



## Sandra K. Gardner

August 30, 1944 - September 19, 2016

Sandra Karen Whitcomb Gardner, 72, of San Antonio died September 19, 2016. She was born in Burlington, Wisconsin to John and Lillian (Lohaus) Whitcomb. She was their only daughter of six children. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966 from the University of Texas at Austin and later received her Master of Arts degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1977.

She was employed as a teacher for 36 years. She worked for Northside Independent School District at Holmes High School for 25 years. She had the pleasure of serving as the English Department Chairperson there and also enjoyed working as an Academic Decathlon and University Interscholastic League (UIL) coach. In 1994 she had the honor of coaching the Holmes team that placed first in the state of Texas and third nationally. She took great pride in the fact that no other south Texas high school had achieved that honor. In addition to coaching academic students, she also enjoyed tutoring those that needed help and assisted many students with raising their Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores.

Sandy retired from teaching in 2005, but remained active by maintaining close personal relationships with her former colleagues. She often attended game nights, luncheons, book clubs and movie reviews with her friends. She also spent as much time as possible being a fan of her son and grandchildren's

sporting events. Additionally some of her fondest retirement memories were vacations she took in Italy and France.

Sandy is survived by her son Marc and wife Sheri Gardner and grandchildren Valerie Gardner and Michael Gardner, brothers Phil Whitcomb and wife Norma and Gary Whitcomb and wife Jeanette, and sister-in-law LaDonna Whitcomb. She also leaves several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Lillian, and brothers, Duke, Byrl, and Dennis, sister-in-law Martha, and nephew Jay.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 noon on October 1, 2016 at Mission Burial Park North Fred Tips Mausoleum Chapel 20900 IH 10 West San Antonio, TX .Memorial gifts in Sandra Gardner's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society.

# Tribute Wall

R'

“ So sorry to hear of Mrs. Gardner's passing...I was in her English class back in 90-91 and boy was she demanding, difficult, and spectacular! She pushed us all to be better and refused to let us settle for "good enough". She taught my first class of the day. I remember we'd walk in and she'd have an SAT word or exercise ready and waiting for us. We'd have to have our answer by the time the tardy bell rang. No excuses. She would quickly, concisely address it, gauge performance, and move onto the lesson. She was so on top of it, and we had to keep up. Little did we know how much she was simply preparing us for the wake up call of college or first jobs or whatever chapters we encountered next. She used to wear her eyeglasses just at the tip of her nose, and she never hesitated to give you that silent reaction of, "oh you REALLY can do better than that." I always tried to avoid her questions in class, but she was a true supporter of the Socratic Method. So we were all (from time to time) victims of the Socratic Method. Curse that Socratic Method! But God Bless Mrs. Gardner - we are all better for knowing her and having her as a teacher. She was a gift while we had her.

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**Rose Ann Sands '91** - October 03, 2016 at 09:05 AM

B'

“ Mrs. Gardner was an important and inspirational teacher to all of us. She taught us how to write and how to think. More than thirty years later, we remain grateful for the gifts she gave us. My condolences to her family.

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**Bill Ford '84** - October 03, 2016 at 09:05 AM

ME

“ I was searching for another obituary and saw Ms. Gardner's picture. I recognized her right away as I was a 1983 graduate of Holmes HS. She was a wonderful teacher. Your family will be in my prayers.

Margaret Estes - October 03, 2016 at 09:04 AM

MR

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Ms. Gardner's passing. She was a tremendous teacher and woman. I graduated from Holmes in 1993. My condolences and prayers go out to her family and friends. May she Rest In Peace.

Michael Ramirez - October 03, 2016 at 09:04 AM

MV

“ What a wonderful teacher and gentle woman. I graduated from HHS in 1984 and remember Mrs. Gardner with such fondness. She was exacting but kind, never accepted a second-best effort from her students. My condolences are with her family at this difficult time.

Molly Harden Vermillion - October 03, 2016 at 09:04 AM

DG

“ So sorry to hear about Ms Gardner's passing. I was her student in the 80's and I would say that much of the success I've had in my life can be attributed to the communication skills she taught me. She was such an inspirational teacher. She will be missed

Diana Arguello Garza - October 03, 2016 at 09:04 AM

K'

“ I'm sorry to hear of Mrs. Gardner's passing. She was an inspiring and dedicated teacher and made a difference in my and many other student's lives. I will miss our Facebook friendship as well. She was still teaching me by the way she lived her life - nurture friendship and family, be brave and caring and laugh. Thank you! My condolences to her family.

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**Kyle Miller '84** - October 03, 2016 at 09:04 AM

WH

“ Praying for ya'll

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**Wendi Huebner** - October 03, 2016 at 09:03 AM

TM

“ So sorry to hear the passing of Sandi Gardner, she was my son Michael English teacher, he thought she was a great teacher, and I want to say she inspired her student to work harder and dream big, I offer my condolences to her entire family

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**THERESA FINNEGAN VALE, mother of MICHAEL** - October 03, 2016 at 09:03 AM

B'

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of this wonderful teacher and amazing woman. I was a student of hers at Holmes High School in 1994 for one of her AP english classes and her class was always a favorite of mine. She had a smile that would light up a room and she got great joy in helping students and challenging them to be better on a daily basis. She inspired me to always work harder and dream big...I am quite certain she touched many students lives like my own. A true professional and amazing teacher/mentor in every sense of the word...My deepest condolences to your family at this time. May the Lord Bless your family at this difficult time and bring you nothing but wonderful memories of an amazing woman.

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**Brandon Larson '94** - October 03, 2016 at 09:03 AM

CC

“ Marc, your Mother was a Braveheart. But She was also bright, loyal, and witty. As an educator she made such a difference in so many young lives. Please accept my sincere condolence. I send up prayers of comfort for your entire family.

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**Celia Copeland** - October 03, 2016 at 09:03 AM

DM

“ We will sure miss seeing her at the Brandeis basketball games and hearing her kind voice and cheers of encouragement while rooting for the Bronco's. I know she will be with us at all the games in spirit. Blessings to your entire family.

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**Darci and Kobe Magee** - October 03, 2016 at 09:03 AM

KS

“ May the peace of God give you comfort at this time of sorrow. As one of her book club friends, I feel blessed to have known Sandy. We will miss her spirit and her wisdom. I hope there are many good books where she is.

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**Karin Sloan** - October 03, 2016 at 09:02 AM

RH

“ Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your mother and grandmother, Sandy. I taught at Holmes with Sandy, and she was committed to both teaching and her family. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this time.

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**Rebecca (Becky) L. Hicks** - October 03, 2016 at 09:02 AM