



Mary V. Highfill

April 13, 1939 - September 26, 2020

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, Mary V. Highfill, loving wife and mother of six children passed at the age of 81. Mary was born on April 13, 1939, in Colcord, Oklahoma, to James and Nettie Linam. Mary married J.C Highfill, May 12, 1956, then proceeded to have five children by the age of twenty-three...then one more.. five years later. She is survived by Ron Highfill, Annette Olsen, Susie Peckham, Donna Highfill, and Wes Highfill. She was graced with seven grandchildren. Bobbi Jo Wilson, Koyle Olsen, Michael Egan, Camille Egan, Bennett Highfill, Clara Highfill, and Caden Highfill. She was blessed to have Cindy Burns Knox of Wimberley, TX, as a very dear friend.

Mary, then found herself raising six children on the banks of the Illinois River, June 8, 1972, in Siloam Springs, while J.C. was teaching in the foreign language department at John Brown University. After a few years, she received her BS in Education, December 15, 1975, from JBU. She was hired shortly after by the Siloam Springs School District to teach history in the high school. She loved her job and was very passionate toward her students. She later received her MS in Administration from the University of Arkansas, and was hired as the Assistant Principal in charge of Discipline. This was definitely her expertise and calling...as proof of many students returning to tell her "If it hadn't been for Mrs. Highfill's help and support...they would have never made it through school." There was hardly a day when she didn't have flowers on her desk, or a walkie-talkie cruising through the lunchroom carrying a day-old

donut watching the students like a Hawk. Her infectious smile was passed through to her colleagues as well as to her students. She was an educator extraordinaire!

After retirement she was able to travel and experience many different cultures, such as China, Mexico, Tibet, Bali, The Holy Lands, as well as many other European countries.

Mary was most content with her children, grandchildren, friends, flowerbed, kitties, and watching the Illinois river rise and recede. It was her peaceful happy place.

Mary was preceded in death by her Father James Linam, Mother Nettie Linam, Husband J. C. Highfill, and Daughter Debbie Bennett. There will be a memorial determined at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Mary has requested any memorial donations to go toward the Siloam Springs School District Scholarship Foundation or the Food Bank of Northwest Arkansas.

Tribute Wall



“ *Such a treasure!! She will be missed! She was loved and admired by many.. Much love and peace to the family.*

Cammi Hevener - October 03, 2020 at 05:08 PM



“ *Mrs. Highfill was always so thoughtful, patient, and kind, even when I was a rebellious teenager. She changed many lives over the years and her legacy will live on for years. Prayers to her family and friends.*

Bridgett Pack - October 01, 2020 at 01:23 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Mary V. Highfill.*



September 30, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ *She was great. And always made me smile. If I would get in trouble she would say I'm too pretty to be so mean lol. She always complimented my brother as well. If the day was bad she made it good. So many memories and conversations with her I will never forget.*

monica burgess - September 29, 2020 at 08:08 PM

KR

“ Dear Ron, Wes and girls,

We are going to miss your mom--what a beautiful person who loved and cared for her family. Mary was a role model for many of us--overcoming a lot of difficulties (mostly those kids!) to develop into a professional and successful public school system administrator at a time when females were not regularly given those roles. We know you could not have been any more blessed in the "mom" department.

Tami and I so enjoyed talking politics with her--she was smart and usually right, but I never let on. We imagine she is holding some discussion right now enlightening those around her.

Peace to all.

*Tami and Kevin Riley
Point Lookout, MO*

Kevin Riley - September 29, 2020 at 07:21 PM

JW

“ *John Woods lit a candle in memory of Mary V. Highfill*



John Woods - September 29, 2020 at 03:33 PM

SB

“ *Such a wonderful lady! She saved me from Mr. Bergen one day in High School. That I will never forget. She done so in such a way that no one questioned her about it. Such a strong presence but with grace and wisdom. My thoughts and prayers to the family.* ”

Sherry Bartlett - September 29, 2020 at 12:00 PM

CM

“ *Love coming in and seeing the newly made chocolate cupcakes!* ”

Cathy Moore - September 29, 2020 at 11:15 AM

RE

“ *Prayers for the Highfill family.* ”



Renea Ellis - September 29, 2020 at 09:31 AM

JW

I enjoyed her class she also seemed to really care about students.

John Woods - September 29, 2020 at 03:33 PM

CR

I loved Mrs. Highfill. I was a new student in the senior year of Junior American History. Every Friday she gave us a Test, and Monday she would say, "and who made the best grade today?" Every one would say, 'John Allison'. I thought, "well, if I am a senior, I can beat these juniors.' So, I did. I got a high grade, and she said, 'Who made the best grade today?' After guessing half the class, she finally said, 'Charlotte Swanson.' The class was like "Who is that?" After that I successfully beat John Allison and people started guessing my name. She always seemed so proud of me, and gave me a lot of encouragement, and it was easy to say she and Mrs. Jackson were my best teachers. I am praying for the Highfill family, during this sad time. I have lost both my parents, and so I understand your grief at this time.
Charlotte Swanson Robinson

Charlotte Robinson - October 03, 2020 at 07:25 PM

GB

Mrs. Highfill was by far the best in the office to handle certain situations that arose. I will forever be grateful for all she did for me during my hard times in High School. She was a one of a kind compassionate woman who I loved dearly. Rest In Love Mrs. H.
Your devoted student,
Gwen Beck 🙏😊❤️

Gwen Beck - October 08, 2020 at 12:11 AM