



Marcia Southard-Ritter

December 12, 1942 - November 27, 2016

Marcia Southard-Ritter passed away on November 27, 2016. Marcia was a lifelong resident of Cape Girardeau. She was preceded in death by her parents, Katherine and Leebert Loyd.

Marcia was a 1960 graduate of Cape Central High School. Her education included a Diploma in Nursing from Jewish Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis, a Bachelor of Arts in Hospital Administration from Saint Joseph College, and a Masters in Science in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University.

Marcia began her career in nursing working at Southeast Hospital. She later worked for the Internal Medicine Group. In 1972, she began her extensive relationship with St. Francis Medical Center that spanned 26 years. During this time, she held various positions beginning as an ICU staff nurse, head nurse, Director of Critical Care Services, and eventually serving as Vice President of Patient Care from 1982-1998. During this time she also served on the adjunct faculty at Southeast Missouri College of Nursing from 1994-1998. It was during these years that she began volunteering abroad with Doctors to the World Organization in Barbuda, Volunteers in Missions with the United Methodist Church in Mozambique and Liberia, and Oakridge Clinic in Roatan Honduras.

After retiring from St. Francis, Marcia continued her medical career in the mission field with her husband Dr. C. John Ritter. From 1998-2004, she served as the Hospital Administrator at the Ganta United Methodist Mission

Station in Liberia. She also served as the Spokesperson Ganta United Methodist Hospital until 2004.

Being very civic-minded, Marcia was extremely involved in her community serving 2 terms on the Cape Girardeau City Council beginning in 2002. She served as Mayor Pro Temp, on the Vision 2020 Advisory Board, Comprehensive City Planning Steering Committee, and the Cape Girardeau Area Magnet Board.

Other community activities included Cape Girardeau County Mental Health Mill Tax Board, Board of Directors Cape Girardeau Area Family Resource Center, Medical Reserve Corp US Citizen Corp, Cape Chamber of Commerce, Cape Girardeau County Republican Women's Club, League of Women Voters, Zonta International, Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Planning and Zoning Committee, and St. Francis Medical Center Institutional Review Board. She was also active with the SEMO Chapter American Red Cross where served as a Health Services Volunteer, Board Vice-President, and President. As part of this service, Marcia traveled to New Orleans on a Hurricane Katrina Relief Team.

Marcia was a member of Hobbs Chapel United Methodist Church and attended LaCroix Church.

She received numerous professional and civic honors including Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society, Missouri Nurse of the Year, Diplomatic status with the American College of Healthcare Executives, Zonta International Woman of Achievement Award, and Woman of Impact Award from the Otahki Council Girl Scouts of America.

She is survived by five children; Stephen (Julie) Southard and children Claire, Eli, and S. Thomas; Benjamin (Tracy) Ritter; Daniel (Sara) and children Landon and Katelyn; Robin (Brad) Burger and children Christian, Alexis, Christina, and Heather; Emilie (Rick) Hamm and children Autumn, Hailey, Austin, Brandy, and Keisha; brother, Robert (Linda) Loyd; sister, Marilyn Johnson; sister-in-law, Mary Sue (Steve) Nieman; eleven great-grandchildren; two dear traveling companions, Jane Cox and Kay Waller.

Marcia was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and a grandson, Hunter Southard.

Memorials can be given to the SEMO Chapter American Red Cross or United Methodist Missions c/o LaCroix Church.

Visitation will be held beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 29, 2016 with funeral service at 1:00 p.m. at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home with Dr. Bruce Baxter officiating.

Burial will follow at Hobbs Chapel Cemetery, Cape Girardeau.

Cemetery Details

Hobbs Chapel Cemetery

3024 State Highway 177
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Service

NOV **29**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
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Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Marcia was an extraordinary woman on so many levels. I admired and respected Marcia as a friend and colleague. She touched many lives through her kind and giving spirit and will be missed by all who knew her. May God help you find peace and comfort during this most difficult time.*

Marie Mainer - January 01, 2017 at 01:52 PM

MM

“ *Marie Mainer lit a candle in memory of Marcia Southard-Ritter*



Marie Mainer - January 01, 2017 at 01:19 PM

DS

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. There are too many fond memories of our days of boating on Lake Wappapello and the Mississippi to choose a favorite. Marcia was an extraordinary woman who made big impact in the world. Jim Johannes and Donna Schuette*

donna Schuette - November 29, 2016 at 11:12 AM

Sue Harris

“ *Marcia, I loved you like the sister ...I'm sure you are happy again ...*

Sue Harris - November 29, 2016 at 08:21 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marcia Southard-Ritter.*



November 28, 2016 at 11:28 PM



“ *Sue Claspill Craig lit a candle in memory of Marcia Southard-Ritter*



Sue Claspill Craig - November 28, 2016 at 10:31 PM



What a great person Marcia was. She was always so kind to me. She was a wonderful nurse and a great v.p. She was so kind and was so interested in how I could promote up. She was so down to earth. She will be so missed. Blessings to her family.

Sue Claspill Craig - November 28, 2016 at 10:37 PM



“ *Cindy Vogelsang lit a candle in memory of Marcia Southard-Ritter*



Cindy Vogelsang - November 28, 2016 at 09:39 PM

RF

“ Rose Farmer lit a candle in memory of Marcia Southard-Ritter



rose farmer - November 28, 2016 at 09:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marcia Southard-Ritter.



November 28, 2016 at 05:37 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marcia Southard-Ritter.



November 28, 2016 at 11:31 AM

MH

“ It was a pleasure to serve with Marcia on the City Council. She brought great professionalism. Matt Hopkins

Matt Hopkins - November 28, 2016 at 09:39 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Marcia Southard-Ritter.* ”



November 28, 2016 at 08:14 AM