



John B. Hinni

November 23, 1932 - May 29, 2019

Dr. John B. Hinni, 86, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at his home.

He was born November 23, 1932 in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri to Clarence J. and Evelyn Nienhaus Hinni.

He attended St. Vincent High School in Perryville, Missouri, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Southeast Missouri State University, and a master of science degree and a doctorate degree from Northwestern. He served a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1956. He taught at Northwestern University, Xavier University and Southeast Missouri State University from which he retired in May 1998.

While at Southeast he chaired the Premedical Advisory Committee for many years. A total of 200 of his advisees and students matriculated in a medical school during his tenure. He also chaired the committee that revised the liberal education curriculum in the 1980's and became the founding Dean of the School of University Studies. He also became the founding President of the council for Administration of General and Liberal Studies, a national organization. He served a six-year term on the Missouri Humanities council and was a member of the Governing Board of Directors of the Community Counseling Center for many years having served as Board President for 15 of

those years.

He married Marie Berkbigler in 1959. She preceded him in death July 25, 2015.

Survivors include his two sons, John Jr., who has two daughters, Stella Marie and Emily Anne of Denver, Colorado and Dr. Michael Hinni of the Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, Arizona, his wife Jill and two grandchildren, Brandon and Danielle. He has one brother, Rev. Thomas Hinni of Perryville, Missouri.

The loves of his life include the plight of the mentally ill and Native Americans, introducing beginning university students to the wonders of the living world, helping qualified students gain acceptance to medical school, reading classic literature and the New York Times, and interacting with people who are smarter than he.

He received a federal research fellowship from the Surgeon General for Embryologic Research, the Joseph Katz Award from the Association for General and Liberal Studies and a lifetime achievement award from the Community Counseling Center. He dedicated his life to education.

Visitation will be held from 11:00am to noon on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at Ford & Sons Funeral Home, 1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

A memorial service will follow at 12noon at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Community Counseling Center, 402 S. Silver Springs Road, Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703 or to the John B. Hinni Scholarship in support of single mothers tuition assistance at Southeast Missouri State University, One University Plaza, MS 7300, Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Memorial Service

JUN **15**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Dr. Hinni was one of the most important people in my life. He was my undergraduate advisor and employer. During my junior and senior years, I was his student, part-time employee. I both feared and admired him. He was also beloved by many of the other undergraduate students he advised. He encouraged me to do my best and to go to graduate school. I took his advice and ultimately got a Ph.D. from Yale. I doubt that I would have ever thought about applying to such an institution if he hadn't encouraged me to do my best and go as far as I could. Thank you for giving me wonderful memories of you, Dr. Hinni.

Dr. Theresa Bert - December 09, 2025 at 07:23 PM

PJ

“ I remember lots of visits to the house and I loved being there and because of John and Marie! I loved jumping in the pond and shooting basketball! I will truly miss Dr. John Hinni! My Love and Condolence to Jack and Mike and their families!

Pennie Sawyer Johnston - June 17, 2019 at 01:05 PM

JH

“ Jonathan and Lindsey Hudak purchased the Strength and Wisdom Casket Spray for the family of John B. Hinni.



Jonathan and Lindsey Hudak - June 14, 2019 at 10:37 AM

TL

“ *The Lekanders purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John B. Hinni.*



The Lekanders - June 13, 2019 at 05:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John B. Hinni.*



June 12, 2019 at 10:42 AM

BD

“ *Dr. Hinni was my first mentor. He will always live on through the physicians he influenced. When one considers the numbers of patients Dr. Hinni's "pre-meds" have cared for, his impact is immeasurable. Dr. Hinni, RIP, a life well lived!*

Bart DeBrock MD

Bart DeBrock - June 09, 2019 at 07:36 PM

DS

“ *Dr. Hinni was an amazing teacher. Sending condolences to his family. May he rest in peace. Deidre Sessoms*

Deidre Sessoms - June 09, 2019 at 03:49 PM

PB

“ John was one of my hero's at Southeast. I think of John as a friend, scholar, mentor to faculty and students with his wisdom sage advise. THANK YOU. His voice is silenced but his memories endure. RIP John!
Peter

Peter J. Bergerson - June 08, 2019 at 12:13 PM

WL

“ I am sad to hear of John's passing. He was an important influence on me early in my academic career. We often disagreed about things professionally, but there was never any question John always a friend. I will always remember several committee "meetings" we held on the dock at his house. His importance in shaping biology education and especially general education for nearly thirty years at Southeast cannot be overstated.

Walt Lilly

Walt Lilly - June 08, 2019 at 10:35 AM