



Joyce Huneycutt Higham

MAY 13, 1937 - JAN 13, 2025



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Joyce Huneycutt Higham, 87, died at her home in Oakboro, NC, on Monday, January 13, 2025. She was born on May 13, 1937, in Stanfield, North Carolina, to the late Lonnie and Eunice Huneycutt.

Joyce is predeceased by her husband, Donald Gilbert Higham of 54 years. She is survived by her three children: Larisa Thompson (Dan) of Oakboro, NC, Krysta Arabudzki (Tom) of Nashua, NH, and Joseph Higham (Terri) of Lancaster, SC. Grandchildren include Josie Thompson of Raleigh, NC, Hunter Thompson of Charlotte, NC, Ella and Grace Higham of Lancaster, SC, Katja and Nikolaj Arabudzki of Nashua, NH. Step grandchildren include Andrew Thompson (Marleny) of Gmund, Germany, Jennica Lynch (Daniel) of Columbus, OH, Joshua Haller of Columbus, OH, and Jacob Haller (deceased). Lily and Liam Lynch of Columbus, OH, are great step grandchildren.

Joyce received her BA degree in education from Wake Forest College. After graduation, she taught English in Forsyth and Rowan counties before relocating to Northern Virginia (NoVA) where she taught an additional five years. She raised her children with Donald in Springfield, Virginia, and was a devoted and loving stay-at-home mother during the early formative years. Joyce went back to work at a community newspaper in the greater NoVA area and was employed by the Federal Government for many years.

Joyce credited her mother and paternal grandfather with fostering in her a love of language. She experimented in many genres and used her writing to “clarify her thinking and to more fully understand who she is and what she values”. She surrounded herself with her treasured books and enjoyed conversations around her latest reads. Often, she would transcribe notes for later references for her own personal writings.

She deeply loved her husband, their children and their spouses, and her



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grandchildren. A beloved Mimi and grandmother, the fulfillment of her and Donald's love is reflected in their family. Joyce's legacy lives on through the stories she told and the memories her family will forever cherish.

The family is being served by Stanly Funeral Home in Locust, and a private celebration of life will be held later. In lieu of flowers, consider donating to, or supporting your local public library.

To live in this world, you must be able to do three things:

to love what is mortal;

to hold it against your bones knowing

your own life depends on it; and,

when the time comes to let it go,

to let it go.

-Mary Oliver



Tribute Wall

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Helen Huneycutt posted:

How very appropriate that one of the greatest book-lovers of all time may now have memorials given in her name to her favorite place - a local public library! Joyce read stacks of books of many genres, and she knew how to interpret themes or to find the plot line or just simply to enjoy a book. She was a night owl who read into the wee hours, and she loved the peace and quiet of those late times when she could read to her heart's content. To her children and grandchildren and in-laws who are missing Mimi so much, I sympathize. I was blessed to be her sister-in-law for 60 years. She and my late husband, her brother, Ken, learned to use their imaginations in their play as children. As they gained age and experience, their writing abilities were honed and were valuable in their professional careers. All of us family members remain in shock over our loss of Joyce, but we are grateful for the meaningful life that she lived and the goodness that was part of her soul. May she rest in peace.

January 15 at 3:24 PM



Larisa Thompson January 21 at 10:43 AM

Helen ❤️ Your tribute provides so much comfort and love. The sentiments are lovely and we will carry this with us in the days and weeks ahead. You have a lovely way with words and for sharing your compassion and love. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We love you.



Kelly & Rick Booth lit a candle in honor of Joyce.

January 15 at 8:59 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joyce by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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