



Jimmie McGraw Kanning

February 12, 1939 - October 13, 2022

Jimmie McGraw Kanning, 83, passed away surrounded by loved ones on October 13th, 2022, from complications after a massive stroke.

Jimmie is survived her son Matthew Anthony Kanning, his wife Ava Angle Kanning, and daughter Kathryn Kanning Langford. She is grandmother to four beautiful grandchildren: Lindsay, Logan, Brooke, and Bryanna. She is also survived by her sister, Jerri McGraw Tinnemeyer, cousin, Sharyn McClure, as well as many close family members and friends. She was predeceased by her husband, James Richard Kanning, and son, Christopher James Kanning.

Jimmie was born on February 12, 1939 to Lela and Jim McGraw in Galena Park, Texas. After graduating from Galena Park High School, she went on to study education at the University of Texas. It was in Austin where she met James and the two embarked on a life filled with love and happiness. Being a mother was one of the most important parts of Jimmie's life, a role that gave her much pride and joy. She was an excellent mom – supportive, kind and funny. We will miss her dearly.

Her second passion was in secondary education teaching high school English language arts and reading. Her longest tenure was at John Marshall High School, in what later became known as the "Camelot" years. She also worked briefly with student teachers at the university level. Upon retirement, she continued to consult with professional writing programs and especially enjoyed assisting family and friends with essays for college, scholarships, grants, graduate school, and even medical school. She could always be

counted on to proofread and edit – forever spouting grammar and punctuation rules or MLA/APA formatting guidelines. (This apple fell far from that tree!)

Above all else, Jimmie was always interested in keeping up with the lives of family members and anyone she called friend. If she hadn't heard from you recently, you may recall being on the receiving end of an oh-so-gentle nudge to fill her in on all that was happening.

Although Jimmie is no longer with us in this life, we know that she lives on in the memories of those she touched. Please feel free to visit with family and friends at Mission Parks Funeral home on Friday, October 21, 2022 to share your stories and celebrate her life.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made in memory of Jimmie Kanning to one of the following organizations –

- UTHHealth's McGovern Medical School, Department of Neurology. <https://giving.uth.edu/neurology-giving>

Please leave the Designation as Neurology Chairman's Gift Account and in Tributary Information select In memory of Jimmie Kanning.

We hope to have a lecture on aphasia and/or cranial amyloid angiopathy given in her name.

- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – in honor of her son, Chris <https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donate.event&eventID=2078&language=en>

Previous Events

Celebration of Her Life

OCT **21**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ *Jimmie was an evil demon equivalent to garbage !!!*

rudy jackson - May 06, 2024 at 02:52 PM

AR

“ *Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs. We are so sorry for your loss.*

Albert & Amy Roque

Albert & Amy Roque - October 19, 2022 at 06:12 PM

AT

“ *Angels Over Us, LLC Team purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jimmie McGraw Kanning.*



Angels Over Us, LLC Team - October 19, 2022 at 02:58 PM

TS

“ I will never be able to express all that Jimmie meant to me.

Jimmie was my mentor. She gave me the junior AP English classes and then opened countless doors for me with ETS and College Board. She was able to do that because people throughout our profession knew her, respected her, and listened to her. She was always a trusted sounding board for my successes and failures as a teacher.

She supported her teachers no matter what. She was always enthusiastic, excited about teaching, and absolutely committed to making sure that her teachers had support from our administrators.

She was our rock. Her standards were high: She gave all she had and was a model for the rest of us. We loved her for being so committed to excellence.

She was selfless. She had no ego. She trusted her teachers. She celebrated our successes as if they were ours alone, but she was part of everything we did.

Jimmie loved her students more than any teacher I have ever known. Whether they were below level or our finest AP students, she had faith in all of them.

One story: Jimmie was off-campus at a district meeting and had a sub. During one class I became aware of a disturbance in her room, which was right next to mine. I poked my head in and the campus police were there to escort one of the students to the office because he had refused to go. He was a big, lanky guy who had no use for education and had gotten himself into a fix that he couldn't back down from.

The sub asked me to talk to him, but he just sat there glowering in silence. Finally, desperate, I said, "Mrs. Kanning is going to be so disappointed when she finds out about this. She will be so worried

about you. I would hate for her to come back tomorrow and wonder why you are not here.” He soaked it in for a minute, then nodded, stood up, and went on down to the principal. That young man knew she loved him, and he loved her, too.

Jimmie was my friend. She encouraged me and nurtured me from the day I met her until the last time I spoke with her. She never stopped being present in my life.

We all love you, Jimmie. We will miss you forever.

Trip Sullivan - October 17, 2022 at 10:49 PM

RH

“ *To the family of Jimmie Kanning,
We send our condolences to you all during this difficult time.
May God bless you.*

Ralph and Sue Hamilton - October 17, 2022 at 05:45 PM

MW

“ *To the family of Jimmie Kanning,
Please accept my sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one.
May God Bless your family, giving you strength, you need to get
through this difficult time.*

MAXIE WILLIAMS - October 17, 2022 at 05:32 PM

JT

“ To the family of Jimmie Kanning,
We're so very sorry for loss of your loved one.
There is no one in this world like Jimmie Kanning, she was a special woman.
We are holding your family in our hearts and lifting you all in prayer.
May God Bless you and keep you in his arms.

JW, Maxine and entire Turner Family

JW & MAXINE TURNER - October 17, 2022 at 05:27 PM

KM

“ To me, Jimmie was my daughter's teacher, my colleague, a fellow Aggie parent and my friend. She was inspirational and wise, hopeful and joyful. She wanted only the best for the students, staff and faculty at Marshall H.S., and she was it!

Karen McCormick - October 17, 2022 at 12:16 PM

MZ

To me, Jimmie was the most helpful and supportive department chair I could have hoped for. I will be forever grateful for her guidance!

Maria Zambrano - October 17, 2022 at 02:16 PM

KS

Jimmie Kanning was the Queen Bee of the John Marshall English Department for many years, and I was proud to be one of her worker bees. She cared about all of us and our families and attended our events with the same smile on her face she brought to work. I loved having Jimmie and Jim at my parties because Jimmie could work a room like no other. By the end of the occasion, she knew everyone's name and would ask about them later. I know she polished her social skills while Jim was in the military, but she was an amazing hostess. During the last week as I thought about Jimmie's life and what I most admired about it, I settled on her ability to value all students. She taught mostly Advanced Placement courses, but she also taught the remedial ones. Once when she got a student teacher from A&M, she insisted that I share him with her since I was teaching in a program for at-risk students. She wanted the new teacher to get the experience of helping all-levels. She would also seek out for special tutoring those students who were struggling to master the endless standardized tests, including my own son. Yes, Jimmie mentored students who went on to become Congressmen and Harvard professors, but she also was a guiding light to those who became decades-long support staff for special needs kids. She found what was good in everyone, and I never heard her criticize anyone, even those who criticized her. Rest in peace, my friend. The world is a better place because of you. Thanks for letting me be a tiny part of your life.

Kate Sipes

kate sipes - October 17, 2022 at 07:29 PM

CS

Teacher Extraordinaire

*Her eyes reflected love.
Her heart spoke kindness.
Her mind sought solutions.
Her hands soothed, smoothed.
Her smile greeted, granted, gave.
Above all, she was a Teacher
of, with, for her whole life,
her entire being.*

- Carol M. Siskovic

Carol M. Siskovic - October 20, 2022 at 07:03 PM