



## Iris Mary Hicks

April 2, 1944 - June 23, 2022

In Loving Memory: Iris Mary Hicks (1944-2022)

Iris Mary Hicks, 78, of Fort Mill, S.C., passed away peacefully in the presence of family and friends on June 23, 2022, after a courageous six-month battle with Lewy body dementia.

Born on April 2, 1944, Iris was adopted by loving parents Adam and Adele Schimanski of Chicago, Ill. She had one older brother, Bill Schimanski.

A self-made woman remembered for her independent spirit and kindness, Iris worked as a beautician in Chicago and met her first husband, Hubert Hicks, in 1973. They were married later that year and moved shortly thereafter to St. Petersburg, Fla., where Iris spent the next quarter-century helping operate a successful, family-run lighting and chemical supply company and raising a family of four.

After losing her first husband to cancer, Iris relocated to Charlotte, N.C., where she met her second husband, Hugh Gaylord. Iris and Hugh were married in 2015 and shared their golden years together traveling the world.

Throughout her life, Iris was a beloved wife, devoted mother, caring friend and devout Christian. She loved her family unconditionally and touched countless lives through her gentle spirit. Iris is survived by her husband Hugh Gaylord and two daughters Debra Schimanski (Dale Birkhead) and Michelle Hicks (Michael Mazur).

A service for friends and family will be held on Saturday, July 9, at 10 a.m. at the St. Philip Neri Catholic Church at 292 Munn Road East, Fort Mill, S.C., 29715. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JUL 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church  
292 Munn Road East  
Fort Mill, SC 29715

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Candace-Ballantyne Chapel lit a candle in memory of Iris Mary Hicks*



Candace-Ballantyne Chapel - July 11 at 01:38 PM

JD

“ *Our sincere sympathy to Hugh and his family over the loss of his precious wife Iris. We cherish all the wonderful time we had over the years with both of them. Love, Jon & Shelley Dwyer*

Jon Dwyer - July 05 at 10:42 AM

JD

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jon Dwyer - July 05 at 10:36 AM

DV

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Iris. We feel blessed to have had Iris in our lives. We considered her and Hugh part of our family and a special part of our children's youth. They enjoyed the time they spent with her very much.*



Derek Vinti - June 28 at 09:51 PM

HK

*So sorry to hear of your tragic loss*

Hugh Kane - June 29 at 03:26 PM

SG

“ Iris was always spreading laughter and smiles everywhere she went. Grateful for my Charlotte visits with her and Papa and our family gatherings with the whole big fam <3 I remember her teaching me how to correctly cut my own hair and my sisters! My favorite thing was watching Papa and Iris interact and seeing the love and happiness they gave each other. Love to the sweetest lady



Shannon Gaylord - June 27 at 03:06 PM

MN

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Marilyn Natke - June 27 at 10:57 AM

MN

“ Iris' warm personality embraced everyone she knew. She cared about people and always found opportunities to help in big and small ways. She loved my brother, Hugh, deeply and together they faced the joys and sorrows of growing old, always supporting and caring for each other. May Iris now finally rest in peace.

Marilyn Natke - June 27 at 10:55 AM



“ I will remember Grandma Iris as a happy, creative Lady who had a great smile and a laugh that brought happiness to the room. She encouraged me in my creative endeavors. I remember doing crafts with her. She was a patient teacher as she taught me how to make beautiful angels out of wire and beads. I pray now for her husband, family, and friends who are left with her memory. May Jesus bring them the peace He generously gives to those who mourn.

Melissa Welch - June 26 at 03:25 PM