



## Richard "Dick" Greer Higginbotham

September 7, 1933 - August 17, 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

## Visitation and reception after service

AUG 28. 3:00 AM (CT)

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

## Mem. Service

AUG 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Richard "Dick" Greer Higginbotham*



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**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - August 28, 2016 at 01:58 PM

EH

“ *I loved the comments, the stories and the memorial service you (Ricky, Steve, Lisa, and Julie) gave your parents on Sunday. It was so much the Dick and Sue I remembered and loved. What a blessing your family, the Hinsons, and the Lunsfords were for the church in Newcastle.*

*I was so sorry I did not get to speak to Julie on Sunday; but, please know all four of you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*The service was so warm and personal, filled with love and laughter that a complete stranger sitting in the chapel would have left feeling like one of the family or a very close friend. Hugs to you all.*

*Eileen Oualline Horany*

*. . . & Elaine Oualline Cordner, Matt (Hotshot) Oualline, Cookie Bullock Haile and Joan Bullock, and countless others from Olney and Newcastle*

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**Eileen Horany** - August 29, 2016 at 01:53 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Greer Higginbotham.*



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August 23, 2016 at 03:27 PM



“ *My mother, Doris Kent, loved the friendship established with both Dick and Sue at Prestige Estates. They were delightful table-mates at mealtimes. Even when he was sitting in his wheelchair, Dick would pull out Mother's chair for her as she sat down and got up from the table. Sue's smile radiated a joy of life, and they both kept us entertained with cute stories. Mother also enjoyed conversations "across the patio." We will always have happy thoughts of this sweet couple and their warm and caring personalities. (Aggie, we love you, too!) Beckie Kent Duer*

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**Beckie Duer** - August 23, 2016 at 11:42 AM



“ *Sympathy to your family. Many good memories of your mom from Andy Woods school days and fun times on the Sibley's patio.  
Deanna Olson*

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**deanna olson** - August 23, 2016 at 09:19 AM

LC

“ Sue was one of the first people I met when I began sixth grade at Bryson Elementary School in Bryson, Tx. She was always happy and helped others to laugh. After many years after school, we all went different direction of course; but when she got my email address, she sent me pictures of our classmates having fun. I do hope and pray all of you will be comforted as God only can do. Memories are so precious and help us through many trying times. Love In Jesus - Leona Mae (Sartain) Cartwright (live in Ga now)

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**Leona Mae Sartain Cartwright** - August 23, 2016 at 07:51 AM

RB

“ Steve and family. My prayers are with you and all of your family during this time. Although I didn't know your parents personally, they seem to be two amazing people. I pray for comfort for your family during these sad times. I am glad they are together again. I know we are selfish and want our loved ones with us, but they are together, happy, and hurt free now. Sincerely, Rhonda Busby

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**Rhonda Busby** - August 21, 2016 at 09:06 PM



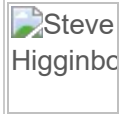
Thanks Rhonda.

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**Steve Higginbotham** - August 23, 2016 at 07:07 AM

LA

“ Steve and Family - Please accept my sincere condolences for the Loss of your Mama and Daddy..So Thankful they are in Heaven together , with Family and Loved ones 🙏  
In deepest Sympathy for the Higginbotham Family...

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**Lark Allison** - August 21, 2016 at 07:07 PM



*Thanks Lark. Hope you are well!*

**Steve Higginbotham** - August 23, 2016 at 07:01 AM

PM

*“ I had the pleasure of having Mr. Higginbotham as my boss at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas. He was a wonderful and caring individual. Sue would come in our office for visits and I remember her as a very sweet lady. I know you are going to miss them both but take comfort in knowing that they are together.*

**Patricia Mills** - August 21, 2016 at 12:43 AM

GH

*“ Please accept my condolences on the loss of your Father and Mother. May you find peace and love in the memories you cherish.*

**Glenda Haddock** - August 20, 2016 at 06:34 PM

LA

*“ It was A True Honor to Know Mr Higginbothem.. anyone who met Dick loved him , his kindness and his humor... Thank you for the Happy years of Knowing you at Blue...Lark Allison*

**Lark Allison** - August 20, 2016 at 04:23 PM

GT

*“ ,  
Sue,  
I am so sorry to hear of Dicks passing. I have missed you so much and cherish great memories, especially Dicks story of your family vacation to the Astrodome.  
God Bless ,Gay tyra*

**gay tyra** - August 20, 2016 at 02:40 PM

GT

“ Gay Tyra lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Greer Higginbotham



gay tyra - August 20, 2016 at 01:41 PM

Steve Higginbotham

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Steve Higginbotham - August 18, 2016 at 03:17 PM

Tony Noakes

“ Tony Noakes sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard "Dick" Greer Higginbotham



Tony Noakes - August 17, 2016 at 01:45 PM

Tony Noakes

“ Tony Noakes lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Greer Higginbotham



Tony Noakes - August 17, 2016 at 01:44 PM

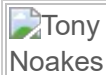


Tony  
Noakes

“ I have not seen Mr. and Mrs. Higginbotham in over 38 years. But, rest assured dear family, they had a huge, positive impact on my life. Not only did they produce three fantastic children, but they were the coolest parents of all my friends at TJC. I love them dearly. I am sorry, for us, for their departure but am glad they continue to be together forever more. My heart and prayers go out to you kids that you have peace and comfort in this time of separation. Mr. and Mrs. Hig gave me great memories. And, that shall never pass. My sincerest sympathies. Love, Tony Noakes

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**Tony Noakes** - August 17, 2016 at 01:34 PM



Tony  
Noakes

Sorry for my bad memory, your parents had **FOUR** fantastic children.

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**Tony Noakes** - August 17, 2016 at 09:54 PM



RH

Thanks, Tony.

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**Rick Higginbotham** - August 24, 2016 at 02:17 PM