



Anita Juliet Van Voorst

January 25, 1936 - April 30, 2019

After a graceful battle of 5 years with Alzeheimers and 1 ½ years with cancer, Anita Juliet (Just) Van Voorst passed away in her home early Tuesday morning, April 30th at the age of 83. Anita's life was a life well lived from the very beginning. She was born with on January 25, 1936, into a large German Lutheran Family with nine siblings on a farm in Clarkfield, Minnesota. Carl Just and Clara (nee Hartfiel) had ten children, 4 boys and 6 girls, the youngest, Janice, passed at age 6 months. The family all worked on the farm to grow all their own food, from planting to harvesting crops and a garden, as well as milking cows, rearing livestock and fowl, in order to feed the family. Her mother was a proficient seamstress which most of the girls learned in turn. She made their clothes, some of which were sent overseas to Germany during the war for those in need. She made the rugs and the drapes. The girls also learned to bake homemade bread and cinnamon rolls, a tradition which still carries through the grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. The family was very close, loving, hardworking and religious, which again is passed down through the generations and shared at continuing family reunions. From Clarkfield, Anita received her medical laboratory technician degree in Minneapolis. Soon after, she moved to Denver and worked for a Doctor as was an assistant and receptionist. Hugh and Anita met in Denver, Colorado through mutual friends. One of her first dates was a flight home to Minnesota with Hugh in a single engine airplane to see her family and the Illini football game. They were married in Wilmar, Minnesota on February 27, 1960.

They moved back to Hugh's stomping ground, Union Hill, Illinois. Anita started working for Dr. Lang in Kankakee on Court street and worked at Gaines Research Kennels in St. Anne. Her fulltime job was and tending to the business and the books of the Bowling Alley (17-47 Bowl) in Dwight as well as the apartments they had built, raising three children, Grant, Beth and Jill, and taking care of the home. She was socially active serving the community with her infectious smile in Junior Women's League, Reddick School PTA and school events, and Bridge Club. As an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Herscher, she served on various church circles to help serve the community and taught Vacation Bible School many years.

As the kids were growing, she was always supportive, present and active in their school functions by volunteering, making costumes & dresses, and cheering them on with their friends. She fed and treated all their friends as her own. Many cheeseburgers and grilled cheeses with tomato soup were made with love on her stove. After the kids graduated, Anita became more involved in volunteering with the Arthritis Foundation, Hospice Fundraising, and served on the board of Prairieview for ten years. She continued to serve Church committees, including the Banner Committee, making beautiful banners still displayed, as well as altar guild to decorating and preparing for service and communion. She made the pattern and wedding dress for Beth. Her favorite pastime involved doting on, caring for, and loving her two grandchildren, Clara VV Fisher (11) and Emma Van Voorst (9), continuing the traditions of teaching them to sew and bake, and making pretty dresses for them to enjoy.

Anita's life included the perk of travel, being married to an airline pilot. This was the time when china was used to serve meals in the air and it was easy to jump on a plane and go anywhere. This benefit was shared with the family to make lifelong memories of wonderful vacations all over the world. Fortunately, there are many memories, photos and friends as testament to this remarkable woman and the life she lived so beautifully.

Surviving Anita are husband Hugh of Union Hill, son Grant of Union Hill and granddaughter Emma, daughter Beth and granddaughter Clara of Reddick,

and daughter Jill and son in law, Gregg Olheiser of Urbana, Sister and Brother in Law, Barbara & William (Bill) Bumpous of Union Hill, loving caregiver Kari Barten, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins and friends.

Preceding Anita in death were her parents, Carl & Clara Just, In laws Gilbert & Eileen Van Voorst; All siblings; Urban & Millie Just of Wilmar, MN , Gerald & Della Just of Clarkfield, MN, Carl & Glenda Just of Sunburg, MN, Delbert Just of Eugene, OR, Elaine & Harvey Nelson of Wilmar, MN, Evelyn & Bob Jurgenson of Eugene, OR, Angeline & Jack Stice of Saint Cloud, MN, Rebecca & William (Bill) Luther of San Angelo, TX. She was also preceded by one niece, Judy Just and three nephews, Randy and Kenny Just, and Jeff Stice.

Thank you for taking the time to share in our celebration of her life in thoughts, words, or in person. Please join us for the visitation Tuesday, May 7 from 4-8 at Clancy Gernon Funeral home in Bourbonnais, and Wednesday from 10-11 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Herscher, followed by the funeral at 11 and burial at Coleman Cemetery Buckingham. Memorials may be made to Prairieview Lutheran Home in Danforth and Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Cemetery Details

Coleman Cemetery

Buckingham, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

MAY 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
255 E. 3rd
Herscher, IL 60941

Funeral Service

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
255 E. 3rd
Herscher, IL 60941

Tribute Wall

CR

“ I worked at a Beauty shop on Jeffery st and also S.Schuyler Ave, Jerry Williamson did Anita’s hair. She was one of the loveliest ladies that came thru our door.I remember Hugh had a plane. Anita was elegant. I’m sorry she went thru Alzheimer’s. Cathy Reed.

Cathy Reed - April 13 at 09:06 PM



“ Anita was a good friend of my mother's, Patsy Cunningham. I knew her as a child and she always reminded of someone bigger than life. Her passion always filled the room. My love and condolences go to Hugh, Grant and the family.

Bill Cunningham, Jr.

Bill Cunningham - May 07, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ 13 files added to the album Just a few candid



Jill Van - May 06, 2019 at 03:28 AM

EB

“*Hugh, you and your family have my deepest sympathy on your loss. I'll remember Her bright smiling face from all the fourth of July's. Stay strong . Ed*

Ed Bush - May 05, 2019 at 10:17 PM

PG

“*I remember Anita for her beautiful smile, her classy and gentle manner. She was my mom's first cousin and my thoughts and prayers are with the VanVoorst family.*

*Love,
Pam Galbraith*

Pam Galbraith - May 05, 2019 at 04:00 PM

WH

“*Sorry for your loss. I remember Anita at our country school Dist. 29 and going over to Carl's house after school. Also, the summer get together's at Curt & Rosie's lake place in Alexandria with Anita & Hugh and the Lynne's. What a great cousin to have.*
Wendy Hartfiel

Wendy Hartfiel - May 05, 2019 at 03:29 PM

SM

“*Beth- Sorry for your loss!*
Sue Meredith

SUZANNE MEREDITH - May 04, 2019 at 10:19 AM

RM

“ God has been gifted with another angel. May the Van Voorst family find peace in their memories of this classy, beautiful, and kind woman. I am sure the Union Hill community and the many organizations that benefited by her generosity, advice, time, and skills will be mourning Mrs. Van Voorst for a long time. May she rest in peace.

Rose Devine Mitchell - May 02, 2019 at 11:04 AM



Christine Mack

“ Rest In Peace Anita. You were a lovely, beautiful, generous woman who always treated me like one of her own. I loved you! Thought and prayers to Hugh, Beth, Jill, Grant and the grand babies. You will be greatly missed. Much love, Christine Mack

Christine Mack - May 02, 2019 at 08:25 AM



Victoria Huber

“ You and Hugh were very wonderful to me. Bobby Shore at The Carlisle on your son and mine's first date.

Victoria Huber - May 01, 2019 at 08:53 PM



“ Hugs and prayers at this sad time. What a gracious lady has joined the heavenly chorus and will be greatly missed.
Mary and John Thomson



Mary Quiroz Thomson - May 01, 2019 at 10:25 AM

LM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the VanVoorst Family. Anita was the sweetest person and she always was so kind to my mom, Verneal. Anita took my mom so many places and they had so much fun together. I remember our annual trip to Great America and Old Chicago with, Anita, Mom, Beth, Jill, and Ken. We had so much fun! There were so many more great memories! Anita was one of a kind. She will be missed so much. We send our love to all of Anita's Family!. God Bless!

Patrick, Lori, Daniel and Sophia

Lori Fritz- McDowell - May 01, 2019 at 10:24 AM

TH

RIP Anita! My prayers & heart goes out to the family! Anita was always kind hearted. I remember her soft spoken voice. Anita chaperoned most of our school field trips; she knew when to give us space and when to be close. An amazing spirit has gone home to Heaven<3

Theresa Zalud Harris

Theresa Zalud Harris - May 01, 2019 at 01:05 PM

JG

Very difficult to write about the loss of Anita who was such a beautiful and kind spirit. Deepest sympathy and prayers to all of you. Dorothy & Jay

Jay & Dorothy Griswold - May 01, 2019 at 09:19 PM