



Susan K Helfrich

October 4, 1944 - November 21, 2016

Susan K. Helfrich, age 72, of Evansville, passed away Monday, November 21, 2016 at the Deaconess Hospice Care Center.

Susan was born October 4, 1944 in Evansville to the late Jim and Bernie (Dean) Helfrich. She was a 1958 graduate of St. Boniface Grade School and a 1962 graduate of Mater Dei High School. Susan began her career in Washington, D.C., in the Research and Marketing Division of the United Mine Workers of America. She also worked as the Executive Director of the Prince Georges County Commission for Women and as the Government Liaison for Boston University. Susan started the first battered women's shelter in Prince George's County.

Upon returning to Evansville, Susan began her long and prestigious tenure as the Executive Director of the Evansville Bar Association. While serving the EBA, Susan fostered many programs and initiatives. Susan was a champion for women lawyers in a field dominated by men and a very active member of the YWCA. She embodied the YWCA mission, "Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women" in every way. She served on the YWCA Board of Directors and on several committees with a fierce passion and with a wonderful sense of humor. In 2011, the YWCA honored Susan at the "100 Years 100 Women" event, celebrating 100 years of the YWCA.

She had a deep desire to serve the poor and to see that everyone had access to legal services. Under Susan's leadership the EBA established its pro bono program in 1990, followed by the Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana. Susan created the first "Talk to a Lawyer" program in Southwest Indiana. In recognition for her efforts, Susan was appointed by Chief Judge Randall Shepard to the IOLTA Pro Bono Initiative Committee in 1995. She was the only non-attorney appointed to the committee. She was later recognized for her pro bono efforts by being awarded the prestigious Randall T. Shepard Award – Excellence in Pro Bono Publico and in 2007 the EBA recognized her for her lifelong achievements by honoring her with the James Bethel Gresham Freedom Award. Susan retired from the EBA in 2008 after 25 years of dedicated service to the association and our community. Susan was a charter member of the Women's Political Caucus-Indiana, the Vanderburgh County Women's Democratic Caucus and was very active in several political campaigns, including local City and County Council races, Mayor and Congress. She was a member of the Vanderburgh County League of Women Voters and was very proud that this fall she was able to vote for Hillary Clinton for president.

Surviving Susan are her sister, Sally (John) Green and brother, George (Marsha) Helfrich; nieces and nephews, Michael Ritter, Mark Ritter, Jennifer (Michael) Blackmon, Stephanie (Evan) Freeman and Peter (Shay) Helfrich and great nieces and great nephews, Mitchell, Logan, Hunter and Hayden Blackmon, Ella, Dane, Alec and Tess Freeman, Jack, Layla, Claire and Molly Helfrich.

Friends may gather with Susan's family to celebrate her life from 1:00 until 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, November 27, 2016 at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street. Friends are also welcome to join the family to continue celebrating Susan's life at Smitty's Tavern on West Franklin Street from 4:30 P.M. until 6:30 P.M. on Sunday.

Memorial contributions may be made to the YWCA, 118 Vine Street, Evansville, IN 47708, to the John L. Sanders Memorial Fund, c/o Evansville Bar Association, 401 SE 6th Street, Suite 101, Evansville, IN 47703, to the Mater Dei Friends and Alumni Association, 1300 Harmony Way, Evansville, IN 47720 or Susan would love for you to adopt a family for Christmas.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Susan changed my life. We worked together in Washington DC, then later in a neighboring suburb, where we teamed up with other wonderful women to create a shelter for survivors of domestic violence. If it were not for Susan’s encouragement, guidance, and loving support, I would never have found my purpose in life and the courage to act on it. She made a terrific coq au vin, by the way — our go-to snack while fine-tuning grant proposals and “plotting the revolution.” I’m sorry to have lost touch with Susan after she returned to her home town, and even more sorry to discover I’ve lost me chance to write her a long overdue thank-you note. Which is exactly what this is.

Mara Seaforest, née Linda Lynch - January 05, 2024 at 03:19 PM



“ Susan K Helfrich

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM

BC

“ I have so many fun memories of Susie and will miss her greatly. We met in DC in the 60's and had much in common - both Hoosiers, Democrats, and loved partying, food, and outdoor activities. Adventures included biking, skiing, beaching, pub crawling, marching, and poker. I loved to call her when she worked for Barnum and Bailey Headquarters. Working at the Washington Star newspaper, she had free tickets to the Redskin games and we would sit behind the goalpost with a thermos of tea and Contreau, throwing cigarettes at the net hoping to catch a ball. We restored a small sailboat, named it the Pywacket (Bell, Book, and Candle) planning to meet men at the yacht club. Unsuccessful, we then took a ski trip to Jackson Hole - also a bust with little snow and a convention of dentists. Many parties and "adventures" later, Susie moved to Maryland and I learned a lot about state politics and women's issues. Back in Indiana, I would come for a visit and we went antiquing, toured local historic sites, and even made a pilgrimage to Churchill Downs. We all have truly lost a great woman and friend.

Barb Coffee - November 29, 2016 at 09:48 AM

HN

“ Dear Sally, George and family. It is with great sadness that I offer my deepest sympathy to you on the loss of this lovely lady. I have always had the greatest respect and love for Susie and I will never forget our class experiences at her house with Jim and Bernie.. I will continue to keep her and the family in my thoughts and prayers..May God give her eternal peace and rest.
Herb Neighbors

Herb Neighbors - November 26, 2016 at 09:10 AM

JB

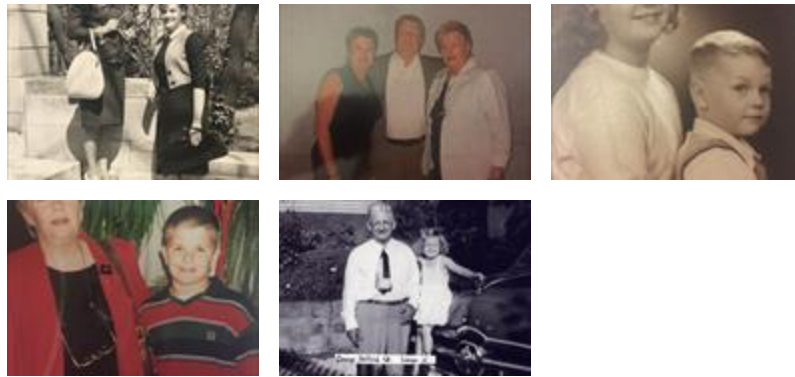
“ Although I only met Susie a few times, she was always the life of the party. So vibrant and fun loving. I know she will be greatly missed. George and Sally, you are in my thoughts and prayers, along with the rest of your family.

Janet Burkes - November 23, 2016 at 07:36 PM



Jennifer
Blackmon

“ 5 files added to the album Susie



Jennifer Blackmon - November 23, 2016 at 05:08 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Susie



Jennifer Blackmon - November 23, 2016 at 05:03 PM