



R. Jean Biggs

February 12, 1923 - April 2, 2015

Jean Biggs, 92, of Bloomington passed away at home on Thursday, April 2 surrounded by her loving family.

Born February 12, 1923 in Evansville, Jean was the youngest of two children born to Charles and Florence (Clore) Bock. She graduated from Evansville Bosse High School where she was an active participant in Band.

Having decided in kindergarten that she wanted to be a teacher, she majored in education at Evansville College and later earned her Master's degree at Indiana University. She started her teaching career in Evansville but began teaching at McCalla School in Bloomington after her 1946 marriage to Maurice E. Biggs.

She taught 3rd and 4th grade at McCalla until 1952 before leaving to raise their four children.

Jean returned to teaching in 1969, this time as a kindergarten teacher at Rogers School where she remained until retiring in 1985.

In her teaching years she touched the lives of over 1,500 Bloomington children. A favorite tradition involved knitting a small red stocking for each of her kindergarten students every Christmas. She often heard from former students that they still treasured hanging their stocking on the tree every year.

In addition to teaching and caring for her family, Jean was a member of Tri Kappa, Bloomington Garden Club and University Women's Club, holding various leadership positions in each. Her hobbies included bridge, travel, gardening, piano and cooking. In retirement she hand-wrote a cookbook of favorite family recipes for each of her children, and later delighted in giving copies of her cookbook to her many friends.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Robert Bock.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Maurice and her four children: Janie Witham (Doug), Don Biggs (Trish), David Biggs (Sandy) and Judy Estridge (Paul). She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren:

Kyle, Sam and Carly Witham, Charlie Biggs, Nick, Casey, Holly and Whitney Biggs and Mary Ellen McIntyre, Elyse Harvey and Josh Estridge.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday April 7, 2015 at 11:00AM at First Christian Church 205 East Kirkwood Avenue. Visitation will be held Monday evening April 6, 2015 from 5:00PM until 7:00PM at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old Highway 37.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to IU Health Hospice Bloomington in Jean's name. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Our family wishes to express our deep and heartfelt gratitude to Jean's in-home caregivers. We are grateful for the loving care they provided and are profoundly indebted to Lynda Sparks, a former kindergarten student, for her love and devotion during Jean's final months.

Tribute Wall

AL

“ My condolences to the Biggs family. I was one of the many young lives touched by Mrs. Biggs--and my red knit stocking still hangs on the Christmas tree every year! Keeping your family in my thoughts-- a thankful youngster from her 1976-77 kindergarten class.

Al Smith - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

DA

“ My condolences to David and the Biggs family on the passing of Mrs. Biggs. I'll always remember her great sense of humor and many times spent laughing with the family. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

David Meadows - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

V.

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Jean Biggs. May you find comfort in your precious memories, and in God's promise to soon "swallow up death forever" and "wipe away the tears from all faces." (Isaiah 25;8)

v. thompson - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

KH

“ We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Mrs. Biggs. I have such fond memories of her. I always remember the cookbook she had wrote for all of you. I have never forgotten that!

Our prayers adn thoughts are with you.
Love, Karen Hrisomalos, Gary Gettelfinger and family

Karen Hrisomalos - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

ES

“ We are sorry for your loss. Your mother sounds like a wonderful lady. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ed and Sonia Broecker - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

KM

“ Aces Women's Soccer has you in their thoughts.

Krista McKendree - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

DJ

“ So very sorry for your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Doug and Jill Wright - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

JO

“ David,
Lisa and I are so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. We have seen through you and your children she was a wonderful influence. Our thoughts and prayers are with you an your family.

Sincerely,
Josh and Lisa Parker

Josh Parker - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

ER

“ Dear Mr. Biggs and Family,
I was deeply saddened to learn of Mrs. Biggs' passing. In my military career I have traveled the world and during many conversations talk often turns to where we were raised or went to school. No one else has ever said they exchange Christmas cards with their Kindergarten teacher, let alone that their Kindergarten teacher knitted blankets when their kids were born! I have truly been blessed with being raised in a community of amazing people and your wife, mom, and grandmother ranks at the very top of that list. Her influence, grace, caring and loving nature will last for generations. Thank you for sharing her with us.
Best wishes during this difficult time,
Erik Coyne
Binford Kindergarten Class of 1978-79

Erik Coyne - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

KR

“ Oh, I'm so sorry to hear of Mrs. Biggs' passing. She was one of my all-time favorite teachers. I too, still have my little red stocking from 1975. She always encouraged my creative little mind. And I loved her dearly. Rest in Peace, Mrs. Biggs.

Kristin Ingersoll - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

CO

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Jean's passing. I was a student of hers at Rogers Elementary and always remembered her fondly. A couple of years ago I saw Mrs. Biggs at the dentist and reintroduced myself- she was the same sweet and loving woman I'd remembered and seeing made me feel just like I had as a kindergartner-happy and warm.

Rest in peace Mrs. Biggs. You were a wonderful teacher.

Courtney Stewart - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

HA

“ Jean was an excellent teacher, who contributed much to the children in her rooms over an extended career in education. And, she was interested in detail, sharing with me a picture two street signs, located near one of her daughters home. One read "Harmon" and the other "Baldwin." I have the picture in my files. And, she and Maurice were seen often at Assembly Hall. A great life, well lived.

Harmon Baldwin - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM