



Chun Mei "Vicky" Buff

March 4, 1945 - December 18, 2020

Chun Mei "Vicky" Buff (Shih), 75, of Arkansas, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2020 at the home of her daughter in Houston, Texas. Vicky was born on March 4, 1945 in Taipei, Taiwan.

Vicky's biological father, a member of the well-known Soong family, was an attorney and her biological mother, Chen, Ju Hua, was a Chinese Opera singer. Vicky was adopted at a young age by her loving parents, Ko, Yang Shing and Ko-Shih, Hsien and Vicky was given her adopted mother's family name (Shih). Her adoptive father, Ko, Yang Shing, was a well-known chef and caterer in Taipei. She often assisted her father in preparing dishes for these large catered banquets. Her adoptive mother, Ko-Shih, Hsien, was a devoted homemaker and mother. Vicky had a very strong bond and greatly loved her adoptive parents and siblings, and was fortunate as well to have a relationship with her biological parents and siblings. Vicky graduated from High School at 17, and began working for the China Post Newspaper as an English language typesetter. Shortly after, she met her loving husband, David Buff, in Taipei while he was stationed in Taiwan with the US army. They dated for three years and married when she was 20 years old. Vicky and David relocated to the U.S. shortly after marriage to begin their life together.

After relocation to San Antonio, Texas her first daughter, Carole, was born. Later they moved to Dallas, TX where she had two more daughters, Teresa

and Karla. She was a stay at home mother devoting her time to raising her young daughters. After moving to Houston, Texas, she started her in-home child care business and continued nurturing young babies and toddlers for over 20 years. The many children and their families became very close and have continued to stay in touch over the years. Even though she came to the U.S. at a young age, Vicky, her husband, and daughters were able to make many extended trips back to Taiwan through the years. These visits allowed her the opportunity to introduce her daughters to Chinese customs and traditions as well as favorite foods.

Once her daughters were grown and graduated from college; she and her husband retired and relocated to Mountain Home, Arkansas. During her retirement years, she spent her time volunteering, traveling, gardening, cooking and spending time with her family. She enjoyed volunteering for the Mtn. Home Food Basket, the Master Gardener Club and volunteering over 20 years at the Baxter Regional Medical Center Bargain Box.

Vicky's passion for cooking started at a young age while working with her father's catering business. Vicky loved spending her time in the kitchen and outdoors working in her garden and taking care of her plants. She was a master gardener and a member of the Baxter County Master Gardener club. She competed in the Horticulture exhibits yearly in the Baxter County Fair, and was most proud of the time she won 1st place for "Best of Show" of her Chinese winter melon. Her cooking passion was passed down to her daughter, Carole.

Vicky and her husband shared a love for traveling and eating their way around the world. Tasting all of the new and unique flavors of different cultural dishes. They traveled to places such as Germany, England, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Mexico, Korea, China, Thailand, Canada, Taiwan as well as most of the states in the US.

Chun Mei (Vicky) Buff was a caring, loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. If you had the privilege of meeting Vicky, you made an immediate friend. She made friends with everyone, everywhere she went. She was the most compassionate, selfless, patient, loving and giving person. She would always put other's needs before her own.

After a year and a half of fighting Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, she lost the battle she had so courageously fought. No matter how bad she felt or how sick her treatments made her feel; she always stayed positive and never complained.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, David Buff; her daughters, Carole (Michael) Strachan, Teresa (Waymon) Votaw, and Karla (Dave) Ehlis; her brother Ko, Shih Ring and his wife Liu, Hsiu-Chen "Jenny" and their children Ko, Yi-Tung "Yvonne", Ko, Zih-Shian "Mimi", and Ko, "Hank" and Ko, "Hans"; her sister Ko, Bie-Lien; and five grandchildren; Maksim Strachan, Anna Votaw, Christian Votaw, Taylor Ehlis, and Elizabeth Ehlis.

The Funeral Mass will be held Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 1:30 PM at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, Texas 77079, the Reverend R. Troy Gately, Celebrant.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to MD Anderson for the care they provided Vicky during her treatments for the past year. In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable donation to MD Anderson. Your donation will go towards helping with further research in finding a cure for Lymphoma.

For direct access and convenience,
you may donate online to the link below:
<http://mdacc.convio.net/goto/chunmeibuff>

Or if you prefer to mail a donation (checks/no cash), please mail to:

MD Anderson Cancer Center– Fundraise to End Cancer

P.O. Box 4470

Houston, TX 77210-4470

Please add to check memo:

Code: fec20r

P2PCONV:1410069

Cemetery Details

Baxter Memorial Garden

25 CO Rd 27
Mountain Home , AR 72653

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

DEC **29**. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Tribute Wall



“ *Chun Mei "Vicky" Buff*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Chun Mei "Vicky" Buff*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Chun Mei "Vicky" Buff*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Chun Mei "Vicky" Buff*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Chun Mei and I shared friendship as Master Gardeners. I have many delightful memories of her friendship, of her sharing her plant knowledge as well as her plants. From lemon grass to hibiscus flowers. Always a warm greeting and smiles of welcome whenever visiting her home. Energy, love and stamina and strength. I am glad to have shared a bit of her life. Daughters be proud of your Mother...a special woman. My best to David. We only shared moments of greetings here and there during our Master Gardener times. Be joyful and hold her close to your heart. We are each richer because of Vicky.*

Jacqueline Leatherman - January 30, 2021 at 12:45 PM

MS

“ When my wife and I came to Mountain Home, Arkansas I would never have expected my wife to find a kindred friend. Vicky was like a mother to Sandy and helped her get acclimated to small town America, since she, like Vicky came from Taiwan. Vicky, however, came to America when there wasn't all the asian stores and restaurants like there are today, so she had to adapt. Having Vicky as a friend made our adaptation to the area so much easier. It was a comfort to have such a kind, funny, knowledgeable, interesting friend who spoke Taiwanese. I think having the chance to speak one's native language to a friend who lives nearby is therapeutic. She was an easy person to get to know. I remember she came to Missouri and visited my mother and my mom loved her too. They both had a love of nature and wildflowers. We will always remember her kindness in helping us get situated. She even found us a perfect house to live in. We always enjoyed visiting her and David in their beautiful house overlooking Lake Norfolk and seeing all the interesting vegetables she grew in her garden such as bitter melons, luffa, gourds, water spinach...Her yard was like a botanical garden. I always figured she could grow cacti in Alaska.

When our kids were young they stayed at Vicky and David's and I remember they came home and they told us how they enjoyed her cooking and their visit and that is saying a lot since they would not stay with anyone else except us.

The passing of Vicky almost seems like the end of an era, we loved her and pray for her speedy admittance to heaven. We are so happy to have had the chance to know her.

Matt Sexauer - December 27, 2020 at 09:34 PM

MS

“ The highlight of any trip to Mtn Home for me was eating Aunt Vicky's famous cooking. I can picture her in my mind; buzzing around with a big smile. Taking care of everyone, making sure everyone had everything they needed, that they felt welcome. She really was the kindest, most thoughtful lady you could know. To Uncle Dave and family- I hope you feel surrounded by much love.

Meline Schaffer - December 23, 2020 at 03:15 PM

SM

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to your entire family. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to hold in your heart.

Sincerely,

Everyone at American Bancor, Bank, Insurance and Trust

Sheri Monroe - December 23, 2020 at 12:38 PM

BS

“ I had the pleasure and honor to meet Vicky when her daughter Carole married my son Michael Strachan. She was the most gracious woman I had the pleasure to meet. Over the years as I came to know her better, with my trips to Texas coinciding with her trips from Arkansas I discovered what a loving and kind person she was. She took us to Chinese food stores and Chinese's restaurants as well as cooking for us. She always told me she liked me because I would eat anything. I will miss seeing her when I come here.

Barbara Strachan

Barbara Strachan - December 23, 2020 at 12:20 PM

DE

“ *Chun Mei lived a beautiful life devoted to her family and others. She was selfless, gracious, and caring. She raised three wonderful daughters, and I am fortunate to be married to one of them (Karla). She will be remembered for her adventurous spirit, her wonderful family meals, her happiness, and her joy in life. She will be missed, and will continue to live on in her daughters, grandchildren, and the many people she touched in her life.*

David Ehlis - December 22, 2020 at 07:48 PM

LL

“ *11 files added to the album Memories Album*



Liang-Yi Lin - December 21, 2020 at 05:37 PM

LL

“ For our annual Chinese New Year's celebration gatherings, Vicky would make the long drive from Mountain Home to Springfield, Missouri and bring with her not only the most delicious homemade Taiwanese dishes and snacks, but also her lovely smiles, warm greetings and fun conversations. We will miss her so very much!



Vicky's friends from Taiwanese Women's Association in Springfield, Missouri

Liang-Yi Lin - December 21, 2020 at 05:34 PM