



Dr. Marilyn A. Hankins

October 11, 1948 - June 2, 2021

Dr. Marilyn A. Hankins passed away unexpectedly at her residence on June 2, 2021. Dr. Hankins was the second and youngest daughter of Roy Thomas and Hazel Worley Wampler. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, her sister Martha Ann Abbott (and brother-in-law Reverend Ronald Abbott), and her husband Dr. Norman E. Hankins. She is survived by her son, Dr. A. Bentley Hankins, and his wife, Dr. Erin E. Hankins, along with her granddaughter Addison Grace Hankins, nephew Bill Abbott, niece Melanie Royse (Chris) and nephew Eric Hankins (Kim). She is also survived by several cousins, including George Aubrey Lee II (Sally), special friends Leisa Lusk and Van Rollins, and her beloved cats.

Born on October 11, 1948 in Bluefield, Dr. Hankins was the daughter of a Methodist minister and frequently moved with her family throughout Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee in her early years. She attended Powell Valley High School (Big Stone Gap, VA) where she graduated as her class valedictorian. She then attended East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN) where she earned bachelors, masters and doctorate (Doctor of Education) degrees. While at ETSU, she took a psychology class taught by Dr. Norman E. Hankins. The two began a relationship shortly thereafter which led to a forty-seven year marriage that lasted until his death in February 2018.

Dr. Hankins had a passion for education and began her career teaching English at E.C. Glass High School (Lynchburg, VA) during a contentious time in which the school had just begun the process of integrating black and white students. She then returned to Johnson City and taught English for 10 years at Science Hill High School. Dr. Hankins also served as the English department chair during her tenure at Science Hill. In the 1980s, Dr. Hankins left the classroom to pursue a new career challenge by serving as a teacher representative through the Tennessee Education Association. Dr. Hankins found her calling in this work representing teachers throughout school districts in Northeast Tennessee. She continued in this work until her retirement in 2010 which culminated a remarkable 40-year career in education in which she proudly served the students she taught and the teachers she represented. Of her many accomplishments, she was

perhaps most proud of helping to pass legislative reforms that provided confidential mental health assistance to teachers throughout Tennessee.

In both her personal and professional roles, Dr. Hankins was a passionate woman who put the needs of others before her own. The love, care and wisdom that she provided to and shared with others as a wife, mother, friend and educator will forever be cherished by those she touched.

There will be no formal visitation or services.

Memories and condolences may be shared at <http://www.tetrickfuneralhome.com>. Tetrick Funeral Services 3001 Peoples Street Johnson City, TN 37604 (423-610-7171) is honored to serve the Hankins Family.

Comments



“ Ms. Hankins was a wonderful teacher and she is solely responsible for my love of art and art history, having introduced me to the world of art appreciation at Science Hill High School. (At UTK during my undergraduate degree, I took a whole year of art history - again, because of her influence.) She was a gifted teacher and I really admired her. I have never forgotten that gift of art appreciation she gave to me. It's meant that the love of good art has been a constant in my life and I know this would not have happened if she hadn't been my teacher at Science Hill. Because of her, I have some nice (not really valuable) art pieces throughout my house. And I don't walk into a museum without thinking of her and silently thanking her. God Speed, Ms. Hankins.

Kitty Pat Cornett, Science Hill, 1977

Kitty Cornett - July 04 at 10:20 AM



“ M. G. JOHNSON lit a candle in memory of Dr. Marilyn A. Hankins



M. G. JOHNSON - July 02 at 01:50 PM



“ Marilyn was the ultimate lady, colleague and friend. Smart and caring she was always a joy for me to be around. I will miss her immensely.

M. G. JOHNSON - July 02 at 01:48 PM



“ Your family is in my thoughts. Mom loved her. And especially Bentley. (Mr.B)
Love Nannie Sue's daughter Britha

Britha Johnson - June 13 at 12:12 AM



“ To the family and loved ones of Marilyn Hankins, I send my thoughts and prayers of love and that God will hold you all in his arms and give you comfort. I was a student of "Miss Hankins" at Science Hill High School, Johnson City, TN (I was in Class of 1980)

I always remember the kindness and caring ways of teaching. She was always available for help to anyone of her students. I always thought she was elegant and such a classy lady, but her compassion was always so apparent to anyone who she taught. She truly touched so many lives! May you find comfort in all the love she showed to so many -

With loving thoughts and prayers,
Tina (White) Ray
Houston, Texas

Tina Ray - June 10 at 11:59 AM



“ To the entire Hankins family, I'm so sorry you lost her so unexpectedly. What a truly remarkable woman she was with such an amazing legacy. -Gentry Hogan

Gentry Hogan - June 10 at 11:17 AM



“ Mrs. Hankins was my English teacher my sophomore year in 1972 at Science Hill. She was an outstanding teacher. You could tell that she was passionate about her work. She was an encouragement to me while in school and when I saw her a year a year after graduation, she really got after me about not going on to college. Years later whenever our paths crossed, she would still remember me. I was so sorry to hear of her passing. I will always be grateful to have had her as a teacher. She is one of the best memories that I have from high school. Charles Mills, Class of 1975

Charles Mills - June 09 at 04:16 PM



“ I will never forget Dr. Hankins as an English teacher at Science Hill. I transferred there from out of town in my Junior year, and she was so warm and welcoming, as well as being incredibly intelligent. She will be missed.
Alison Aycock Besch

Alison Besch - June 09 at 10:14 AM



“ Marilyn was the PIVOTAL person in my life. Her guidance and encouragement defined my future. She was an amazing person.



Reba Luttrell - June 06 at 09:11 PM



“ I am sorry to hear of Dr. Hankins passing, and my sympathy to her family. I was not fortunate to study under her at Science Hill, but remember her vibrant presence on the "third wing".

Craig Campbell - June 06 at 05:17 PM



“ Marilyn was a mentor and a friend. I admired her and patterned my career after her. So sorry for the loss of your precious Marilyn. She was such a gracious lady. Thoughts and prayers, Adeline Hyder

Jim Hyder - June 06 at 04:14 PM



“ Bentley, We're so sad to learn of your mom's passing. She was a special lady. Tom and I each served as president of Washington County Education Association. Your mom's support, expertise and friendship were invaluable to us. Then, when you were in my 2nd grade class at Jonesborough Elementary, she and I broadened that friendship.

Thinking of you and your family with love and prayers,
Claudia and Tom Lee

Claudia W Lee - June 06 at 01:57 PM