



Judy Carol Vaughan

December 6, 1940 - May 26, 2022

Dr. Judy Carol Vaughan, retired professor of sociology and criminology and beloved mother and grandmother, died in Aiken, South Carolina on May 26, 2022, after a long illness. She was 81. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Judy was born December 6, 1940, in Jerusalem, Arkansas to Ernest Edward Vaughan and Claudia Grace Karnes Vaughan. She graduated from Russellville High School in 1957 and immediately married and entered the workforce. When she turned 40, Judy enrolled in college for the first time, and went on to earn sociology degrees from Arkansas Tech University (BA 1983) and the University of Tennessee (MA 1985; Ph.D., 1989).

A former high school drum major, Judy liked music and enjoyed playing piano and organ. She loved archeology, Arkansas history, and dancing the Carolina Shag. She was a voracious reader until her very last day.

After retirement, Judy and husband Mike moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico. Together, they studied Native American history and explored historical and cultural areas throughout New Mexico. Judy spoke many times of her love of the southwest and their happiness there.

Judy was preceded in death by her husband, Michael M. Wilson, her parents,

her sister, Janet Kay Clark, and by her former husband and father of her children, Joe Billy Smith.

She is survived by her sister, Linda Vaughan Shearin; her brother, James Patrick Vaughan; her children, Debra Jo Smith Moore, James Raymond "Butch" Smith, III and wife, Tara Mims Smith; her grandchildren, Hannah Rachel Moore and Grayson Tristan Smith; great-grandchild Shiloh Jane Rickert, and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta is in charge of arrangements (803-278-1181).

Tribute Wall

DK

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Vaughan on one occasion and she left a lasting impression. I was introduced to her as "Our new colleague recently arrived from New York..." She smiled, extended her hand, and asked, "New York? Are you a Yankee?" Anyone that had the pleasure of meeting Judy very soon discovered she was a polite, gentile, Southern belle, proudly hailing from Arkansas. I quickly amended her, "Oh no Dr. Vaughan, I'm a Missouri Tiger." She beamed, realizing I was hip to joke. "We will get on just fine, boy." [I was 52 years old at the time.] It was clear to me why she was beloved by students and coworkers alike. There was no uncertainty as to her quick wit and sense of humor. She was more than charming and I adored her immediately.

David Keys - November 16, 2025 at 09:01 AM



“ Judy Carol Vaughan

October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM

OH

“ I was saddened to learn of Dr. Vaughan's passing. I met her at Benton House in Aiken when my father was a brief resident there. She made an impression on him and me. She and I shared the love of teaching. I did not know her well, but the time I did interact with her was special. She will be missed. Owen Holmes (Orange County, CA)



Owen Holmes - November 23, 2022 at 10:39 AM



“ *Judy Carol Vaughan*

September 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ *We were like Thelma and Louise.*

In College I was her senior fellow. A graded a lot of papers set up media and stuff for her. I went with her to Fayetteville and several other places for sociology symposiums. Sometimes we would rent a motel room and stay for the weekend and go listen to music at different places .

*Outside of school we were best friends. We went shopping together. I used to clean her house for her. We went on double dates and to the club every now and then. I helped her and Mike a-lot. After Mike pasted with his cancer Judy and I took a trip. We drove from Arkansas to New Mexico to get a lot of her things in order so that she could move back. We both loved music and we sang all the oldies all the way there. I painted a few things for her fixed all of her sprinkler system so that she could sell the house to move back home. Home was Arkansas. She bought the house in Hot Springs I would go down and spend the weekend with her every now and then.. I met my husband if we moved away. She decided to move closer to Butch, so she would be alone so much. We never really spent much time together after that but we did talk on the phone quite often. She was a mom, A sister and a Best friend. 🌹
I love you Judy and I miss you so much..❤️*

Peggy Proctor - June 07, 2022 at 07:39 AM