



## Noreen Vajko

August 31, 1938 - April 8, 2019

Noreen Vajko, 80, peacefully passed away Monday, April 8, 2019 at her home in Bloomington, IN.

Noreen was born August 31, 1938 outside London in South Harrow, England, the third child of William Edwin and Ada Winifred Dawkins. The first seven years of her life coincided with WWII, and she was twice evacuated from London to the countryside to avoid the bombings. After high school, she attended banking school and worked as a clerk at Barclay's Bank. Noreen met Robert (Bob) Vajko in 1955, when he was stationed in Ruislip with the U.S. Air Force. They were married on August 31st, 1957. In 1958, they moved to the U.S., and over the next seven years, Noreen would give birth to four children while also attending Columbia Bible College. Starting in 1965, they served for 29 years in France, establishing churches. Noreen served a variety of administrative and speaking roles and led a children's ministry. She was known for warmly receiving into her home those who were displaced and for encouraging young people. In 1995, they moved to Adelaide, Australia. While there, Noreen led the establishment of an Australian mission board. Bob and Noreen moved to Bloomington, Indiana in 2003, but they never quite retired, traveling to southeast Asia, central Africa, and central Europe to mentor younger local church leaders. At the same time, they were actively involved in Bloomington area churches: Evangelical Community Church, The Place Church, and most recently, Bloomington Bible Church. Noreen was involved in

Bible studies and small groups as well as mentoring younger Christian women.

Noreen was an inseparable companion to her husband for 61 years and a devoted and beloved mother and grandmother. She enjoyed encounters with gentle animals (her home was filled with many kinds of critters), gardening, birdwatching, painting, writing, and needlework. Her Christian faith shaped her life goals and guided her daily actions.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Wendy Dawkins Blacker, and her brothers Brian Dawkins and Andrew Dawkins. She is survived by her husband; her brother Mark Dawkins; her sister Rhoda Hedges; her four children Dale (& Emily) Vajko, Robert (& Jody) Vajko Jr., Gail (& Tim) O'Connor and Renée (& Len) Srch; and 14 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Bloomington Hospital, Hearthstone Health Center, and Southern Hospice for their skilled care, with a special thanks to Rebecca Godsey, Mary Kretzschmer, Maggie Cox, Ron Hutchins, and Dana McMahel for the tenderness and compassionate expressed to Noreen throughout the end of her journey. We would also like to thank the Bloomington Bible Church members who prayed with and lovingly came alongside Noreen and Bob throughout her illness.

Visitation will take place at the Allen Funeral Home 4155 S. Old St Rd 37 Bloomington on Friday April 12, 2019. And on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 1:00pm to Service time at the church. A funeral service will be held at Evangelical Community Church of Bloomington on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 2:00pm.

Noreen requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Smile Train at <https://my.smiletrain.org/fundraiser/noreenvajkomemorials>.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family

at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **12**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of Noreen Vajko.*



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April 12, 2019 at 07:51 PM



“ *White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Noreen Vajko.*



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April 11, 2019 at 11:17 PM



“ *Dawn McCordic purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Noreen Vajko.*



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**Dawn McCordic** - April 10, 2019 at 12:24 PM

RB

“ Noreen brought joy and great conversations when participating in classes at the Area 10 Endwright Center. She shared her artistic talent and stories of her life bringing smiles and appreciation to the contributions to people's lives. Sending prayers and blessing to family and friends.

*Rebecca Ball, Endwright Center Director*

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**Rebecca Ball** - April 10, 2019 at 09:15 AM

CC

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Love, Jason, Christa, and Vada.

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**Christa Cowden** - April 10, 2019 at 07:33 AM

JV

“ She was my mother-in-love and displayed such a loving heart, sharp wit and adventurous spirit! So grateful to know that she is with Jesus and at last knows the fullness of His love for her. Please consider donating to her fundraising page with Smile Train, in lieu of flowers. Through generous donations, we have already raised enough to help one child have a new smile following cleft surgery! She dearly loved this cause and loved children.

*<https://my.smiletrain.org/fundraiser/noreenvajkomemorials>*

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**Jody Vajko** - April 09, 2019 at 09:11 PM

MF

“ Noreen,  
What a precious soul she had. She helped bring me to Christ and loved me! I loved giving her hugs on Sunday at church! She was adorable with my grandson Matthew Snell and he adored her! We will miss her greatly! I know that she is dancing joyously in heaven with Jesus! Praise God for her and her time here on earth! Love Marge and Larry

marge faubion - April 09, 2019 at 08:19 PM

RS

“ She was such a precious gift to me for our 61 years of being together. Now she is with our Lord forever rejoicing in His presence.

Robert Vajko Sr - April 09, 2019 at 03:40 PM

MW

61 years! What a blessing in itself! Wonderful couple , you both have impacted many. Prayers to you Bob for comfort as you enter this new phase of life. It was obvious how much you cared for each other!

Michelle Weaver - April 09, 2019 at 08:25 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Noreen Vajko.



April 09, 2019 at 02:33 PM