Bank and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Sue was a homemaker for most of their married life, but worked for many years at Andy Woods Elementary School, where most people agree that she ran the school! They were both actively involved in community projects...mostly dragged into volunteering by their children! Dick and Sue were members of West Erwin Church of Christ where they spent many wonderful years and made lifelong friends. They will be sorely missed by all who knew them.

They were both preceded in death by their parents and by Dick's brother, Fred Higginbotham and sister, Virginia Martin.

Their greatest joy in life was their children and grandchildren. Dick and Sue are survived by their children, Rick Higginbotham and wife Lana of White Oak, Steve Higginbotham and wife Stacy of Tyler, Lisa Ace and husband Michael of Tyler and Julie Cunningham and husband Jeff of Tyler; grandchildren, Cheroka Roberts and husband Brent, Scott Higginbotham, Amy Lund and husband Ari, Jacob Higginbotham, Madison Higginbotham, Ashlyn Geer and husband Zach, Meredith Ace and fiancé Richard, Colton Cunningham and wife Shelbie, and Keaton Cunningham; great-grandchildren, Zev, Tahl and Isaac Lund, Eden Grace Cunningham, Thaylin Roberts and Macey Geer. Sue is also survived by her brother Bill Thedford and wife Mona of Brownwood, Texas, and numerous nieces and nephews. They are also survived by their beloved dog Aggie who misses them immensely.

The family would like to give special thanks to all of the staff and caregivers at Prestige Estates, the wonderful nurses and staff at the Watson Wise Dialysis Center, Dr. Myrtha Basile, Dr. Thomas Buzbee, Chris Williams, PA-C and the caregivers from Choice Home Health Care in Tyler. What an honor and blessing it was for Dick and Sue's final caregiver to be their oldest grandson, Scott Higginbotham, RN. This family will never forget, and will be forever

grateful, for the gentle comfort and care given by Scott in their final hours. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701 or the Regional East Texas Food Bank, 3201 Robertson Rd., Tyler, TX 75701.

Cemetery Details

DFW National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy
Dallas, TX 75211

Previous Events

Mem. Service

AUG 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Visitation and reception after service

AUG 28. 3:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

PD

“ Oh how I love this family. My heart is heavy because of the overwhelming grief you are facing, but it rejoices also in the great love your parents shared with each other, each child, and so many others! What a great example of a shared life well lived!

Phyllis Dacus - August 27, 2016 at 07:17 PM

BC

“ Betty Counts purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Sue Higginbotham.



Betty Counts - August 24, 2016 at 08:33 PM

BC

“ My condolences to the family. I loved them both . They were so proud of you and loved to talk about their kids and grandkids. Wish I could attend the memorial service but unfortunately I cannot. Sue and I were in high school together. She was always happy and fun and we had a grand time together. I was also priviledged to serve as her maid of honor at their wedding. I hated to see them leave but loved getting together later and "catching up". They were wonderful people and I will miss them. I'm so sorry for your loss but we will see them again together in heaven.

Betty Counts - August 24, 2016 at 07:21 PM

AM

“ Mike & Lisa and all of the Family, we are so sorry your parents have had a change of address. I know Tyler will never be quite the same without the leaders of your family. On the other hand...what a day of rejoicing it will be when you all gather around the throne of Christ! Until that time may you rest beneath the wings of Christ receiving his comfort & peace until your heart is mended from earth's loss of your Mom & Dad.

*In His love,
Michael & Avara Mahler*

Avara Mahler - August 23, 2016 at 02:16 PM

ES

“ These two dynamic people will be missed. They made many contributions in SO many ways. They have treasure in heaven.

Elwood Stetson - August 21, 2016 at 09:10 AM

GT

“ Gay Tyra lit a candle in memory of Mary Sue Higginbotham




gay tyra - August 20, 2016 at 04:11 PM

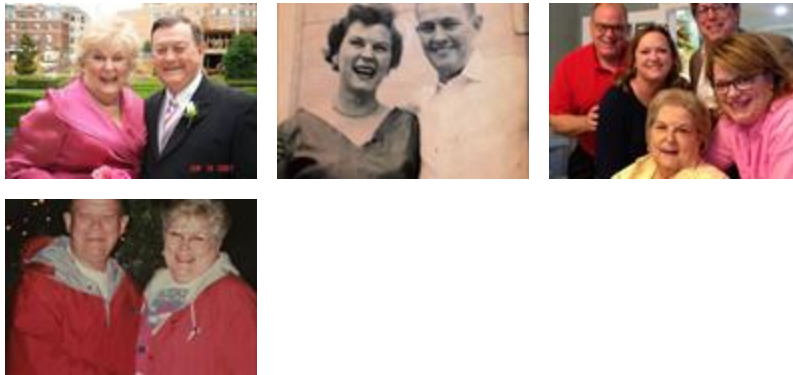
SR

“ I was lucky enough to teach at Andy Woods during Sue's 'reign' there as the school secretary. She kept all of us on our toes and was more than adept at keeping the place running smoothly. She was a dedicated professional - but she had one wicked sense of humor which kept all of us (teachers and staff) laughing even when times were tough. I sure am glad I knew her 'back in the day' !


Susan Rhoades - August 20, 2016 at 11:20 AM

 Steve
Higginbotham

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Steve Higginbotham - August 18, 2016 at 03:21 PM

 Tony
Noakes

“ *I love you Mrs. Higginbotham and look forward to playing bridge with you in heaven. Thank you for your kindness and love here on earth....and your bossiness, God created a very strong women when he created you!*

Tony Noakes - August 17, 2016 at 01:49 PM