



Margrit Elizabeth Giles

February 11, 1931 - March 13, 2020

Margrit Elizabeth Ohrnell Giles went to be with the Lord on March 13, 2020. She was 89. Born February 11, 1931, in Chicago, IL, she was the only child of the late Arvid Carl Ohrnell of Vadstena, Sweden, and Astrid Anna Larson Ohrnell of Vendel, Sweden.

Margrit grew up in Ballard, Washington, until 12 years old, when she moved to Monroe, where her father was a chaplain at the state penitentiary. She grew up speaking Swedish to her parents and in their community, though her fluency waned with age and distance. She graduated from Monroe High School in 1948 as valedictorian. She graduated from (then) Seattle Pacific College, with a BA in Home Economics. She obtained her Masters degree in Home economics from the University of Illinois at Champagne. In an Intervarsity group there, she met Fredrick Harvey Giles, Jr, who was obtaining his PhD, and they married in August of 1956.

After a year at Bowling Green State University, Fred and Margrit moved to West Columbia, SC, where Fred accepted a position of associate professor of Physics at the University of South Carolina. They designed and built a home close to the Saluda River, not far from the current Botanical Gardens. It was truly a mid century modern design and retained its uniqueness until remodeled in 2001. Many people were welcomed - visited, ate, and/or slept - in that house over the years. In 1965, the couple and their three young children moved to Baghdad, Iraq, where Fred was a Fulbright Professor and did research and taught at the University of Baghdad for two years. Margrit taught English. In 1967, they returned to their home, with Fred continuing in his role at USC and Margrit teaching home-economics at Brookland Cayce High School.

Margrit loved all kinds of people, and she loved to entertain. Any visitors at the small church she attended would be invited home for Sunday dinner. Many students from the university and the friends of her children would visit often. She was an excellent hostess and cook, and she applied her home ec training well, with warmth and compassion. When Margrit was 42 years old, her husband and the father of her children passed, so she became a working single mom. She leaned into her task of rearing her children,

depending on the Lord, who enabled her well. She had a faithful community of friends and neighbors. She attended and took her children to church, and she was always involved in her community there. She creatively rose to whatever occasion presented itself, and she was cheerfully resourceful in meeting needs as they arose. When her third child headed off to college, she began the arduous process of obtaining a doctorate degree. She completed her EdD from Nova Southeastern University in 1993. She continued to teach at Brookland Cayce High School until her retirement in 1996, at which point, Margit spent a year in Bangkok, Thailand, teaching, and then a year in Singapore, as the interim principal of an international Christian School. Upon returning to West Columbia, she enjoyed a season of traveling, entertaining, and generally being involved in others' lives. The end of her life saw her declining physically and mentally. She lived out her last years with her daughter and family, dying peacefully at home. She lived a full life in the power of the Lord, and she is where she has wanted to be for years - with Him.

She is predeceased by her parents and husband. She is survived by her 3 children - David Giles (Susan) of West Hartford, CT, Billy Giles (Patty) of West Columbia, and Victoria Andes (Scott) of West Columbia, as well as 7 grandchildren - Mary Caroline Giles, Daniel Giles, David Giles, Jr., Elizabeth Giles, Nathan Andes, Amy Andes, and Diana Andes.

Margit donated her body to the USC School of Medicine. A private family memorial service will be held due to recent COVID-19 concerns. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Gideons, PO Box 140800, Nashville, TN, 37214.

The family is grateful for the competent, compassionate, and amazingly swift services of the Lighthouse Hospice staff in the last few months of Margit's life. They made the difficult level of care transitions as seamless as possible, even on weekends and evenings.

Comments



“ Dr. Giles was a great principal and encourager to me in Singapore when our children attended ICS. After our return to the US, she invited me to her home. I always enjoyed her company and was intellectually and spiritually challenged by our conversations. God be with you all. She always spoke so lovingly of her children and with great pride.

Denise Tippie

Dee Tippie - April 17 at 04:25 PM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Giles through Dr. Gile's practice where I worked. She was a delight to see and a joy to talk to. What a blessing she was to her family. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to all, especially to Dr. Giles who loved his mom dearly. Will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Nancy C. Johnson - April 09 at 10:26 AM



“ Mrs. Giles touched the lives of so many. She always welcomed you with an open heart and arms. Her compassion and enthusiasm for teaching went beyond the classroom walls. She even shared her words of encouragement and kindness to those just passing by in the hallway. She was a blessing to all.

Melanie - March 21 at 11:23 AM



“ I was one of her students at BCHS in 1992/1993. Mrs. Giles taught me how to sew, but what I remember most was her big, bright smile everyday. She her job and students.

God bless you Mrs. Giles. You are one of the teachers that I have often thought about over the years. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. God bless!

Stacey Looney Campbell - March 21 at 10:49 AM



“ This dear lady taught me how to sew while at BC High School. I loved her patience and guidance as she shared her gift with us. Blessings to her family.

Rhonda Hicks - March 20 at 05:01 PM



“ I REMEMBER I COULDN'T GET A STITCH RIGHT AND I WAS REAL UPSET. SHE CAME OVER AND SHOWED ME HOW AND SHE SAID PATIENT THAT ALL IT TAKE. RIP MRS.GILES

Madelene Smith Miller - March 20 at 01:18 PM



“ Ms. Giles was a great home economics teacher. My mother was quite a seamstress but it was this lady who taught me to sew. She always had a smile for each of us as we entered her room.

Sam Cowan - March 19 at 09:38 PM



“ Ms. Giles was my favorite teacher at BC high school. She always had a smile and a loving heart. She helped everyone. sincere condolences and prayers for the family. I will truly miss her.

Candy Chavis - March 19 at 09:36 PM



“ Mrs. Giles had a twinkle in her eye. She was my home economics teacher at BC, and also was a good customer of mine at Jarrett's Jungle. She loved to come in and share her adventures with me! We chatted easily and I loved her. She was a strong, sweet, and caring member of West Columbia!

jaclyn jarrett macaulay - March 19 at 07:25 PM



“ Mrs. Giles was my home ec teacher in 11th grade at B.C. she was such a loving and caring lady. I have thought of her many times through the years. You all were blessed to have her for 89 years. Sending my condolences and thoughts at this time



Penny McDaniel - March 19 at 06:21 PM



“ I remember Margit when I live in Columbia. When I went to church for the very first time in Columbia there she was with Fred asking me home for dinner. When at the home they asked me if I had a place to stay I responded no and she said you can stay here. Margit was great to me and very loving. It has been years since I have seen her, but in my heart I will miss her and her cooking.

Doug Larter
Charlotte NC

Doug Larter - March 19 at 06:03 PM



“ David, Billy and Victoria and family

I am sorry to hear of the loss of your sweet mom! I have fond memories of her back in the days of swim team. Remember us all taking trips together. I remember strongly her faith. I also remember during high school. We are praying for all of you during this time. Terilynn Banks Knezek and Barbara Orr

Terilynn Banks Knezek - March 19 at 04:14 PM



“ Prayers , loved Mrs Giles, she taught me in HS , but was friends with my mom RN got after y'all moved to West Cola. She was such a sweet lady. Thinking of you all.

jackie Spigner Motley - March 19 at 12:50 PM



“ Dearest David, Billy, and Victoria,
My mom, Rosalyn Matthews, texted me today to tell me that your mom has gone to be with the Lord. My thoughts and prayers are with you all, particularly at this time in our nation's history. As you may know, Eric and I moved to Chicago shortly after our marriage in 1980 and raised our 4 children here. Thus, I was so intrigued to read of your mom's background in IL.
You all are living legacies to your parents values, beliefs, and extraordinary talents and abilities.
With my deepest sympathy and in God's love,
Lynn Matthews Steckel

Lynn Steckel - March 18 at 10:11 PM



“ David, Billy, and Victoria. I am so sorry for your loss. Margit was such a sweet lady. I know you are feeling sorrow in her loss, but I'm sure she is happily wrapped in her Savior's arms. The following is for her family.

The moment that you left me,
My heart split in two.
One side filled with memories,
The other died with you.

I often lay awake at night when the world is fast asleep,
And take a walk down memory lane with tears upon my cheek.
Remembering you is easy. I do it every day,
But missing you is a heartache that never goes away.
I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain.
You see life has gone on without you, but will never be the same.

Susan Glisan - March 18 at 02:36 PM



“ David, Billy, and Victoria, I am so sorry for your loss, and will be thinking of you and your families. I remember your mom as a sweet lady with a gentle spirit, remarkable in her strength in those years following the loss of your dad. I'll be praying for your comfort.

Rick Harmon

Rick Harmon - March 18 at 12:32 PM



“ I remember Ms. Giles from BC High School and even after I graduated. She was a gracious godly woman with a kind heart and gentle spirit. I know this is a sad time for the family, but I'm sure she is rejoicing with her Savior in heaven.

Julie H. Houston - March 17 at 10:30 AM



“ Margit and I taught across the hall from each other at BC High School in 1974-75-76. She became a dear friend and mentor to me. What an incredible privilege to have known and loved such a dear godly woman.

Diane Gause

Diane Gause - March 14 at 08:34 PM