



Melissa Hays

April 23, 2019 - June 11, 2019

Melissa Jean Hays (Gray), 67 of Higginsville, Missouri died on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence, Missouri.

Born Wednesday, April 23, 1952 in Trenton, Missouri, she was the daughter of Rex Gray and the late Eva Lou Gray. She was the wife of Tim Hays, marrying May 17, 1985.

Melissa graduated in 1970 from Jameson R-3 High School in Jameson, MO. She achieved a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Library Science from Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, MO.

She was an educator for over 30 years with the Malta Bend and Higginsville School Districts.

After retirement in 2004, Melissa worked for Avenue Gifts in Higginsville, was a member of Lady Lion's and was an avid traveler. She loved traveling with friends and family. Her travel destinations included: Mexico, Puerto Rico, all over Europe, multiple trips to Ireland, Hawaii and many other American destinations. Melissa was full of life and really loved every place she traveled - the people, culture, rivers, buildings and museums.

She had a keen eye for value and enjoyed estate sales and auctions. She was an avid reader and took great pride in providing her students with information and resources. She understood the importance of education and influence.

She will be missed by her loving cats; husband Tim, of the home; father, Rex Gray of Trenton; one brother, Jimmy Gray of Bethany, MO; one sister, Alice

Simpson (Jim) of Springfield, MO; one brother-in-law, Gary Hays of Sedalia, MO; one niece, Jamie Wilson (Darrell) and family of Gallatin, MO; one nephew, Jesse Gray of Gallatin, many beloved cousins, great-nieces and nephews, students and friends.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Eva Lou Gray.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at the Hoefer Funeral Home in Higginsville with Pastor Tim Biesemeyer officiating.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made out to Melissa Hays Memorial Scholarship Fund at Central Bank.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Inc.
1600 Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
1-660-584-3400
hoeferfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.stewarthoeferfuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life

JUN **22**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Inc.
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Tribute Wall



“ *Melissa Hays*

October 22, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ *Melissa Hays*

October 07, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Melissa Hays*

October 06, 2023 at 07:00 AM



“ *Melissa Hays*

January 31, 2023 at 02:49 AM



“ *Tim, I am so very sorry for your loss.*

Becci Baker - June 21, 2019 at 12:11 PM



“ *TIM AND FAMILY, I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSE.*

Carol Snider - June 21, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ Ms. Hays was the most memorable of librarians of my life. I've gone on so many adventures because of her and many of my favorites are ones she suggested. She always knew just what to recommend. A wonderful caring lady. She will be sorely missed but always well remembered.

Valerie Laddusaw - June 17, 2019 at 07:52 PM



“ One of my favorite people when I was in highschool. I remember helping with the book labels when they changed to the computer checkout system and several times when she got new books she had me read them and tell her what I thought before putting them on the shelves. She knew how to make you feel important and like you were making a difference.

Stephanie Chamberlin - June 16, 2019 at 08:05 PM



“ Ms. Hays was an amazing librarian! She always made the library seem more welcoming and friendly with her presence. She is the one who really helped me find my type of book I like to read. She will be truly missed by so many.

June Thaller-Howell - June 15, 2019 at 12:59 AM



“ Ms. Hays was my library teacher in High School. I LOVED to read and could always count on her to give me a good recommendation of something new. She always greeted me with a smile, even after leaving the school. I was very fortunate to have someone understand my passion and need for reading at the high school level. She will be missed.

Jennifer (Moore) Wahn - June 14, 2019 at 11:11 AM



I was awkward in hs, the library was my safe place. Ms.Hayes never questioned me just showing up and wandering around looking at books. She always had a pep talk to pick up my spirits. To say she will be missed is an understatement. Restt in peace ❤️

Kelsey Fahrmeier - June 14, 2019 at 11:16 AM



I am so sorry to hear this! She meant so much to me! She was my librarian all through my junior high and high school years. I was (am) an avid reader and could always count on her to have a stack of new books put back waiting for me. She always greeted me with a smile and was definitely a bright spot in my life. I have thought of her so often in the years since I graduated and was happy to reconnect with her several years ago on Facebook. She will be missed.

Amy Brand - June 14, 2019 at 01:03 PM