

**Mary Angela (Crawford) Higdon Obt.**

b. 16 September 1942, Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, LA – d. 1 January 2021, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md **Danny Wallace Higdon**, b. 9 February 1937, Rapides Parish, LA – d. 1 August 2020, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, s/o **Emmitt DeWitt Higdon Sr. & Kathleen Pittman**. Mary Angela (Crawford) Higdon, d/o **Lyman Alger Crawford** (1906-1984) & **Louise Romero** (1918-20130, both buried in Highland Memory Gardens, Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, LA.

Mary Angela Crawford Higdon, 78, passed away peacefully with her children at her side at Cookeville Regional Medical Center on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children: Brian Higdon (Kimberly) of Nashville, Paul Higdon (Susan) of Franklin, and Rhonda Higdon England (Luke Chaffin) of



Cookeville; grandchildren: Lindsey Higdon of Franklin, Chelsey Higdon of Mexico Beach, Fl, Thomas Higdon of Franklin, Wade and Jack England and Parker Chaffin of Cookeville. She will also be dearly missed by her brothers and sisters: Phyllis Solari (Jimmy), Carolyn Toups (Joe), Joe Crawford, Susan Meche; sisters-in-law: Christine Crawford, Charmayne Crawford, Anna Crawford, and the many nieces and nephews from her large family in Lake Charles, La.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 55 years, Danny Wallace Higdon; her parents: Lyman Alger (L.A.) Crawford and Marie Louise Romero Crawford; brothers and sister: Pete Crawford, Dr. Pat Crawford, Jane Crawford, Dr. John Crawford, and sister-in-law Karen Berry Crawford.

Mary was born Sept. 16, 1942, in Lake Charles, La, to L.A. and Louise Crawford. She was the third of nine children and was involved in many extracurricular activities, including being titled Ms. Water Safety for Calcasieu Parish in 1962. She graduated from St. Charles Academy in 1960 and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from McNeese State University in 1964 and 1967, respectively.

Married in 1964, she and her family later moved to Houston, Texas so that her husband Danny could complete his doctorate in Education. Upon Danny's acceptance of a professor position at Tennessee Technological University, the family moved to Cookeville in 1973. She was a devout Catholic and a member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Cookeville.

**Mary began her teaching career at Capshaw Elementary and in 1977 accepted a position with Parkview Elementary as a Title I Math teacher. She taught at Parkview Elementary for 20 years with several of those years serving as interim principal. Mary moved to the newly formed Prescott Central Middle School in 1996 and served as the assistant principal. In 1997 she became Principal at Prescott and remained there until her retirement in 2000. Everyone always knew where you stood**

with her and she was a firm believer in tough love. She loved her time as a teacher and administrator and positively influenced countless students and colleagues.

Mary's number one priority outside of teaching was her family. She was completely devoted to her husband Danny and treasured her children and grandchildren. She especially loved her role as Maw Maw and taking care of her grandchildren. She was a master cook in the kitchen and always had enough to feed a small army. She cared deeply for her family in Cookeville along with her large extended Cajun family in Lake Charles, La where she enjoyed spending quality time on Maw Maw Crawford's "back porch". Mary was a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, and matriarch of her family. She will be greatly missed by all that she touched, but her place now is with her beloved husband, Danny.

Memorial services will be held at a future date in both Cookeville and Lake Charles. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Parkview Elementary School or Tennessee Tech University.

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### **Danny Wallace Higdon Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE** —Danny Wallace Higdon, 83, of Cookeville, passed away Saturday, Aug. 1 at Cookeville Regional Medical Center after a brief illness. Danny was a long-time, well-respected educator in Putnam County.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Mary Crawford Higdon of Cookeville; his children, Brian Higdon (Kimberly) of Nashville, Paul Higdon (Susan) of Franklin and Rhonda Higdon England of Cookeville; grandchildren Lindsey Higdon of Franklin, Chelsey Higdon of Mexico Beach, Florida, Thomas Higdon of Franklin and Wade and Jack England of Cookeville.



He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Kathleen Pittman, Virginia Stovall, Robbie Magliocca; and his brother, Emmitt Higdon Jr.

He is survived by one brother, Gene Higdon (Bella) of Murfreesboro, numerous nieces and nephews, and by his large, and extended family in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Danny was born Feb. 9, 1937 in Tioga, Louisiana to Mary Lucretia Daffan and Emmitt DeWitt Higdon Sr. Danny graduated from Bolton High School in Alexandria, Louisiana in 1955 and from Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, Louisiana in 1959. He immediately enlisted in the Army Security Agency. He served as a Morse code interceptor from 1959-1962 while stationed in Okinawa. He cherished his time in the

service and established many lifelong friends. After an honorable discharge from the service, he worked several years for Conoco Oil as an offshore roustabout in the Gulf of Mexico.

His lifelong passion for teaching began when he taught at Hackberry High School in Cameron Parrish while earning his master's degree from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He then attended the University of Houston where he earned his Doctor of Education degree in 1973. While obtaining his doctorate, he co-founded and served as the first headmaster at West Briar Private Elementary School.

In 1973, Danny moved his family to Cookeville where he was a professor of Education at Tennessee Tech University for 27 years, retiring as the Department Head of Curriculum and Instruction. He loved his time at Tech and made many special and lasting relationships with both students and teachers alike. Danny taught by example and was a mentor to many school teachers and administrators in the Upper Cumberland area.

Danny was devoted to his family and he loved his many years coaching his children's football, basketball, softball and baseball teams. After his family, his passions included constructing residential homes with his two sons, flying and piloting his airplane, and serving as a Putnam County Commissioner. Danny always enjoyed talking to people and finding out more about them. He was so proud of his children and his grandchildren and held a special place in his heart for his childhood friends, high school and college classmates, his army buddies, his co-workers at TTU, and many of the teachers in Putnam County.

Danny was beloved as a husband, father, and grandfather, and he will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be announced at a future date. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the charity of your choice.

\*Read more about the people of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas and Schoolyard Tales at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>