



Dr. Vanita May (Ramey) Gibbs

May 28, 1927 - June 28, 2018

Dr. Vanita May Gibbs (Ramey), 91, formerly of Terre Haute, Indiana peacefully passed away on Thursday June 28, 2018 in Bloomington, Indiana. Born, May 28, 1927, she was the daughter of Hiram L. Ramey and May Stuart Ramey. Vanita was a graduate of Garfield High School. She married her high school sweetheart, Maver James Gibbs and together they had one son, David Ramey Gibbs. While raising her son, Vanita graduated from Indiana State Teachers College in 1958. She went on to earn a Master's degree and a Doctorate in Philosophy in 1967. After 33 years of teaching Elementary and Early Childhood Education, Dr. Gibbs retired in 1992. Vanita spent many years of service developing curriculum for Indiana schools, conducting workshops on the importance of literacy, and developing lifelong relationships with her co-workers and former students. She was also an active member of Centenary United Methodist Church. Among her many awards and achievements, she was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma – Beta Eta Chapter, a recipient of the Caleb Mills Award for Distinguished Teaching 1972, and an esteemed Professor Emeriti of Indiana State University. Her dedication to life-long learning, loyalty to friends, adoration of family, and commitment to faith will be fondly remembered. Surviving family members include a sister, Nina Smith of Pleasant Hill, CA, a brother, Tom Ramey of Las Vegas, NV, a Daughter in Law, Virginia Gibbs of Bedford, IN, two granddaughters Elizabeth Richardson and husband Jason Richardson of Bloomington, IN and Catherine Reeves of Bloomington, IN, and three great grand-children Olivia, Cooper, and Sophie

Richardson of Bloomington, Indiana. A private, family service is to be held. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Vanita Gibbs Endowed Scholarship, Indiana State University Foundation. Donations may be sent to Indiana State University Foundation 30 North Fifth Street Terre Haute, Indiana 47809. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Vanita's family at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Marilyn Bisch and Margaret Markowitz informed me of the sad news. My prayers and heartfelt condolences go out to the family.*

I met Vanita and Wanda as a child when my parents and I visited our relatives in Indiana, but we lived abroad after that, most recently in Paris until 2013. My late mother, Kinuyo Graham Stuart, who also lived in Paris, used to correspond from time to time with Vanita. My mother would speak fondly and with admiration of her. Now, having read the obituary, I see that Vanita was very accomplished indeed and much respected.

Strength!

Soyo Graham Stuart

Soyo Graham Stuart - August 07, 2018 at 06:46 PM

SA

“ *When I first came to teach at ISU in Vanita's department, she was so welcoming and helpful. And what a great sense of humor! She was always telling stories about children she had worked with-- funny little language stories or events she'd witnessed in educating teachers and children. She spoke so eloquently at my mother-in-law's celebration of life in 2012...they were good friends. And she was a wonderful letter-writer! It was always a treat to receive a letter from Vanita. A more thoughtful, sweeter, more loving teacher, mentor and friend you could not find. You'll be missed, Vanita dear.*

Sharon Vincz Andrews - July 13, 2018 at 06:36 PM

ML

“ Vanita was a mentor and good friend. I will always be grateful for her guidance and encouragement to create lifelong learning in myself and my students. I learned to teach reading as an undergraduate with language development stories about Elizabeth. In graduate school she continued to expand my horizons. She is greatly missed.

Margaret Liebermann - July 10, 2018 at 11:16 AM

JJ

“ Vanita was an amazing role model for everyone whose life she touched. Her warmth and caring will keep her forever in our hearts!

Most sincere sympathy to the family.....Jan (Higgins) Jerry

Jan (Higgins) Jerry - July 09, 2018 at 03:52 PM

GN

“ Dr. Gibbs was my most favorite professor at ISU. I learned so much from her classes and she influenced so many of us that went into elementary education. She will be sadly missed by all of us here in Terre Haute.

Gail Giffel Nattkemper

Gail Giffel Nattkemper - July 07, 2018 at 06:25 PM

MK

“ Dr. Gibbs was an outstanding professor of elementary education. I had her for Children's literature and several other courses. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma which I was a member and president. She always sent very complimentary notes of appreciation. She had a fantastic memory reciting very long poems such as *The Weaver*. She had excellent ideas of helping children learn and comprehend literature. Her influence helped me to be a better teacher. All of the students loved her.

Marilyn Klug - July 07, 2018 at 04:48 PM

CD

“ Dr. Vanita Gibbs was a Charter Member of Delta Kappa Gamma Beta Eta. This means that she was an original member at the beginning of Beta Eta's Organization. Although I did not personally know her, I have read many wonderful newspaper articles on the Internet about her. Her friends of our organization will remember her fondly and miss her deeply. Our thoughts and prayers to her family.
Christine Davies, President of Beta Eta

Christine Davies - July 07, 2018 at 08:38 AM

DH

“ it Wasn't the number of times I got to spend as a kid with Ama G and your grandpa, but when I was blessed to go along with you to Terra Haute, they packed every minute full of fun! The old car, swimming, the meals, the laughter!!! They are very fun and important memories to me! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it. I'll be praying for God to give you strong memories to instill and shape your kids with, and peace for coping with this shift in life.
Love you all! - Dana

Dana Haddan - July 07, 2018 at 08:28 AM

TD

“ I am so sad to hear this news! I had her for class when I was working on my master’s degree at Indiana State w/a literature focus. I loved her passion for teaching! I’ll never forget when she gave every student in our class a copy of the book *The Education of Little Tree*. I read it aloud to my students one year and cried through a big chunk of it. Sobbing and blowing my nose may not have proven effective read aloud strategies at the time, but I know they definitely showed my students the impact of a good book on one’s heart and soul. RIP, Dr. Gibbs! Thank you for showing me how much #ReadingMatters. It inspires my life and teaching every day! ❤️

Tracey Danner-Laubert - July 06, 2018 at 06:39 PM

SH

“ I remember when I first attended Centenary United Methodist Church in Terre Haute that Vanita - who was Lay Leader at the time - sent me a very gracious note. All of us in the Cunningham Memorial Library who worked with her are remembering her as a wonderful, intelligent woman. Rest in peace, Dr. Gibbs - you will be greatly missed. - Steve Hardin

Steve Hardin - July 06, 2018 at 12:16 PM

KD

“ My deepest sympathy to the family. Dr. Gibbs was a beautiful person inside and outside. I was one of her many students at ISU. She influenced my teaching career in many, many ways. Her knowledge of how children learn guided my thoughts when planning lessons for my students. She was a person of character and integrity. I will miss her deeply. She was one of the best of the best of teachers I encountered during my career.

Kelly Dumas - July 06, 2018 at 10:57 AM

MB

“ Ah, dear Vanita, how I have missed our good conversations over lunch! Rest in peace, dear friend. My heartfelt condolences to your family and to the many others who were honored and happy to call you friend.

Margaret Bruning - July 06, 2018 at 10:28 AM