



Susanna Ruth Harris Austin

December 29, 2024

Susanna Ruth Harris Austin died early Sunday morning, December 29 in Sarasota at the age of 67. Born in Doylestown, Pennsylvania in 1957 to parents Darrell and Betty Harris. She moved to Sarasota at age 10 when her father, a Presbyterian pastor accepted a call to a church there. She graduated from Sarasota High School in 1975 and in 1979 received a degree from Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. In 2004 she became the first Media Specialist for the Sarasota Military Academy (SMA). She led study abroad trips to Italy, Greece, England, Ireland, and Scotland. Susanna was proud of her work with the Florida Association for Media in Education selecting books for the Florida Teens Read list for High School students.

Susanna was instrumental in setting up a school library for the students at Cornerstone Presbyterian High School in Belize, Central America. Susanna created a customized library computer system, and taught teachers how to use the system.

Upon retirement she became a member of the Sarasota Retired Educators Association (SREA), eventually becoming co-president.

She served as a worship leader and volunteer youth leader at Faith Presbyterian church and recently attended Grace Community Church of Lakewood Ranch. Susanna is survived by husband Keith Austin; two sons

Richard and Darrell, to whom she was devoted; and her sister Lois (Jim) Hood; nephew James (Frida) Hood; niece Rebekah (Andrew) Krueger.

A celebration of life will be held at Grace Community Church, 4080 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. N at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 11th with reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SREA scholarship fund, which supports future educators. Donations may also be made to Covenant College. Please make checks payable to Sarasota Retired Educators Association, specifying the Scholarship Fund in Susanna's name. Checks can be mailed to SREA at P.O. Box 17121, Sarasota, FL 34276. Checks can be made out to Covenant College with the in-memory information included in the memo line. Check can be mailed to: Covenant College, 14049 Scenic Highway, Lookout Mountain, GA 30750.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Grace Community Church - Lakewood Ranch Campus
4080 Lakewood Ranch Blvd N
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34240

Tribute Wall

DM

“*Susanna was a bright light to everyone who knew her, and will be greatly missed. May God's comforting presence surround you and His promises anchor your hearts in His hope and peace.*

You are in our hearts and prayers.

With Love, Debi, Sharon and Beverly



Debi Mazzotta - January 08, 2025 at 02:24 PM

EC

“*At times like this I have no words to express what I would like to say. Shocked to find out you were gone so soon. Our heartfelt condolences to Keith, Richard and Darrell, on the loss of a wife and mother, who loved you all so much, while carving her own path, educating those she taught and worked with. She will be sorely missed. Aunt Ellen & Uncle Harold Corey and family.*

Ellen Corey - January 07, 2025 at 04:41 PM

MH

“*Oh Susanna...to just have one more moment with you or to hug you or to talk to you. I will always remember your smiling eyes and gentle demeanor. Please know you will be dearly missed, but you will forever be close to my heart in very special memories I will treasure of you.*

Mary Alice Hratko

Mary Alice Hratko - January 04, 2025 at 06:37 PM

JT

“ I have been blessed to spend time with Susanna through both the Sarasota Retired Educators' Association and as wives of retired Sarasota firefighters. Her quiet, supportive, thoughtful ways always took precedence over any discomforts and/or obstacles that dimmed her efforts and the light she brought to our activities. My sincerest sympathy to Keith and her family--she will be missed by all of us who were privileged to know and work with her.

Joan Tatum - January 03, 2025 at 01:22 PM

PS

“ I am so saddened to hear about Susanna's passing. We worked together at Sarasota Military Academy where she was always so supportive of everyone. From her work as the librarian to helping with testing, photocopier repair, emergency snacks and classroom support, she was such a great source of positive energy and kindness. My sincerest condolences to her family and close friends.

Penny Schroeder - January 03, 2025 at 11:45 AM