



## Judge William "Bill" Higgins

September 2, 1938 - August 11, 2025

Judge William "Bill" Higgins was born September 2nd, 1938, in West Nashville at his parents' home to Jim and Daisy Higgins. He attended Sylvan Park Elementary and Cohn High School. During his senior year, he was voted by his peers as the President of the Student Body and as the "Most Likely to Succeed," and he made sure to proudly, kindly, and boldly serve his community all his life. During his senior year, his principal personally drove him to Vanderbilt University to enroll him and sign him up for the ROTC program to help pay tuition.

After graduating from Vanderbilt, Bill served two years of active duty in the United States Army Signal Corps, and he later received an honorable discharge from the Army Reserve with the rank of captain. While stationed at Redstone Arsenal, Bill was cruising Shoney's with an Army buddy when he met the love of his life, Janice. They fell in love over a strawberry pie, and after a year of dating, Bill took Janice on a hike and popped the question. Bill and Janice were married on the base in 1962.

Back in Nashville, Bill continued his education at the YMCA Night Law School, and upon graduating, he started a law practice on 46th and Charlotte. He practiced for 13 years, and in 1971, he began what would become three terms as a Metro Councilman representing District 24—the same neighborhood where he was born and raised. In 1980, he was elected Judge of the Davidson County General Sessions Court, Division VII and retired in 2022. Even though he retired, he wanted to continue to serve, and Bill worked

alongside his son at The Higgins Firm as Of Council, where Bill judged himself, “The Good Looking One!”

Whether he was setting someone free or handing out a sentence, Bill was never without a smile. His life reflected an unwavering devotion to family, public service, and his community. He enjoyed fishing and golfing trips with his friends and loved making jokes and memories with his family, especially when there was food around. He lived life to the full, and he is sure to be dancing along to bluegrass or jazz, judging every one of us, “The Best Friends of All!” He is survived by his loving wife, Janice; his sister, Linda Rhine; his children, Julie, Jill, and Jim; grandchildren, Tanner, Mary Michael, Maddie, Will, Mallie, Danny, and Rebecca; and great-grandchildren, Carter, Walker, and Sadie.

The visitation will be held at Harpeth Hills Church of Christ, 1949 Old Hickory Blvd. Brentwood, TN 37027, on Thursday from 4:00–7:00 p.m. The funeral service will take place at Harpeth Hills Church of Christ on Friday at 11:00 a.m., with a private family burial to follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Youth Encouragement Services (Y.E.S.) or the Rochelle Center, two organizations close to Bill’s and Janice’s hearts.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Olivet Cemetery

1101 Lebanon Pike  
Nashville, TN 37210

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **14**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Harpeth Hills Church of Christ  
1949 Old Hickory Blvd.  
Brentwood, TN 37027

## Funeral Service

AUG **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Harpeth Hills Church of Christ  
1949 Old Hickory Blvd.  
Brentwood, TN 37027

# Tribute Wall

MQ

“ I did try to send a sympathy card to the last address I had, Janice, but it was returned in the mail today. We want you and the family to know how much we respected Bill. He was such a good soul and had a life well-lived and of service to others. We have made a donation in his memory to Youth Encouragement Services. Much love and God bless, Martha & Toby Quinn

Martha Quinn - August 29, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ Judge Higgins was one of the kindest and most honorable man I have known. He made this world a better and brighter place every day. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Gay Eisen - August 24, 2025 at 11:54 AM

BL

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Judge Bill Higgins. My Prayers and Thoughts go out to the Family. I can remember the Judge always being so Polite and always having a Smile on His face. Rest in Peace

Billy Lynch - August 17, 2025 at 01:07 PM

SC

“ Sandra Campbell lit a candle in memory of Judge William "Bill" Higgins



Sandra Campbell - August 15, 2025 at 01:25 PM

SC

*Going to miss his laughter & smile...we spent a lot of time working together~~*

Sandra Campbell - August 15, 2025 at 01:25 PM

PM

*“ We always enjoyed seeing the judge in Hollemans Bend. Especially Mama Jo And AB. They loved sharing stories of the judge coming to town. He was a joy to be around. We are so sorry for your loss and he will be missed.*

*Pamela McClanahan*

Pamela Mcclanahan - August 15, 2025 at 11:51 AM

RN

*“ Judge Bill was a special person. I first met him when I started in law practice in 1986. I was always impressed by his upbeat behavior and his big ever present smile. He will be badly missed.*

Robert Notestine - August 15, 2025 at 12:24 AM

RN

*“ Robert N. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.*

Robert N. - August 15, 2025 at 12:17 AM

JD

*“ On behalf myself Joseph P. Day and the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family.*



Joseph P. Day - August 14, 2025 at 07:17 PM

HN

“ Hargrove Body Shop, Nelda and Neal purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.



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**Hargrove Body Shop, Nelda and Neal** - August 14, 2025 at 01:23 PM



“ 103 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home** - August 14, 2025 at 11:45 AM

JA

“ Jimmie And Lisa Apple lit a candle in memory of Judge William "Bill" Higgins



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**Jimmie and Lisa Apple** - August 13, 2025 at 10:19 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.*



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August 13, 2025 at 08:55 PM



“ *Janice, Jim and girls,  
I have never in my life met a man like Bill. He was the most kind and gentle man all of his life. Please accept our sincerest and heart felt condolences. He never changed throughout his life. He was a one of a kind. He will never be forgotten. From Cohn to his Judgeship he was always fair, firm and consistent. He was a friend of All West Nashville people being only himself. He was tried and true no matter what life threw at him. May he rest in peace now so deservedly. God had a plan for him, and he did just that. He spread love and laughter all around and we all will miss him dearly. Cohn Alumni won't be the same without him. Rest in Peace Bill. God Bless.*



*The Payne and Clouse Families of West Nashville*

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**Terry Clouse Phipps** - August 13, 2025 at 06:31 PM



*Janice, Jill, Jim, Julie & Family, can't said enough about The Judge as we called him. So many times he and Janice came up in conversation and it was usually something funny he had said or done. We admired him so much and always made you laugh. He Janice were so good to our Mother when she worked for him . Our hearts , love and prayers are with you all. The family of Ida Black Brown. RIP Judge ❤️ make em laugh*

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**Theresa Neal** - August 13, 2025 at 11:28 PM

AB

*John and I have many wonderful memories of our times with Janis and Bill*

**Anne Brown** - August 14, 2025 at 03:57 PM

MK

“ *Marjon Kamrani planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.*

**Marjon Kamrani** - August 13, 2025 at 02:08 PM

MK

“ *Marjon Kamrani purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.*



**Marjon Kamrani** - August 13, 2025 at 02:08 PM

NR

“ *Nancy Russell lit a candle in memory of Judge William "Bill" Higgins*



**Nancy Russell** - August 13, 2025 at 12:09 PM

NR

*Socrates said "Four things belong to a judge: to listen courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially". Judge Higgins did all of these BUT he made it fun while he was doing it. What a wonderful man we have been blessed to know. Janice stay strong. Judge Bill is up there smiling down on all of us. Thank you for sharing him with so many people over the years. Thousands shared his friendship. Nancy Russell*

**Nancy Russell** - August 13, 2025 at 12:14 PM

TS

“ Todd and Pam Sims purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.



**Todd and Pam Sims** - August 13, 2025 at 11:53 AM

TS

“ Todd and Pam Sims planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.

**Todd and Pam Sims** - August 13, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.



August 13, 2025 at 09:45 AM

MM

“ *Such a wonderful person-thankful we were Granville friends*

Morris & Glenda Myers - August 13, 2025 at 07:25 AM

PB

“ *Phillip Maxey and Trudy Bloodworth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.*

Phillip Maxey and Trudy Bloodworth - August 13, 2025 at 06:05 AM

PB

“ *Phillip Maxey and Trudy Bloodworth purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Judge William "Bill" Higgins.*



Phillip Maxey and Trudy Bloodworth - August 13, 2025 at 06:05 AM

VT

“ *Great Judge, Better Man.*



Vernon Teague - August 13, 2025 at 01:18 AM

GR

“ Guy and Deanna Rasco purchased the Serene R  
etreat for the family of Judge William "Bill"  
Higgins.



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**Guy and Deanna Rasco** - August 12, 2025 at 08:41 PM

VR

“ Vito D Randazzo lit a candle in memory of  
Judge William "Bill" Higgins



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**Vito D Randazzo** - August 12, 2025 at 08:09 PM

VR

“ He was and a good friend to our family love you miss Vito

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**Vito D Randazzo** - August 12, 2025 at 08:08 PM