



## Claudia Higginbotham

June 13, 1937 - January 24, 2026

Claudia Sydow Higginbotham was born to Garland and Elita Fae Sydow on June 13, 1937, in Gatesville, Texas, and immediately set herself to a long life of love, compassion, caring, and devotion to family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. She resided in Gatesville until reaching the ninth grade in 1951; her family including siblings Reg, Fran and Jay, then moved to Huntsville, Texas, where she would live until she went to nursing school in Houston and received her diploma as a Registered Nurse in 1958. During her time at school in Huntsville, she met the man who would become her husband of 67 years and three months, Nathan Lewis Higginbotham; they married on October 25, 1958. Before he left the service in 1962, they lived in Houston, where they welcomed their daughter, Cathy, in 1961. Claudia worked at Methodist Hospital and put Nathan through college after he rejoined civilian life. Their son, Brian, was born in 1963 in Houston. There were several moves in Claudia's life, some necessitated by Nathan's military service and later by his career. She lived in many places in Texas, Kansas, Idaho, Oregon, as well as London, England, and New Jersey; home was always Houston for her, though, and in 1986 she declared when moving back to Houston, after having lived in 17 different houses, five in Houston, that it was her last move. Anyone who knew Claudia knows that she didn't make many declarations, but when she did, they stood.

An avid participant in athletics, Claudia always had an interest in the health of body and mind. She was a consummate tennis player and runner. She competed in dozens of races, including marathons, and had a wall of trophies as proof of her accomplishments. Always one to challenge herself, she was happily recruited by her sister, Fran, to run with her in their first marathon in Boston. During her running career, she trained tirelessly, and when she decided to no longer run, she walked for miles at a time, as everyone in her neighborhood will attest.

Claudia loved art, especially Impressionism. Living in London and having Western Europe so close at hand, she used every opportunity to visit museum collections and exhibitions as often as possible. She visited museums and cathedrals in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Prague multiple times and never tired of discovering and rediscovering the delight she found in artistic expression. Claudia's brother Jay was a collage artist living in New York City, and she was a dedicated patron and admirer of his work. She used every opportunity to visit him and spent that time exploring all the museums and sites the city had to offer.

There was no challenge Claudia couldn't overcome, whether intellectual or physical. She was a voracious reader and consumer of information of all kinds. She could absorb the most complicated ideas and procedures and simplify and improve upon them. She was a master of efficiency and organization. There was nothing, to her, that couldn't be conquered through the application of elbow grease and/or focus. She appreciated work for work's sake and the feeling of accomplishment from a job completed well. One had to be cautious about speculating out loud that any sort of work needed to be done, because she would set to it right away.

Claudia possessed a brilliant intellect and wit. She was quick to study all manner of subjects and able to converse about them freely. She never lost pace with the progress of ideas or technology and was always among the first to take up new tools and use them to her own and others' advantage. She welcomed the advent of mobile devices and social media and the connections they afforded her, especially with her grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Claudia's grandchildren were a gift to her and a constant fountain of joy. She and Nathan were dedicated grandparents to all four grandchildren—Tim, Katie, Jessi, and Ben—and their great-grandchild, Nellie. Claudia was enamored with them all and never passed up a chance to spend as much time as possible with them. She planned trips with them both domestically and abroad and took them to local museums, parks, and events, played sports with them, attended their sports events and provided unending love. She offered boundless love and support in all their endeavors.

The church provided many avenues to apply Claudia's skills, aptitude and work ethic. She and Nathan joined the Christian Church in November, 1958 at the urging of Claudia's mother as they were searching for a church family in Topeka, Kansas. In Houston they found the congregation at Bethany Christian Church in 1967. She was the youngest woman to be elected as president of the Christian Women's Fellowship and she and another woman were the first women to serve communion at Bethany. In 1980 Claudia became an active lay member of Cypress Creek Christian Church where she served in a number of ministries. She was one of the first Stephen Ministry Leaders and worked tirelessly on church landscaping; after Hurricane Harvey in 2017, she was a key leader and laborer in cleaning up and restoring the church. She

was insistent on the use of inclusive language and equitable treatment in the ministry of the church Claudia and Nathan received the Christian Church Foundation's Harry T. Ice award for personal generosity, leadership in philanthropy and love of and commitment to the Christian Church denomination in 2019.

Claudia passed away on January 24, 2026, and is survived by her husband, Nathan; their son, Brian; her sister, Fran; and her four grandchildren and great-grandchild: Tim; Katie and her husband, Boston, and their daughter, Nellie; Jessi and her husband, Datrel; and Ben. She will be missed by cousins, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

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In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Cypress Creek Christian Church.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cypress Creek Christian Church  
6823 Cypresswood Dr  
Spring, TX 77379  
(281) 376-7113

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jasmine Ali - February 07 at 12:44 PM

VB

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Claudia. She was a wonderful person, and I know that y'all miss her greatly. I will never forget that Boston Marathon!

Vicki Blythe - February 06 at 08:11 PM

FM

“ From Green Bubbles Matter purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Claudia Higginbotham.



From Green Bubbles Matter - February 06 at 02:01 PM

EA

“ We met Claudia & Nathan through my niece, their next door neighbors. I would see her from time to time when I was visiting and I admired how she would mow and edge her lawn. She kept it looking beautiful.

My daughter & I started helping her & Nathan around the house occasionally. Right off the bat they made you feel as though they knew you for years. She had a warm and charming personality. She **ADORED** her family. She showed their photos proudly. Those grands & great grand? She couldn't stop boasting about them! 🤪 She was very excited about attending a wedding with her family and she was going to take plenty of pictures!

I will miss her warm smile and gracious presence. 🕊️💕  
Evelyn & Jasmine Ali



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**Evelyn Ali** - February 06 at 10:57 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Claudia Higginbotham.



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February 05 at 04:06 PM

JG

“ Sorry for your loss of a Beautiful lady. Heaven has truly gain a Gem.



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**JENNIFER GORDON** - February 04 at 05:03 PM

FS

“ *F Pereira & The Southwest Good Samaritan purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Claudia Higginbotham.*



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**F Pereira & The Southwest Good Samaritan** - February 04 at 02:43 PM

FF

“ *Friends at Christian Church Foundation purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Claudia Higginbotham.*



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**Friends at Christian Church Foundation** - February 04 at 01:11 PM

MS

“ *Claudia has crossed the bridge and heaven now has a devoted and hard working lady to help God and Jesus with their work. Claudia was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed. She and Nathan both were diligent in their never ending quest to obey God's will and direction. Would that I had just a small portion of their devotion. Vaya con Dios, gracious lady.*

*Mike Smith*

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**Michael Smith** - February 03 at 03:09 PM

HL

“ *Prayers and Blessings to all the family. Pewce be with you. Herb and Suzy Lynskey*

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**Herb Lynskey** - February 03 at 10:53 AM

TJ

“ During this difficult time, I want to acknowledge the profound bond you and Claudia shared. It is truly something beautiful for you to remember. Please accept my deepest sympathies. My thoughts are with you.

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**Tommy Cole, Jr.** - February 02 at 11:14 PM

BH

“ 1 file added to the album Claudia Higginbotham



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**Brian Higginbotham** - February 02 at 12:27 PM

CG

My heart is broken 😞, Claudia was my sweet loyal friend/sister in CHRIST. When you look into her eyes, you saw JESUS. Now she's living with her Savior. GOD bless you Nathan and your beautiful family for sharing your wonderful wife with me. She will always be in my heart.  
❤️ you

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**Carol Glenn** - February 04 at 01:03 PM

SO

Thank you for sharing this! She will be missed, especially her smiles and her hugs.

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**Sohny** - February 12 at 09:53 PM

YR

“ *Your neighbor Herbert & Valencia Raftie purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Claudia Higginbotham.*



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**Your neighbor Herbert & Valencia Raftie** - January 30 at 08:25 PM