



## Sylvia Ann Wicka

June 28, 1953 - March 7, 2014

If you're about to toss that umpteenth charity solicitation with the rest of the junk mail you just picked up, stop for just a second and think of Sylvia Ann Wicka. Known to all who knew and loved her as Sissy, she entered eternal life on Friday, March 7, 2014, at the age of 60. She lives on in this world in the hearts and memories of her son, his wife, their baby boy, four brothers, her mother, nieces and nephews she doted over, and a large number of other relatives, friends, and students whose lives she touched so profoundly. Sissy had the biggest, most generous heart and she always shared whatever she had. If you forgot your lunch, half of hers was yours. If you needed a ride or a coat or a shoulder or a hug, she was there for you. She always had at least \$20 to spare for the endangered animals or the hungry kids or the scientists searching for cures. She loved books and animals (she was particularly fond of St. Francis of Assisi) and politics and traveling. She especially loved Germany, where she spent part of her childhood in a military family and where she returned to serve her country in the U.S. Army. It's where she met her late husband and where she took her boy for a summer when he was young. It's where he will scatter her ashes. And daisies, oh, how she loved daisies. Sissy gave of herself, her time, her talents, her treasure. She gave everything she had to anybody in need. If somebody needed tutoring or help buying a book at National American University, where she worked, she was there for them. She started a drive to collect books for elementary schools in her beloved Albuquerque. She was her 91-year-old mother's caretaker for several

decades, taking her to doctor's appointments and the grocery store and out to dinner. She sent goodie packages to her nieces in Wisconsin and Colorado and always talked about "my girls." She was known as a mom to so many, but she had just one child herself, Garry, the light of her life, to whom she imparted all of life's lessons, like being kind to animals, which she taught him by taking him as a toddler to feed the ducks at the ponds at UNM. Be good to others. Share whatever it is you have. Because somebody else needs it more. Do what you have to do. Stand up and be heard. If there's injustice, fight it. If there's a problem, seek a solution. If you have to get on a city bus bright and early every morning and go across town to get your kid to a better school, do it. If you have to teach math yourself in grade school because of budget cuts in the school district, you volunteer to do that, too. If you find a stray, pregnant dog wandering the neighborhood, you take her in and when she has her litter, you get her puppies their shots and take care of them, too, until finally you find them all good homes. And if your 8-year-old goddaughter is having a tough time and you can't be there to comfort her in person, you order her a subscription to a kid's magazine so she can feel better. Always thinking of others. Giving of herself. Everything she had. Sissy leaves us with other lessons that allows her spirit to endure in so many ways. Plan for tomorrow but live for today. Bask in the sunshine but enjoy the rain. Take pictures. And show them off. It's OK to be proud of your kid. That light shone doubly bright a little more than a year ago when Garry and his wife Jen had a baby boy they named Greyson. That little boy brought so many smiles and so much joy to her life, which was only fair seeing as how she brought so much love and laughter into all of ours. Sissy is also survived by her mother, Angelina Stapleton, her brothers John (wife Eileen, children Paul, Collin); Jack (wife Diane, children Billy, Kristin); Drew (wife Donna, children Katie, Karen); and Arnie (wife Kate, children Jordyn, Miquela, Ashlyn); and numerous in-laws and other relatives and good friends including Billy Martinez and Donna Russell. She was preceded in death by her husband, Army Spec. Garry Robert Wicka Sr., her father, Air Force Staff Sgt. Hubert Stapleton, and her grandmother,

Emeteria Melendrez. A memorial celebration will be March 11, 2014 at 4:00 pm at French-Lomas Chapel, 10500 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Please visit our online guest book for Sissy at [www.FrenchFunerals.com](http://www.FrenchFunerals.com).

FRENCH - Lomas  
10500 Lomas Blvd. NE  
(505) 275-3500

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 11. 4:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

(505) 275-3500

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ I worked with Sylvia on the phone almost daily, I am so sorry to hear of her passing. She was such a wonderful person and it was always a pleasure to speak with her no matter the topic. The sun is a little dimmer now, but heaven sure has a beautiful angel now. God Bless!

*Malynda Mabbitt and Family*

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**Malynda Mabbitt** - March 20, 2014 at 10:22 AM

FD

“ Sending to the Wicka and Stapleton families our thoughts and prayers that God's gentle presence will comfort you during this difficult time. Sylvia was a long-standing member of our Friday Night Dinner Club, and we will miss her sense of humor, her political opinions, and her kindness. She was always the most happy when she was talking about her son, his wife, and her grandson Greyson!

*Fred and Gina Dove*

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**Fred and Gina Dove** - March 12, 2014 at 10:31 AM

TW

“ Garry, from Tom and Karen Wojahn in Seattle-so sorry to hear about your mom-always enjoyed her company-very sweet lady-our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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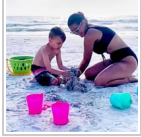
**Tom Wojahn** - March 11, 2014 at 06:14 PM

GC

“ My heartfelt wishes to the Wicka and Stapleton families at the time of your loss.

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**George Carrillo** - March 11, 2014 at 04:38 PM



“ I am very glad I had the opportunity to meet Sylvia when she was in Austin for a visit. What I remember most is how she looked upon Garry with such love and happiness. Her motherly pride was shining through as she smiled at her son.

Even more heartwarming was seeing her with her grandson, Greyson. All it took was one glance at this proud grandmother and you could tell that little Greyson had stolen her heart.

It seemed like the perfect moment in time as we watched the sunset over Lake Travis that day.

*Thought of Sylvia and her family will always be in our hearts.*

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**Vanessa Mullen** - March 11, 2014 at 03:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Vanessa Mullen** - March 11, 2014 at 03:06 PM

BM

“ *Trusting in  
God's Promises*

*Comfort for your family sorrow,  
courage for each day,  
Strength to face this journey,  
His Word to light your way,  
His peace to fill your heart,  
although you may not understand,  
And his love to hold you & your family gently  
in the hollow of His hand.*

*Garry & Family,*

*May the peace  
God's promise offers  
help to ease you & your family grief today.  
And may He always  
be beside you  
as you go along  
life's way.*

*With Sympathy*

*Bill, Eileen & family*

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**Bill Martinez** - March 11, 2014 at 01:31 PM

KW

“ *Garry - we are your cousins from Beach,  
North Dakota - sorry to hear about your mom - she was a wonderful  
lady - our thoughts and prayers are with you. Karen, JessiKay, and  
Travis Wojahn,*

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**Karen Wojahn** - March 11, 2014 at 10:41 AM

MT

“ I got to visit with Sylvia 4 or 5 times while working with NAU for the Base newspaper. She was a delight. We talked about my mother in law and her mother. Both being near the same ages, and the things that they go through.

*She will be missed, and I feel grateful to have had the time to get to know her*

*Mathew Truster*

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**Mathew Truster** - March 11, 2014 at 09:48 AM



“ White Mixed Fireside Basket was purchased for the family of Sylvia Ann Wicka.



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March 11, 2014 at 09:37 AM

LW

“ There's not much you can say when you have met a true saint; but thank you Jesus. Thank you, Sylvia, for gracing our lives with warmth and compassion. We miss you, save us a place for dinner. We'll get there when we can!

*Louis & Margaret Wilson*

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**Louis & Margaret Wilson** - March 11, 2014 at 08:53 AM

LS

“ my deepest sympathies to Sylvia's family. she will be deeply missed by all of us lucky enough to have known her.

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**leslie shaffer** - March 11, 2014 at 12:36 AM

MW

“ *Sylvia was one of the sweetest women I have ever met. She always brightened your day, even if hers wasn't going as well as she's like. She was a constant at work and you could count on her to know EVERYTHING. I hope she knew how very important she was to us all. She is loved and will be in our hearts!* ”

Myhisha Webb - March 10, 2014 at 11:42 PM

 Laci Reynolds

“ *Sylvia will be greatly missed by her NAU family. She touched so many lives and I will miss her smile and positive attitude. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.* ”

Laci Reynolds - March 10, 2014 at 11:39 PM

SF

“ *Sue & Al Smith and family purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Sylvia Ann Wicka.* ”



Sue & Al Smith and family - March 10, 2014 at 10:47 PM

JF

“ *JP & Magdalena Foley purchased the Roses For Sympathy for the family of Sylvia Ann Wicka.* ”



JP & Magdalena Foley - March 10, 2014 at 08:22 PM

DD

“ *Debbie Dobson lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Ann Wicka*



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**Debbie Dobson** - March 10, 2014 at 01:11 PM

DD

*Sylvia's passion for the students, faculty, and staff at NAU was boundless! She will be greatly by all who knew her!*

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**Debbie Dobson** - March 10, 2014 at 01:13 PM

JS

“ *Jeffrey Sauer lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Ann Wicka*



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**Jeffrey Sauer** - March 10, 2014 at 11:48 AM

JS

*I will remember that every day I came into work I was greeted by a warm smile and a positive attitude of Sylvia, she will be greatly missed and she can not be replaced. Sylvia and her Family will be in my thoughts and prayers. NAU loss is Heaven's gain. God Bless to Sylvia and her Family.*

*Jeff Sauer*

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**Jeffrey Sauer** - March 10, 2014 at 11:52 AM

OT

“ On behalf of the DELL NA EUC COC team purchased the Simply Lily for the family of Sylvia Ann Wicka.



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**On behalf of the DELL NA EUC COC team** - March 10, 2014 at 09:54 AM

BR

“ Sylvia was a kind heart and a gentle soul and a good friend to all of the Russell family. I know she earned her place with the angels and now she's free of the earthly bonds that constrained her... she is in heaven, but still watching over her family with all her love.. we can be so grateful that we were were blessed by her friendship .. she and Donna had a special bond forged over the years that was delightful to both.. our world was most certainly the better for having Sylvia Wicka in it... we love you Sylvia and will always treasure our memories of you...  
Love to all the Stapletons and the Wickas from all the Russells

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**Betty Russell** - March 10, 2014 at 12:37 AM

SH

“ We are sending prayers and love to the family, in this time of grief, from Colorado. It sounds like Sylvia was an incredible force of love, generosity, kindness, and character. In times of sorrow there are no resonating words that make these situations better; so we just want to let you know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*The Hilzer and Montoya Families*

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**Stacey Hilzer** - March 09, 2014 at 09:51 PM

AW

“ *To the Family of Syliva,*

*I am so sorry for your loss. She was an amazing woman to get to know. She always had a smile and a hug for all. she will be really missed.*

*Amy Wilds*

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**amy wilds** - March 09, 2014 at 04:18 PM

RS

“ *On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we express our deepest condolences.*

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**Richard Stewart** - March 08, 2014 at 04:32 PM