



Dorothy A. Bierbaum Fisher

February 13, 1931 - September 16, 2013

After a long fight with cancer, Dorothy A. Bierbaum Fisher, 82, of Higginsville, Missouri died on Monday, September 16, 2013, at the Lutheran Nursing Home in Concordia, Missouri.

Born Friday, February 13, 1931 in St. Louis, Missouri, she was the daughter of the late Reverend Jonathan C. Bierbaum and the late Marie (Hoflander) Bierbaum. She grew up in California, MO where her father was minister of the then California Evangelical and Reformed Church, now the United Church of Christ. The family moved to Fort Madison, Iowa where she attended and graduated from high school. She attended MacMurray College for Women in Jacksonville, Illinois and graduated from Central Methodist College in Fayette, MO and attained her Masters Degree in education.

Because of her profound respect for her senior English teacher and her love of literature and the arts, she became an English, Speech, and Drama teacher. She began her career in Higginsville and Booneville. She taught a total of 31 years, 27 of which was at William Chrisman High School in Independence, MO. She also directed Children's Theater for the Young Matrons of Independence. Among all the plays she directed for high school, two always stood out; "Our Town" at Booneville High School with a talented large group of seniors and "Inherit the Wind" at William Chrisman. She loved the students and the content/beauty of the plays.

On April 10, 1966 she married George E. "Gene" Fisher of Higginsville. Their daughter, Caroline, was born February 7, 1968. During this period she retired from teaching to be at home with her daughter. After nine years, she returned to William Chrisman to teach for another 16 years as she loved teaching and loved her students and fellow teacher friends.

Dorothy was an active participant in her church, Salem UCC and offered her talents in many capacities. She directed the church choir for 19 years, assisted the pastor in teaching confirmation classes for over 15 years, and was soloist for a number of services, weddings and funerals. She was elected a member of the Church Council, serving as president for two years. She was the founding member of the Advent Chorale, now an annual event for the area UCC churches for more than 25 years. Dorothy was responsible for initiating her church's participation in the Farm Resources Bank, an agricultural venture helping countries in Africa. For many years she was worship service liturgist in the month of December, mainly due to her love of those particular scriptures. When she chose to no longer sing, she chose to read. Her commitment to serve her Lord was evident throughout her life, as well as the propelling need to always, always do the best she could.

Surviving are daughter, Caroline (Kevin) Hursman of Higginsville, MO; 3 granddaughters, Maria LaRue, Erin Hursman and Melanie (Josh) Eichoff.

A funeral service will be at 10:30 AM on Friday, September 20, 2013 at Salem United Church of Christ located at 1500 N. Main St. Higginsville, Missouri 64037 with the Rev. Dr. Isaiah Muita officiating and Rev. Dr. Tommy Farris assisting. Interment will be in Salem United Cemetery, Higginsville, MO.

Pallbearers are Mark Nolte, Lance Tieman, Caleb Kirchhoff, Kevin Berry, Gene Starke and Stanton Thompson. Honorary pallbearers are Gene Gilpin,

Rick Hicks, Patrick Layden, Harold Hoflander, Howard Dick and Howard Fisher.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM on Friday, September 20, 2013, at the church. The family suggests memorial contributions to Salem Cemetery Fund.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hoeferfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy A. Bierbaum Fisher*

October 22, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ *Dorothy A. Bierbaum Fisher*

October 07, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Dorothy A. Bierbaum Fisher*

October 06, 2023 at 07:00 AM



“ *Dorothy A. Bierbaum Fisher*

January 31, 2023 at 02:49 AM



“ *It has been many years since you left us. Still sometimes I want to pick up the phone and call you. You were my example of what a real lady is. I miss you so much. I still have dreams about but you are always upset with me. What did I do? 😞*

I loved you then, love you now and will always love you.

Sherri Mullins KEITHLEY

Chrisman High School

Class of 1967

sherri mullins keithley - October 28, 2020 at 11:48 AM

SB

“ Thoughts and prayers are with your family. Ms. Bierbaum as I knew her was a wonderful teacher and you learned much about English and drama in her classes.

Sue Bullington - July 12, 2018 at 12:37 PM

MS

“ What an exemplary life Dorothy lived. I was one of her students in Boonville Mo and we all loved her dearly. We learned so much in her classes and had so much fun, especially doing the plays she directed there. I was privileged to get to visit with her long after being her student and we shared a lot of memories and laughs. I know she will be missed by her loving family and church family as well as the community of Higginsville. Rest in Peace dear Dorothy. We loved you! Marilyn Robinson Siebert

Marilyn Robinson Siebert - July 12, 2018 at 12:37 PM

DH

“ Dorothy (or Miss Bierbaum to me) was my drama class teacher when I was a junior in high school at William Chrisman in Independence, Missouri. That was the 1962-63 school year. I moved away from Independence in 1964 and never saw her again but I will not forget her. She was a favorite teacher and inspired me. She knew how to maintain classroom order and allow us to have fun at the same time. Her class provided the motivation I needed to become part of the junior-class play. I wasn't a great thespian but have always been grateful for the experience of being on stage. I know Dorothy touched many other lives in a positive way as it was obvious she cared about her students and was committed to her noble profession and calling in life.

Dave Harris - July 12, 2018 at 12:37 PM

MU

“ Mrs. Fisher made such a huge impact on me during my high school years. She was by far one of my favorite teachers and she always made me feel like I was special. During my Senior year in High School, I spent nearly every lunch with Mrs. Fisher in her classroom and when she found out that I didn't have a date to Senior Prom and wasn't planning on attending, she found me a date! I have had very few people impact me the way that she had and even though I graduated high school in 1991, I have thought of her many times.

She was very loved and so well respected and I want you to know how much of a difference she made in my life but in the lives of so many other people!

I will look forward to seeing her again someday!

Blessing during this difficult time!

Melissa Unruh - July 12, 2018 at 12:37 PM

MM

“ Dorothy was pep club sponsor when she recommended my best friend Jolynn and I for positions as yell leaders. She said we needed to get some girls who had some sense. But then she humored her ruefully when we insisted on bringing my baby doll Franketta on the pep club bus. She had a fabulous dry wit and humor but she guided pep club with an iron hand. In later years she brought her granddaughters to our pediatric practice which was such a great compliment. She contributed lots of good to the world and there will be a void without her.

Michele Cockerell McIntosh - July 12, 2018 at 12:37 PM

LP

“ You always have my love.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

DB

“ Will always remember Dorothy as she directed our class play "Our Town". Also, her amazing singing talent. She sang at our wedding and could put so much expression in her songs. Our sincere sympathy to her family.

Don and Mary Bail - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ I think of you every day. I miss you.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ On this anniversary, I still sit by your desk during third hour and ask your advice. And you still give it.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ As I come up on this anniversary of two years my heart is bereft. I love you and miss you mightily.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ Your birthday. Forever the green light.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ Almost three years, DF. I love you mightily. You might suggest a different adverb placement.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ I always hated Thoreau. We disagreed on him and Jonathan Edwards although I always liked "Sinners of An Angry God." You taught me Harper Lee, Arthur Miller, Fitzgerald, and we had a shared love of Tennessee Williams. You have been gone coming up on four years. I miss you every day. I miss your teaching, your lecturing me while I was perched on a desk next to yours after I'd made questionable decisions, and your support after the trauma I experienced. You still dot my "i"s in red pen. I still persist in not dotting them because that's a waste of time. We're coming up on your anniversary. I will forever love and thank you. How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live.--Henry David Thoreau

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ Today's the day. Thank you for teaching me. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for your always available desk.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

LP

“ After four long years, I'm about emotionally ready to visit your grave. I know. You're thinking "it's about time." I'll probably bring something dumb to read, like Thoreau quotes, Harper Lee passages...I mean, we can make an afternoon of it, I guess along with a two liter of 7 Up. You gotta need that by now, right? I'll be there soon.

Lauri Perry - April 28, 2018 at 10:42 AM

KJ

I just found out that Mrs. Fisher had passed.

Let me tell you she was a great lady a wonderful teacher and I consider a friend I'm just one of her graduates. I had her back at 1981. Sorry to hear for your loss. Kevin Jacobs

Kevin Jacobs - September 21, 2019 at 12:46 PM