

Vicki lived in New Mexico until she was three and then moved to Cane Hill with her mother to live with her grandparents. She attended the first through eighth grade at Cane Hill and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1960. She made lifelong friends while attending Cane Hill and Lincoln schools. She enjoyed getting together with her classmates for lunch and attending class reunions.

Vicki and Jerry met when she started school at Lincoln, and they started dating as Juniors. They married on June 17, 1961, at the Cane Hill Presbyterian Church and celebrated 61 years together. They began their married life in Fayetteville, first in a basement apartment and later moved to a small house. They built their house in Farmington and moved in just before Christmas in 1963.

Her daughter, Elizabeth was born in 1963 and her son, Allan in 1969. Vicki worked various jobs throughout the years, but her favorite was working for Dr. Clack as a dental assistant.

She was a member of the Farmington United Methodist church, United Methodist Women, and the Seekers Sunday School Class. Church involvement was very important to Vicki. At the "old" Methodist church she served in several capacities including janitor, lighting the stove on Saturday nights so the church would be warm on Sunday morning, setting up Communion, assisting with the Easter breakfast, preparing Christmas food baskets, and helping with the annual Church yard sale. She served as a youth Sunday School teacher for many years and truly enjoyed interacting with the kids. She initiated a card ministry in Seekers Class and quietly shared gems of truth and experience in Sunday School.

When Vicki was 12 years old, she contracted bulbar polio and was in an iron lung. The only iron lung was at the VA hospital in Fayetteville. It was loaned to the Washington County Hospital, but veterans and soldiers had priority. It was a constant worry for her family she would be removed from the iron lung before she recovered. Thankfully, she recovered from polio, but it caused a lifetime of health complications. Many people did not know she was a polio survivor, and she did not let it limit her. She grappled with both the lingering effects of polio and the new challenges presented by post-polio syndrome. In 1992, she contracted Gillian Barre syndrome, the flu in 2014 and 2020, all of these worsened her health. She faced daily trials of choking and respiratory issues brought on by these debilitating conditions.

Family was very important to Vicki. Being married, having children, and being involved in their lives was a source of joy to her. Vicki was always ready to help her children and they could always count on her. Vicki and Jerry enjoyed spending time with their grandson Lucas; watching him play baseball, taking camping trips, frequently took him to Silver Dollar City and to play golf.

Together Vicki and Jerry struggled with Jerry's Alzheimer's disease; it left them unable to do many of the things they enjoyed and unable to visit with many of their friends. When Jerry moved to Katherine's Place, Vicki visited him daily, and was his strongest advocate. She said it was a sad, but good time for her as it allowed her to be his wife and supporter, instead of his caregiver.

Vicki had a quiet presence about her. She was not one to ask for help but was always willing to help others. She was generous with her time, and she fondly shared recipes and gardening advice with others. She will be remembered for her French toast, strawberry and grape jellies, and green tomato pickles. She was a prolific and reflective reader and loved to share books with others. She was known as a strong woman, a kind, gentle, and caring person with attention to detail and graciousness.

Vicki passed away on October 18 at Washington Regional Medical Center with Allan and Elizabeth beside her. Many considered her a wonderful friend and she will be missed by her family, classmates, and friends. We take comfort in knowing her suffering has come to an end, she is at peace, and can finally breathe.