



Susan M. Abbott

May 31, 1949 - October 30, 2025

Susan M. Abbott (nee Pihulic), age 76, of Highland, Indiana, passed away peacefully at home on October 30, 2025, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. She is survived by her daughters, Kristin (Jeff) Bagull of Hinsdale, Illinois, and Kourtney Fisher of Munster, Indiana; granddaughters, Ella and Caroline Bagull; grandsons, Jack and James Bagull, and Niko Hoshaw; sister, Sarah (Jim) Wojcik; significant other, Eric Abbott; and numerous cousins, many of whom she loved as siblings. Susan was preceded in death by her loving parents, Richard “Doc” and Beatrice Pihulic.

She was born in East Chicago, Indiana, and grew up in Whiting and Munster, Indiana, as well as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Susan graduated from Bishop Noll Institute in 1967, where she made many close friends. She then attended Indiana University Bloomington, where she was a proud member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, and she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Home Economics in 1971. She went on to receive her master’s degree in education from Purdue University Calumet.

Susan followed in her mother and dear aunt’s footsteps and pursued a lifelong career in teaching. She passionately taught home economics at both high school and middle school levels for over 40 years in Highland, Crown Point, and Hammond. Susan especially loved teaching Quest life skills to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at Scott Middle School in Hammond. Even after retiring, Susan continued to substitute teach for extended periods of time until as recently as May 2025, and she was devastated to be unable to continue

doing so because of her recent illness. Over the course of her teaching career, she served as class sponsor, worked numerous school sporting events, taught summer school, mentored students, and established close friendships with her teaching colleagues, many of whom she viewed as family. Susan especially enjoyed trips with her teaching colleagues to places like Boston and South Dakota.

In her retirement, Susan spent long periods of time at her second home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where she had an active social life and served on the Board of Directors. She was a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association; St. Thomas More Parish in Munster, Indiana; and St. Pius X Parish in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Susan was a dedicated teacher, friend, employee, cousin, niece, mother, and grandmother, but her most coveted role was that of daughter. She always said that her personal heroes were her parents, because they taught her to have a strong character and work ethic. Her family takes a great deal of comfort in knowing that she is reunited with her parents and likely already playing card games with them again.

Friends and family may pay their respects at Burns-Kish Funeral Homes, Inc., 8415 Calumet Avenue, Munster, Indiana, on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 8501 Calumet Avenue, Muster, IN. Rev. Bruno Socha officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Susan's name. Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, Crown Point, IN, entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

St. John-St. Joseph Cemetery

1547 167th St.
Hammond, IN 46320

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

Burns-Kish Funeral Home
8415 Calumet Ave.
Munster, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 6. 10:00 AM (cst)

St. Thomas More Church
8501 Calumet Ave
Munster , IN 46321

Tribute Wall

BP

“ I worked with Sue at the SCH...She was always positive and smiling! The students absolutely adored her...she will be missed dearly by all...till we meet again Sue!

Ben Perez - April 07 at 01:04 PM

LO

“ I loved Mrs. Abbott so much! I used to come to her for everything. She used to brag about her family all the time ! she loved them very much. She will be deeply missed.

Lonna - November 25, 2025 at 09:47 AM

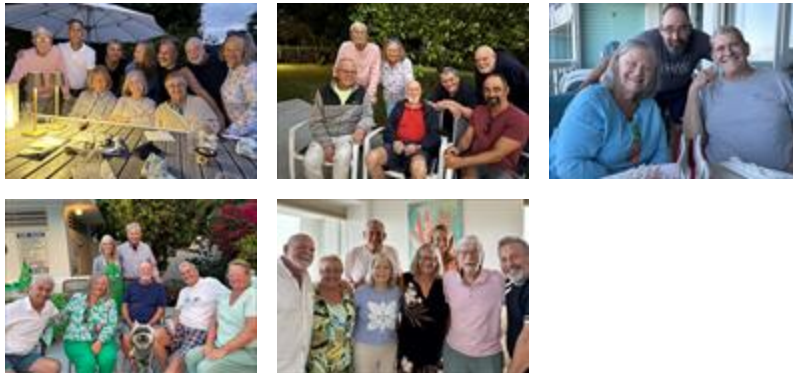
DC

“ Diane C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan M. Abbott.

Diane C. - November 06, 2025 at 11:44 PM

MG

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



maggie gray - November 05, 2025 at 07:18 PM

MG

“ I must say Sue always lived up to the moniker Sweet Sue! She was always a joy to be around. We were Seatower pool side buddies. We'd always coincide our visits to the pool which was every day when she was down here at the Seatower. We'd always touch base with what was going on with our neighbors, with family, with occasional news about Indiana or our stomping grounds Long Island and the world at large! Her dry sense of humor spoke to us from the first time we met! Rumikub was one of our favorite poolside or after hours playtime. When we were short a player she'd always call on "Tommy Edison". She was such a fun and caring friend it's unbelievable that she has left us and so quickly! We know the hole in our hearts will take way longer than the holes in the Seatower's pool to fill. Our condolences to all who loved her and will miss her, especially our dear friend Eric who stayed glued by her side these last traumatic months! Our thoughts and prayers are with you!
Maggie and Bryan Gray.

maggie gray - November 05, 2025 at 06:45 PM

TF

“ The Vliek Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Susan M. Abbott.



The Vliek Family - November 05, 2025 at 12:57 PM

TF

“ The Vliek Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan M. Abbott.

The Vliek Family - November 05, 2025 at 12:57 PM

MT

“ I am deeply saddened to hear that Sue has passed away. I met her, and her sister, at Plaza Lanes in Highland, bowling in a teacher’s league. My husband and I are sending our condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Mary Schwegman-Truhn

Mary L Truhn - November 05, 2025 at 12:44 PM

RF

“ I had the absolute pleasure of having Mrs. Abbott as a teacher. Her class was always something I looked forward too. She was an amazing teacher who really did care for her students. Even after I no longer had her class, she still took time to talk to me in the halls and ask how I’ve been doing. I loved seeing her in the hallways and hearing all about her vacations. Her passing was extremely saddening to hear about, my condolences to her friends and family. Thank you Mrs. Abbott for always being a safe space for the students with your caring, loving, and magnetic personality. We will all miss you dearly.



Rilee Ferguson - November 05, 2025 at 10:31 AM

CO

“ She was a great teacher and she will be missed.



Courtney - November 05, 2025 at 10:30 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Susan M. Abbott.*



November 04, 2025 at 10:00 PM



“ *From Sonia Chand, Krishna and Kishan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan M. Abbott.*

From Sonia Chand, Krishna and Kishan - November 04, 2025 at 10:00 PM



“ *My husband and I were very close to Susie and her first husband many years ago. Our daughters Kristen and Darcy were born 7 days apart and we have all kept in touch through the years. She will be greatly missed. We are very sad.
Linda, Kelly, Casey and Darcy Sang*

Linda Sang - November 04, 2025 at 03:21 PM



“ *I had the absolute pleasure of working with Sue at Morton High School.
It's hard to find the right words to describe how much Sue meant to me. She was more than just a coworker — she was a friend. I'm grateful for the time we shared. In just a short 5 minute passing period we would talk about work, family and life in general. She was my buddy at our meetings and always kept me laughing. All the students loved Mrs. Abbott. She will truly be missed by many.
Prayers to all who knew and loved this wonderful soul.*

Katrina Guardiola - November 04, 2025 at 11:21 AM

DP

“ *Deepak, Anita, Naveen and Raina Patil purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Susan M. Abbott.*



Deepak, Anita, Naveen and Raina Patil - November 04, 2025
at 10:19 AM

EC

“ *Edward & Choonie Cladek purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Susan M. Abbott.*



Edward & Choonie Cladek - November 03, 2025 at 09:13 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Susan M. Abbott.*



November 03, 2025 at 06:59 PM

AC

“ I started teaching at Gavit during a very difficult time of my life. Sue was one of the first people that I met and she was so warm and welcoming. She took me under her wing and was a great help in transitioning from teaching in a Catholic school to public. Going to work was fun because of the great people that Sue introduced me to. I was blessed to continue to have Sue as a friend up until the present. She was always a joy to be with. Sue treasured her daughters and grandchildren. She was always so involved and present in their lives. I pray for them and Eric as they deal with this tremendous loss.

Ann Crawford



Ann Crawford - November 03, 2025 at 04:38 PM