



## Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins

May 14, 1961 - January 9, 2021

Ann Grissom-Wilkins, 59, passed away on January 9, 2021 due to COVID complications. Ann was born in Detroit, MI to Joseph and Betty Bates Grissom on May 14, 1961. Ann was preceded in death by 1 day by her husband of 33 years, Ernest Ronald Wilkins.

Ann graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit in 1979. After moving from Detroit many years ago, she maintained many friendships with her fellow classmates and never missed a reunion. She loved her hometown and her many friends, family and church members (Unity Baptist Church) that became her family.

And speaking of family, Ann was the head cheerleader, organizer and communicator for the Grissom Seeds. With her big heart, and spirit of compassion, Ann kept up with most of the large Grissom family. She did the same for her Wilkins family as well. Ann would get behind the wheel of her car, turn up her tunes, and drive to any of her family and friends that needed her.

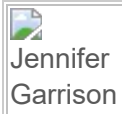
For many years, Ann attended and was an active member of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church where she developed several long term friendships and forged a personal relationship with Jesus.

A Butler University grad, Ann was a former longtime IPS teacher and also worked for many years with the Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA) and Indianapolis Education Association (IEA). Ann dearly loved her jobs in education and the teams of great people that she worked with, who weren't just co-workers but more like family.

Ann is survived by her parents, Joseph and Betty Bates Grissom, her sister Ruth Grissom-Morton (Frank), her nephew Joseph E. Grissom, her children Ernest Ronald Wilkins, II (LaTiffany), Michael Wilkins, and her beloved Denise Dixon-Wilkins and her precious grandchildren Taylor J. Wilkins, Ernest Ronald Wilkins III, Xander Wilkins and Xaiden Wilkins.

Ann was loved by all who knew her and will be missed. At this time, the funeral services will be for immediate family only with a Memorial Service to be held at a later date. Thank you to everyone for their support and prayers during this time.

# Tribute Wall



“ Jennifer Garrison lit a candle in memory of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins



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**Jennifer Garrison** - January 21, 2021 at 07:47 PM

PB

“ I would like to express my condolences to her family. Ann was such a wonderful person, and she was a beacon of light. She had a beautiful personality and always friendly. She always kept you laughing. She will be deeply missed.



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**Phyllis A. Bryant** - January 19, 2021 at 10:04 PM

BP

“ It was my good fortune to work with Ann. The room always got brighter when she walked in and now the days all seem darker  
Bim Phelps

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**bim phelps** - January 19, 2021 at 04:37 PM

IW

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ann and her husband. It was a blessing to have had her as one of my students when she attended Cass Technical High School. She was a very good student and a joy to have in class. She was a member of the graduating Class of 1979."The last of the "70". My deepest sympathy to the Grissom-Wilkins Family. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal" May the God of all comfort grant you peace and comfort according to your needs  
Mrs.Irma L. Wise

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**IRMA L. WISE** - January 18, 2021 at 11:58 PM



“ My My, I am at a loss for words at the reality of not being able to hear Ann's voice again. However, I know how blessed I am for having shared my high school journey with her and reconnected through our class reunion activities. God shared a jewel with us for this short time. She made a wonderful impact on so many lives and her legacy continues in the love she implanted in Denise. My prayers will continue to go forward to the entire Grissom-Wilkins Family as you embark upon this new journey.

*God Has You! Like HE had Ann for the work she was here to complete! Blessings to each of you.*

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**Kimberly Stringer-Taylor** - January 17, 2021 at 01:13 PM

KT

“ Ann has been my rock this year, supporting me through some of the worst struggles in my educational career. She was always professional and knowledgeable but most importantly gracious and understanding. I felt I could tell her anything and she would understand, show kindness, and help me work through any problem I had. Her love for teachers and education she wore on her sleeve, showing that her purpose was always for equity for the teachers and providing the best education for our students. She was always available to me: day, night, weekends, on the phone or email.

*I think of her daily only to make sure I don't forget the sound of her voice.*

*I will never forget this crusader.*

*My thoughts go out to her family and especially her children, that she always put first.*

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**Kathryn Taylor** - January 16, 2021 at 02:06 PM

RA

“ Ann, a dedicated teacher and friend. Always advocating for the betterment of education, especially student achievement. A beacon of light and the adhesive of our IPS #94 Family. Job well done, Ann.

*With sympathy to the families of Ann M. Grissom-Wilkins and Ernest Ronald Wilkins,*

*Ruthanne Adams*

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**Ruthanne Adams** - January 15, 2021 at 10:49 AM

RP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



ROXANNE WILKINS POWELL - January 14, 2021 at 09:42 PM

RP

“ Soooo many CT memories. Ann was a beautiful person inside and out. God has gained an amazing angel and we have lost an amazing friend. You will be truly missed Ann. Blessing and prayers to her family as well as her husbands family, such a tragic loss.

Roxanne Wilkins Powell - January 14, 2021 at 09:37 PM

MS

“ Ann I'll miss your infectious smile and warm personality; the way that you made everyone feel welcomed. My friend you will be missed, take your rest until we meet again.  
CT79 love always💔❤️❤️💚



Marketta Scarsbrook - January 14, 2021 at 09:06 PM



“ I will miss your beautiful smile and loving nature. Always optimistic and seeing life cup as half full. RIH CT'79 forever



Leviticus Taylor-Perry - January 14, 2021 at 07:39 PM

LH

*May you feel God's Presence in very special ways!*

Leon Herndon - January 14, 2021 at 08:41 PM

SB

“ *Sherri Brown-Webster lit a candle in memory of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins*



Sherri Brown-Webster - January 14, 2021 at 06:25 PM

SB

*Annnnnnn! Oh how I will miss you my dear! ALWAYS made me laugh and smile even when I didn't feel like it! What a hoot you were my dearest! I met you 10 years ago as you were a client of mine at our beloved Walker Theatre - when you came in to do an event for the Educations Assoc. and you wanted to make sure everything was just right - and we did! Then I'd see you again at our store: Meijer and both of grocery carts were filled to the brim! Ohhh Heaven has truly gained an Angel this day! Love you Sis, yet praying for your family! GTS!*

Sherri Brown-Webster - January 14, 2021 at 06:28 PM

ML

“ *My girl!! Always always there in times of joy or sorrow. A friend and sister.*

Martha Lince - January 14, 2021 at 05:19 PM

DW

“ Remembering a funny, self-sacrificing, light that is shining on us now. You will be missed more than you could ever imagine. You will continue to inspire me to continue the charge toward a better education for students and a fair workplace for teachers.  
*Deborah Wooldridge School #49*



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**Deborah Wooldridge** - January 14, 2021 at 03:09 PM

CS

“ My prayers are with everyone that Ann left behind. She was a true warrior for what is right. She will live on in so many! May God's light shine on you during this time.  
*Cora-IPS teacher*

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**Cora Shields** - January 14, 2021 at 01:36 PM

PJ

“ Pat Hutton Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins



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**Pat Hutton Jefferson** - January 14, 2021 at 12:19 PM

EP

“ *National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc Tau Chapter*

*Tau Chapter of NSPDK extends to you our love and heartfelt sympathy in the lost of our beloved Soror Ann Wilkins and her husband Ernest Wilkins.*

*Our prayer for you is that you will find comfort in the promises of God, hope in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ and the strength from the knowledge that you are supported by Tau Chapter.*

*Humbly submitted,*

*Evelyn Pierce-Hicks  
Tau Chapter Basileus*

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**Evelyn Pierce-Hicks** - January 14, 2021 at 12:09 PM

W1

“ *With Deep Sympathy, The Staff at IPS 106 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins.*



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**With Deep Sympathy, The Staff at IPS 106** - January 14, 2021 at 11:50 AM

JA

“ *I was Jewell Wilkins' only (birth) niece. I came to know Ann during Jewell's last days. When I flew in to visit, it was Ann that picked me up at the airport and shepherded my stay. She was such a joy to my aunt.*

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**Jewell's Ann** - January 14, 2021 at 11:41 AM

DH

“ *Ann touched the lives of so many. She dedicated her work life to teachers and public education never giving up on the struggle for justice and opportunity for all. She did this with a big heart and compassion. She will be greatly missed.*

*My sincere condolences to Ann's family and all her dearest friends. Ann is lost to us here, but she will never be forgotten.*

*Dan Holub, Executive Director, Indiana State Teachers Association*

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**Dan Holub** - January 14, 2021 at 11:33 AM



“ *Ann you will truly be missed. I thank God for connecting us and forming our friendship. You not only became my friend, you became my mentor and took me under your wing. You saw a leader that I didn't see in myself and pushed me to do in ISTA and IEA that I didn't think I could do. I will not let your legacy and hard work in ISTA die. I will continue your legacy as you wished and I as I promised. Even though, you are no longer physically here to support me, I know you are with me in spirit and as my guardian angel. I love you and I love my Niecy Pooh Denise. Rest well Hunny Bunny!*

*Angie M. Hood*

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**Angie Hood** - January 14, 2021 at 11:20 AM

GA

“ Our hearts are broken as we mourn the loss of our colleague and friend Ann Wilkins. She was a masterful mediator, listener and negotiator. She served as a true advocate for alternative education students and faculty. I will miss her laughter. Ann has taken her rest in the arms of God, but will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

In prayer,  
IPS Graduation Academy

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**Graduation Academy** - January 14, 2021 at 11:18 AM

DA

“ Ann was a wonderful person who supported education and those involved. She didn't know a stranger. Her kindness and laughter will always have a special place in my heart.

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**Dawn** - January 14, 2021 at 11:17 AM

MG

“ Cousin Annie you will be truly missed deeply by all of us who love you. I know for sure that I will. You have always been kind, sweet, fun loving, and having a big heart and lending a helping hand. You always were the head of the gang and cherished your family, friends and loved ones. You will never be forgotten by anyone who's life you touched or path you've crossed. You will always be my big cousin and the biggest cousin of all the cousins. We'll miss you dearly love. Rest now until we meet again ❤️❤️ Love you cousin always. Lil Marion

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**Marion Grissom** - January 14, 2021 at 11:02 AM

KG

“ *Ann was one of a kind, an amazing teacher, leader and advocate for kids. She will be missed. I want to send my love and prayers to her family.*



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**Keith Gambill** - January 14, 2021 at 11:02 AM

WJ

“ *To the Ann Grissom-Wilkins Family,*

*I want to express my sincere condolences. Ann's stellar contribution to the the betterment of the professional lives of educators in the city of Indianapolis is both inspiring and noteworthy. I stand as a beneficiary of the hard work and dedication that she directed toward that end, of which to this day, I am deeply grateful. May God's love, comfort, and strength uphold you during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,*

*Wilbur Jackson*

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**Wilbur D Jackson** - January 14, 2021 at 10:22 AM

RB

“ *I have spent summers, bargaining hours with Ann. She kept her humor while hammering down to get the best results for our teachers. She is the epitome of a strong woman! I love her. Denise I love you too. Make sure you continue to dance, follow your dreams, etc.*



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**Rosa Vazquez and Amante Vazquez Byrd** - January 14, 2021 at 10:21 AM

IF

“ *ISTA Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins.*



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**ISTA Family** - January 14, 2021 at 09:00 AM

RS

“ *The members of the Indianapolis Education Association were deeply saddened upon hearing the deaths of Ann Grissom - Wilkins and her husband, Ronald. Ann possessed a passion for teaching and supporting others in the education profession. She was an advocate for the students and staff in the Indianapolis Public Schools and worked tirelessly to garner all avenues of support for them. Ann was an excellent president of IEA for six years and was always encouraging, compassionate, and professional. Our thoughts, prayers, and support will be constant for her daughter, Denise, during this arduous time of losing both parents. Educators have lost a valiant warrior; students have lost an advocate. Leadership has lost a link in its professional chain; the field of education has lost a great leader. May the Lord, God Our Savior continue to embrace the hearts of the family of Ann Grissom - Wilkins, especially Denise*

*Sincerely,*

*Ronald S. Swann, President  
Indianapolis Education Association*

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**Ronald Swann** - January 14, 2021 at 08:56 AM

EH

“ My condolences to the entire family. Ann was a wonderful advocate for all teachers and she will be greatly missed. I loved her down to earth sense of humor.



Eveline Huizer - January 14, 2021 at 08:50 AM

AL

“ I was so sorry to hear about the passing of ann, she was a wonderful person and will greatly be missed by all.

Alonzo white farmer president of locall - January 14, 2021 at 08:45 AM

DL

“ Ann was my “go to” person when I needed answers. She was always pleasant and wore a contagious smile. She will truly be missed. Well done the good and faithful servant!



Diethric Langford - January 14, 2021 at 08:45 AM

SH

“ Praying for all.

Sharon - January 14, 2021 at 08:44 AM

JR

“ Ann was a fun, loving person. It was an honor to get acquainted with her. She is missed.

Jasmine Stockard and Xia Robinson - January 14, 2021 at 07:40 AM

RB

“ No words can express the power, love, strength, and friendship Ann gave to me and my son. I love you Ann. I miss you! Continue being great with the other 🙌s while watching down on us.



Rosa Vazquez and Amante Vazquez Byrd - January 14, 2021 at 06:58 AM

IK

“ Sending our condolences on the behalf of Arsenal Technical High School Culinary Arts/ Colonel's Cupboard. Thank for serving our IPS community and the teacher of Indiana.



India King - January 14, 2021 at 06:16 AM

CK

“ She was a blessing to me just when I needed her most. She will be greatly missed. God bless her soul and God bless her family.

Carol Karnes - January 14, 2021 at 05:41 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins.



January 13, 2021 at 11:48 PM

AW

“ To the family: May GOD be with you always and give you strength during this time and forever.

*This is a hard one to process. I'm really going to miss my former 5th grade colleague, IEA President, Uniserv Director, friend, and Super support system. You are and were very much appreciated. I'm speechless.... as I try to hold back some tears...Thanks...from Twannnnn..*

*A. Wilburn*

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**Antrawn Wilburn** - January 13, 2021 at 10:28 PM

MB

*May God continue to strengthen this family as they go through this bereavement period. Ann you're home now we'll see one day by and by. Mona and James Bradford*

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**Mona Bradford** - January 13, 2021 at 11:44 PM

ST

“ *Annmarie, my first real Baby Doll... Westside Detroit Michigan*



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**Sanita Thomas-Rosser** - January 13, 2021 at 08:45 PM

JH

“ *One of my last conversations with Ann started with a serious topic from school and ended with us both laughing pretty hard at the antics of dogs. Just good people...*

*Jill Haughawout, IPS*

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**Jill Haughawout** - January 13, 2021 at 08:27 PM

SK

“ *My thoughts and prayers to Ann's family. My husband, Chris and I, always enjoyed taking to Ann.*



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**Stacey Kelley** - January 13, 2021 at 07:30 PM

SS

“ *Sherry Strough lit a candle in memory of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins*



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**Sherry Strough** - January 13, 2021 at 07:07 PM

TH

“ *I type this with a heavy heart and blurry eyes. I had the good fortune to talk with Ann on a few occasions after meetings; to exchange some emails and even a couple of phone calls when I or a fellow educator needed guidance. Indianapolis has lost a true champion of public education. May she rest in peace and keep watch over us. Prayers to her family in this time of loss. T. Hammon; IPS*

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**Troy Hammon** - January 13, 2021 at 07:07 PM

KS

“ *Ann had commanding presence just by walking into a room... A huge loss of experience and support for teachers in the school district. She will be sorely missed.*  
*Kevin Sandorf*

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**Kevin Sandorf** - January 13, 2021 at 06:39 PM

LA

“ Say a prayer for her family and loved ones.

*Lilia*

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**Lilia Alagde** - January 13, 2021 at 06:36 PM

DL

“ Condolences to the Grissom/Wilkins family.



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**Dionne Leard** - January 13, 2021 at 06:32 PM

YR

“ *Ann Wilkins was fierce funny fiesty...I remember crazy things....she always brought chicken salad to sip/sag her 50th bday the way that she could cuss you out without cussing you out and they way she and I would laugh until we cried and cried until we laughed....find peace dear lady. You were a force....thank god for you*

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**Yvonne Rambo** - January 13, 2021 at 06:31 PM

KH

“ *Kathy Hill lit a candle in memory of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins*



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**Kathy Hill** - January 13, 2021 at 06:28 PM

WI

“ I met Ann as a guest educator in her classroom. She welcomed me with open arms and we instantly became more than just colleagues. When became friends. Her advocacy for students/education was what impressed me the most. Her heart was on display daily as she encouraged those around her to do better, be better. I will miss you Ann. May you and your husband find peace in your rest. Love you...

*Warren York, III (IPS)*

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**Warren York, III** - January 13, 2021 at 04:53 PM

RE

“ Ann was my dear friend and I will always remember her. We worked together for many years at ISTA/IEA. She loved life, he family, and especially Denise. Bless you dear sister.

*Rod*

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**Rod Ellcessor** - January 13, 2021 at 04:47 PM

SB

“ To the family of Ann and her husband, the news of your loss is heartbreaking. Ann was a wonderful, strong, loving, caring woman. I was always impressed with her passion for Urban Education, the students, staff and teachers benefitted from this. She will truly be missed. Prayers for peace and comfort for you all.

*Suzanne Bachman, Teacher IPS*



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**suzanne bachman** - January 13, 2021 at 04:45 PM

PR

*I knew Ann through our advocacy work at IEA and ISTA. She was my first friend when working in Indianapolis and I will always appreciate her help and support. She brought the sunshine! ❤️🌹*

**Pam Richardson** - January 13, 2021 at 06:10 PM

PM

*“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Ann's family. I was blessed to know Ann. She was an advocate for students and educators. Ann will be greatly missed.*

**Penny Miller** - January 13, 2021 at 04:41 PM

EL

*“ My prayers and thoughts are with this family. My God's loving arms be wrap around you during this difficult time.*

**Ebony Lee** - January 13, 2021 at 04:35 PM

WA

*“ Ann was a wonderful support, advocate, and friend. She will truly be missed, but the impact she had on me, our teachers, and association will be forever felt. We are truly thankful to have known her and worked along side her. In solidarity, Warren Education Association*

**Warren Education Association** - January 13, 2021 at 04:24 PM



*“ May they both rest in peace and standing next to the hand of God. Blessings to their beloved family. I am so sorry for your loss.*



**Jennifer Barber** - January 13, 2021 at 04:23 PM

KM

“ *Kate Miller lit a candle in memory of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins*



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**Kate Miller** - January 13, 2021 at 04:19 PM

KM

*Ann will always be with me. She was force. A fellow believer in teachers, students and their needs. She made all of us privileged enough to know her, better in every way.*

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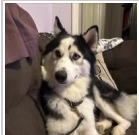
**Kate Miller** - January 13, 2021 at 04:22 PM

VA

“ *It was a pleasure knowing Ann I had the pleasure of meeting her when I first became President of AFSCME local 661 she was the rap for the IEA, always had good advice to give me I will dearly miss her and my thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family*

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**Vincent L Bibbs President AFSCME** - January 13, 2021 at 04:16 PM



“ *Ann you will be truly missed. You helped me so much over the years as an educator. You will always be remembered. God bless and praying for the family.*



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**Kat Nicholson** - January 13, 2021 at 03:58 PM

SL

“ Ann was a dear coworker/good friend. She was a fearless advocate for public education and educators. She can be characterized as compassionate, generous, caring, dedicated and reliable. Ann had personal integrity and demonstrated humility in her personal Christian walk. She leaves us blessed by her unique qualities and principles. She has left all of us better for having known her. She will always live in our minds and hearts as an awesome co-worker and our friend. I am going to miss her so very much. I'm going to miss her saying to me "what's up princess". Our hearts are broken and won't easily mend but our memories of her will help all of us each day. Rest well my friend.  
Sheila Long



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**Sheila Long** - January 13, 2021 at 01:50 PM

BC

“ Beech Grove CTA purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins.



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**Beech Grove CTA** - January 13, 2021 at 11:31 AM

KC

“ I am so sorry to learn of Ann's and her husband's passing. Ann was a wonderful person who was always available to help others. I will miss her laughter and wit at the bargaining table. My prayers go out to all of the family, but especially to Denise. My heart is breaking for all of you.

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**Kathy Keller, Beech Grove CTA** - January 13, 2021 at 11:00 AM

DI

“ District Council 19 - ISTA purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins.



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**District Council 19 - ISTA** - January 13, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ann Marie Grissom-Wilkins.



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January 12, 2021 at 07:03 PM

GL

“ Ann was a wonderful friend and colleague. She was generous with her time and was always helping her students and their families. As an advocate for educators and education, she was a fearless warrior. Her laughter was infectious. She was a devoted loving mother, aunt, sister, and daughter. You have left a hole in our hearts. The memories that we shared with you will be cherished. Rest well my dear friend.

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**Gretchen Lampe** - January 12, 2021 at 06:46 PM

JL

“ *My dear coworker/friend, you will forever be remembered. Ann had such a Big heart & so much Love for us all. We had many great times & conversations, she will be sorely missed. Rest well my friend, rest well. Family you are all in my thoughts & prayers.*

*Missing you already, Joann Lowery*

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**Joann Lowery** - January 12, 2021 at 02:55 PM