



Carol J. Higgins

January 27, 1948 - July 14, 2020

Carol J. Higgins, 72, of Bluffton, passed away at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Carol was born on January 27, 1948 in Columbus, Ohio to Robert A. and Betty L. (Grimsley) Cline. Carol was a 1966 graduate of P. A. Allen (Bluffton) High School. She became a registered nurse following graduation from Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in 1970, and entered into a distinguished career in nursing, first in the Cardiac Critical Care Service at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne and then at Markle Medical Clinic in Bluffton, where she was on staff for 39 years.

Carol married Tommy L. Higgins at First United Methodist Church in Bluffton on May 5, 1972.

She was an active musician in her student days, playing French horn and singing in choirs and an esteemed vocal trio with classmates Billy (Beatty) Kreigh and Claudia (Cotton) Gipson, and as an adult singing in the Chancel Choir and ringing in the Bellaires Handbell Choir at First United Methodist Church in Bluffton. In the year 2000, she appeared as Ethel Toffelmier (the “pianola girl”) in “The Music Man,” the inaugural production by Wells Community Theater in Bluffton.

Carol was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church of Bluffton and was an associate member of Tri Kappa sorority, as well as LiGHT women’s service organization.

She loved traveling throughout the United States with her husband Tom, dining with their friends, and enjoying country living at their farm home south

of Bluffton.

Later in life, she engaged in a generous ministry of card-writing to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, creating and maintaining relationships with hundreds of people around the country. In her outreach to others throughout her life, she embodied the spirit of this quote found in her college yearbook: "If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain."

Carol is survived by her husband of 48 years, Tom, her dedicated and loving caregiver the past seven years; daughter Joy (Paul) R. Chen of Fishers, Indiana; granddaughter Cassie Chen of Fishers, brother David (Judy) Cline of Deephaven, Minnesota; brother Bill (Jane) Cline of Fort Wayne; nieces April (Jacey) Poulson and Bethany Cline; nephews Todd (Jane) Higgins, Rodd Higgins, and Joe (Kaylin) Cline; as well as great nieces and great nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and by daughter, Amy L. Higgins. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Calling hours will be held from 12 Noon to 5 P.M. on Sunday (July 19, 2020) at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday (July 20, 2020) at First United Methodist Church in Bluffton, with calling for one hour prior to the service. Pastor Sherrie Drake and Rev. Cindy Osgood will officiate. Burial will follow at Bethel Church Cemetery in rural Bluffton.

Memorials may be made in Carol's memory to Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1970 Scholarship Fund, Angel of Hope Park through the Wells County Foundation, or First United Methodist Church music department. The safety of the family and all visitors is our utmost priority. For everyone's safety, we ask that you practice social distancing. Masks are required for visitation and for Carol's service at the church. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Cemetery Details

Bethel Church Cemetery

4500 East 300 South
Bluffton, IN 46714

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 19. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Visitation

JUL 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Service

JUL 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carol J. Higgins*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - July 19, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ *Carol J. Higgins*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Remembering LHSN days with Carol “Cloice” Cline. Friend to me and many others. Amazing Grace. Sympathy to all who loved her.*

Nancy Hursey - July 19, 2020 at 09:38 AM



“ *Thinking of a great woman, wife, Mother, and friend. Our sympathies to the whole family..
Love, sally & clint conwell ,and Linda.*

Sally Conwell - July 19, 2020 at 08:54 AM

BG

“ Tom, Joy, Paul & Cassie, David, Judy, Joe, & Beth, Bill, Jane & April....your lives have been forever changed, yet our prayer is that the many memories you have will, in time, help ease the pain of loss. My most vivid memories of Carol are sitting next to her in the alto section of our church choir (and in the bell choir), watching for her mom (Betty) to cast a glance our way if we were talking too much.

Our love and prayers,
Bill and Becky Goshorn

becky goshorn - July 19, 2020 at 08:14 AM



“ 81 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - July 18, 2020 at 03:11 PM

PM

“ Our thoughts are with the whole family as you remember and mourn Carol. We know her best through the extended Cline family, but we also were touched many times by her gifts of cards and notes.

Thinking of you all.
Phyllis and Skip Messenger and family

Phyllis Messenger - July 18, 2020 at 01:31 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carol J. Higgins.*



July 17, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Carol's passing. Carol was on the other end of the line so many times when I would call Markle Medical Center from the time in the small house by the hospital to the big medical building. The one time I remember well was when I called you feeling overwhelmed and not sure what was going on, Carol's calming voice on the other end, saying, it is going to be okay!! She was always a big help too when I worked at Wells Community in the 70's and 80's. I am so blessed for knowing her. May you be comforted by special memories and in time may those memories bring a smile. Keeping you in my prayers.
God Bless,
Glennis Henly*

Glennis Henly - July 17, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ *Doug And Connie Sawyer lit a candle in memory of Carol J. Higgins*



Doug and Connie Sawyer - July 17, 2020 at 01:11 PM

KH

“ Tom and family,
My Sympathy in your loss. I always enjoyed talking with Carol, whether it be at the office or with other organizations and things. She was always pleasant, and and so encouraging in whatever was going on in one's life. She is a special lady as you well know.

Karen Hunnicutt



Karen Hunnicutt - July 17, 2020 at 12:55 PM

RM

“ Dear Tom, Our heartfelt condolences on Carol's passing. We pray strength and peace for you during this hard time. Ralph & Nancy

Ralph Miller - July 17, 2020 at 11:45 AM

CH

“ Dear Tom and family,
Dan and I were so very saddened to hear of Carol's passing. She was my nurse forever! And we always enjoyed seeing her and the gang at the Wednesday night special at Wagon Wheel after retirement!! Such a fun loving lady. She will truly be missed. God bless your family during this difficult time. Much love to you.

Christine and Dan Hunt



Christine and Dan Hunt - July 16, 2020 at 09:06 PM

SP

“ Tom, Joy, David, Bill & the rest of Carol’s family:
Carol had so many talents that she shared over the years with her
friends and church
Family at First United Methodist.
So very sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort in the days ahead.

Susan Poulson - July 16, 2020 at 05:41 PM

DR

“ Sincerest condolences to Tom & family.

D. Rich - July 16, 2020 at 01:27 PM

BK

“ Carol was a wonderful friend; she will be
missed by all of us who were privileged to
have her in our lives. Her smile, laughter, her
ability to make everyone feel valued will
remain in every single memory of Carol that I
will hold in my heart. I loved her and am so very glad that she was
part of my life from my earliest memories. Love to Tom and her
wonderful family. Billy Beaty Kreigh



Billy Kreigh - July 16, 2020 at 01:10 PM

BK

Hold in my heart.....Carol is chuckling at my error, I would bet on it!

Billy Kreigh - July 20, 2020 at 01:05 AM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "I thought of you" was purchased for the family of Carol J. Higgins.



July 16, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Carol J. Higgins.



July 16, 2020 at 12:14 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Carol's passing!!

Patty (Holmes) Warren - July 16, 2020 at 07:20 AM



“ Debbie Elkins purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Carol J. Higgins.



Debbie Elkins - July 16, 2020 at 07:16 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Carol J. Higgins.*



July 16, 2020 at 04:37 AM



“ *Carol was such an wonderful nurse and individual. Being raised in the MMC Family/being a Pt and the Bluffton 1st family, i had the honor of listening to her musical talents. Higgins family and Cline family prayers for you all in this time of sorrow.*

Jennifer Jesse - July 16, 2020 at 12:33 AM



“ *She was a good person who married a good man. Prayers for her family. The Brian Stogdill family*



Valerie Stogdill - July 15, 2020 at 10:51 PM



“ *Dan & Peg Paxson lit a candle in memory of Carol J. Higgins*



Dan & Peg Paxson - July 15, 2020 at 10:12 PM

SW

“ You enriched our lives with your friendship, company, laughter... I don't remember a part of my life without you in it. Damn, we had some fun... Gentle Savior lead me home... ”



Sally Welker - July 15, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carol J. Higgins. ”



July 15, 2020 at 09:03 PM

TF

“ Trudy & Fred lit a candle in memory of Carol J. Higgins ”



Trudy & Fred - July 15, 2020 at 08:47 PM

TW

“ Carol was such a kind, friendly, and beautiful lady. ”

Tami Wolfcale - July 15, 2020 at 08:00 PM

KF

“ Ken And Jeannie Flowers lit a candle in memory of Carol J. Higgins



ken and Jeannie Flowers - July 15, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ When I was a young nurse at Wells Community Hospital, you quickly understood who was "in charge" at Markle Medical Center Bluffton Office. Carol was so helpful when you had a patient that needed one of the Doc's or a procedure. She saw that it was done and done right. Many times I would go into an appointment feeling at ease when Carol ushered me into a room! Tom, I am so sorry and send my sympathy for you and your family.



Fritzi Nodine - July 15, 2020 at 07:26 PM

DN

“ Dwight & Nancy lit a candle in memory of Carol J. Higgins



Dwight & Nancy - July 15, 2020 at 05:51 PM

DG

“ So sorry to learn of Carol’s passing. She was a very caring person and always out going with laughter. She will be truly missed. Tom and the Higgins family will be in our prayers.
Dan and Darlene Gerdom



Dan Gerdom - July 15, 2020 at 12:39 PM