



Marilyn Suzanne Vanden Top

October 2, 1940 - November 20, 2020

Marilyn Suzanne Vanden Top, 80 of Warren, and longtime resident of Bluffton, passed away on Friday afternoon, November 20, 2020, at Heritage Pointe in Warren.

Marilyn was born on October 2, 1940 in Bluffton to Garth & Evelyn (Arnold) Higgins. She graduated from Bluffton High School in 1958, and graduated from International Business College.

After being pen pals, Marilyn and Albertus "Al" Vanden Top were married on April 2, 1961. They lived a short time in Ontario, Canada, then moved home to Bluffton. In 1990 they moved to Cherry Hill, New Jersey and Stamford, Connecticut, returning to Bluffton in 1999. Al preceded her in death on August 20, 2016.

Marilyn was a lifelong seamstress, patching knees on her boys' worn-out pants to elegant wedding dresses. She also became an EMT, then a Medical Transcriptionist for Wells Community Hospital and Bluffton Regional Hospital. She loved baking especially for family and church gatherings, and canned anything that would fit in a jar. You could find her on any 90-degree humid August Saturday afternoon, in her kitchen with two canners going on the stove. She and Al loved attending their grandchildren's sporting events and taking them out for ice cream. She loved her grandchildren and gazing at the stars. Any day of the week, Marilyn would selflessly choose to help others, before ever doing something for herself.

She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton,

and Zanesville United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a son Thomas (Heather) G. Vanden Top of Yoder, daughter-in-law Rhonda Vanden Top of Bluffton along with five grandchildren; Hannah and Andrea Vanden Top, Grace, August and Eli Vanden Top, along with her brother Edward "Ed" Higgins of Bluffton.

Marilyn is preceded in death by her parents, husband Al, and son James "Jimmy" Vanden Top on December 20, 2007.

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 Marilyn's service. During the current guidelines, our building occupancy is limited to 25 people total. We are only allowed a limited number of people in the building at a time. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Visitation will be held from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Dick Case officiating. Burial will follow at Elm Grove in Bluffton.

Friends wishing to watch Marilyn's service can do so from the safety of their home, utilizing a Zoom Meeting. You can login using the Zoom Meeting I.D. # 853 4751 2790 and you can login after 10:15 A.M. on Wednesday, November 25, 2020.

Memorials may be made to Heritage Pointe in Warren and should be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Vanden Top family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

ZOOM LINK TO WATCH THE FUNERAL SERVICE

NOV **25**. 10:15 AM.

Public Zoom ID # 853 4751 2790

FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

NOV **25**. 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Marilyn Suzanne Vanden Top*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - November 24, 2020 at 05:18 PM



“ *Marilyn Suzanne Vanden Top*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Marilyn was an active member of our Stitches of Hope group that met for several years at Bluffton Methodist Church. She created many caps for us to distribute to medically needy people. She was always smiling and pleasant. We grieve for your loss.*

Kayleen Reusser - December 02, 2020 at 07:17 AM



“ *Rhonda, The VandenTop family is in my thoughts and prayers. Marilyn was a sweet and kind-hearted lady with a smile that would warm your heart. Heaven gained a sweet soul. Sending my love and sympathy to your family. Donna*

Donna Steffen - November 25, 2020 at 04:05 AM

WW

“ To the VandenTop family:

Marilyn was the "Cookie Lady" at Bluffton Regional when I had the pleasure of meeting her. We then spent several years getting to know each other and played in the hand bell choir together at church. She brought me flour from Canada a couple of times (her special

secret for making great cookies)!

She was a such a talented and special person who always spoke so fondly of her family.

She will be missed by everyone she touched over her beautiful lifetime. She was an angel!

My sincere sympathy and prayers for comfort and peace for all of you.

Wendy Weaver

Wendy Weaver - November 24, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - November 24, 2020 at 12:28 PM

CW

“ Tommy, I was so sorry to hear about your mom. Please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Chris Winkler - November 24, 2020 at 09:33 AM

VJ

“ Tom, I wouldn't expect you to remember me. I was your babysitter back in the day. Our moms were friends through "Home Ec" club and a few years later I worked with your dad at Bachman Foods. Your mom made a couple of formal gowns for me which were gorgeous. Good memories!

Sympathy to you and your family. Cherish the memories. God bless.
Valerie (Wilson) Jackson (Mom was Doris Ann Wilson)

Valerie Jackson - November 24, 2020 at 08:36 AM



“ 46 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - November 23, 2020 at 12:34 PM

CM

“ *VandenTop Family, Met Marilyn working at Wells Community Hospital. She was kind and always brought joy to those around her. Deepest Sympathy!*



Cindy Monticue - November 23, 2020 at 11:01 AM

SK

“ *Tommy & family,
Sorry to read about the loss of your mom. Very hard to handle, I know. She was a wonderful woman and I know you'll miss her greatly. But memories last forever. Prayers.*

Steve Kunkel - November 23, 2020 at 08:59 AM

SG

“ *Our love, thoughts, prayers, and sympathies go to the entire Vanden Top family!!
In sympathy, Stan and Cindy Geisel*

Stan and Cindy Geisel - November 20, 2020 at 09:57 PM