



## Deanna Sue Gilbert

May 30, 1939 - May 9, 2020

Deanna Sue Gilbert, 80, of Piney Flats, TN passed away peacefully Saturday, May 9, 2020, at her home with her family by her side.

She was born May 30, 1939, in Elizabethton, TN to the late David and Nelda Boardwine Coffman.

Deanna was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

She was a graduate of E.T.S.U. having earned double Master's Degrees in Music and Administration. She was the band director for Bluff City Middle School for over twenty-five years.

Deanna was a member and choir director of Saint Paul United Methodist Church in Piney Flats.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Richard G. Gilbert; brother, Bob Coffman.

Those left to cherish her memory are her son, Richard A. Gilbert and wife, Meggin; grandsons, Richard Thomas Gilbert and Ezra Alexander Gilbert; nephew, David Coffman; several other family members and friends; special friends, Carolyn Nelms, Sue O'Dell and Patricia Bunch.

A Celebration of Life Service will be conducted at 2:00 pm Saturday, May 23, 2020, at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Piney Flats, TN with Pastor Brian Orchard officiating. The family will receive friends immediately following the service.

To leave an online condolence for the family please visit [www.oakhillfh.com](http://www.oakhillfh.com)

The care of Deanna Sue Gilbert and her family has been entrusted to the staff of Oak Hill

Funeral & Cremation Services.

# Events

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**MAY**   **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 02:30PM

**23**

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St. Paul United Methodist Church

Piney Flats, TN, US, 37686

# Comments

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“ Linda Shipley lit a candle in memory of Deanna Sue Gilbert



Linda Shipley - June 04 at 11:33 PM

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“ I am so sorry I missed mrs. Gilbert's passing. Deanna is the most influential person in my life. When I was struggling over the loss of our home because of my mother's misdiagnosis and financial troubles living with my uncle moving to the county feeling all alone I hid in the back of her Band Room during activity. And she discovered me hiding there at the end of eighth grade. Instead of lecturing me she directed me to a large cabinet pulled out the biggest horn I had ever seen it was called a tuba and she said to me the words that I will never forget 'I need You'. This is the kind of motivation that she gave others inspiration. I was so dedicated I wanted to please her I ended up making Allstate graduated from Sullivan East in 1979 and got a tuition tuba scholarship to ETSU. I continue to play and I'm now the principal tubist with the Greensboro Philharmonia. I only mention my accomplishments in that I owe it all to her. I reconnected with her a few years ago met her for lunch visited her church and was so happy to have my life come back around to be able to visit with her. She is one of the sweetest and kindest loving and giving people that I have ever met in my life. I sang in the choir in 9th grade that is the year that she lost her daughter and she left prematurely for a leave of absence. I missed her so bad music for me was not necessarily the same although Mr Pete Pino certainly helped in high school. Both of my high school band mentors are now gone from this Earth and I know that when I cross they will be standing there to meet me a tuba between them asking me if I'm ready for tryouts! All my love Deanna

Gary Rhymer - May 30 at 08:54 AM

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“ I had Mrs. Gilbert in band at Bluff City Middle in the late 80s and adored her. She was an amazing teacher and person. I am so sorry for your loss.

Tara Smith - May 16 at 12:14 AM

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“ I hold in my heart many beautiful memories of Deanna and I during the wonderful years in school. We shared a love of music and enjoyed the band and the wonderful trips and experiences we had with all our classmates. Deanna was an inspiration to me and I love her dearly.

I send my prayers for the family.

Claudette Webb

Claudette Webb - May 15 at 07:26 PM

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“ Claudette Webb purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of Deanna Sue Gilbert.



Claudette Webb - May 15 at 07:09 PM

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“ Mrs. Gilbert was a wonderful teacher and mentor. I learned a lot from her.

Darlene Flick - May 15 at 05:40 PM

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“ Many wonderful memories with my childhood friend Deanna. She was special in so many ways. And always full of fun! She had a way of making us better. God's blessings on her family. Rosalie and Doug

Rosalie Smith - May 15 at 09:08 AM

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“ Sorry to hear of Deanna’s passing. I worked with her in the Sullivan County Teacher’s Association. I taught with Richard at Sullivan North. I was so proud of Deanna when she was president of the Tennessee Education Association. She was a great person. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Ed Daugherty



Ed Daugherty - May 15 at 08:28 AM

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“ We share your sorrow at Deanna’s passing. She meant so much to our family! Our prayers are with you. From Van, Kenny, Lisa and our families.

Lisa Holt - May 15 at 08:09 AM

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“ Deanna was a dear friend of ours during our school days at EHS. We were members of the Betsy Band and shared a mutual love for music. She and Richard were members of the Class of ‘57 and we shared many reunions and picnics with this group. We will be unable to attend, sympathy to the family. . My husband Fred and I will be unable to attend the service due to the pandemic. We will be praying for you.

Mary Ruth Hathaway Bowers EHS Class of ‘57



Ruth H. Bowers - May 15 at 07:57 AM

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“ Deanna was a talented musician. We shared many good times while at ETSU as Sigma Kappa sisters and participating in campus activities especially All Sing.

**Judy Ely Fletcher** - May 14 at 07:56 PM

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“ What a wonderful teacher she was. You will be missed. Thank you for teaching us so we could learn something the fun way

**Sandra Myers** - May 14 at 01:01 PM

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“ Mrs. Gilbert was a great enthusiastic encourager of me and other Bluff City Junior High band members.

**Huston Keith** - May 14 at 11:13 AM

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“ You were loved and respected by so many more than you knew. God blessed so many of us to have you as our teacher, mentor, and friend.

**Revonda Stewart** - May 13 at 06:36 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear this. Mrs. Gilbert was my junior high band director, and she helped me a great deal in becoming a better trumpet player. Love you, Mrs. Gilbert!

**Bob LaPrade** - May 13 at 04:38 PM

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“ Staff Of Oak Hill Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Deanna Sue Gilbert



**Staff of Oak Hill Funeral Home** - May 12 at 02:10 PM



“ We are very sorry to learn of the passing of our dear friend, Deanna Gilbert. Deanna and I grew up in the same church and attended high school together in Elizabethton. Later we taught together in the music department of the Johnson City School system. She was a very talented musician and a wonderful fellow teacher. We shared many memories of our young life in the First Baptist Church of Elizabethton.

**Jerry Cole** - May 19 at 06:27 PM