



## Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman

February 4, 1939 - May 7, 2020

Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman, 81, of New Castle, passed away peacefully in her home on the evening of Thursday, May 7, 2020, following a long and courageous battle with lung cancer.

She was born February 4, 1939, in Mohawk, Indiana, a daughter of the late Raymond McDoniel and Delores (Brooks) Leonard.

Viv was a 1957 graduate of Knightstown High School. She married the love of her life, Donald Bowsman, on November 5, 1965, and together they enjoyed 54 years of companionship. Viv was a Girl Scout Leader, involved with the March of Dimes, and helped tutor children at Westwood Elementary School. She had worked at the State Hospital and also as a cake decorator at Becker's Grocery. Viv was a great cook and homemaker. She loved to bake, was an avid reader, New Castle Trojan Sports fan, and loved sitting out on the porch watching birds, especially bluebirds and cardinals. Her greatest joy was being a part of her grandchildren's events.

Those left to cherish Viv's memory include her loving husband, Don Bowsman; two daughters, Rhonda (Jeff) Bennett of New Castle and Melynda (Kevin) Connelly of Camdenton, MO; three sons, Kevin (Frances) Bowsman, Robert (Karen) Modlin, and Donnie (Alice) Bowsman, all of New Castle; 18 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Gerald (Susan) Leonard

of Knightstown and Bob (Mary) Leonard of Greenfield, along with several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Viv was preceded in death by a son, William "Billy" Modlin, and by a sister, Earla Sue Ertel.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Shelly Hanson officiating. Burial will follow at South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition.

Friends may call from 4 - 8 pm Tuesday at the funeral home. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we must limit those attending visitations to 25 people at a time. Please wear a mask, if possible, and maintain social distance. Thank you for your patience.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association. You may send the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

Vivian wanted to make sure we expressed her appreciation and deep gratitude for those who saved her life at the New Castle Basketball game, Joyce Murphy, Heather Turner, Brittanie Tabor Lee, Samantha Lowhorn, Alicia Wardlow, and Isaac Yousak. Also, the family would like to give a special thank you to Beth Bennett for her wonderful care of Vivian.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.

# Cemetery Details

## South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.  
New Castle, IN 47362

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 12.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

## Service

**MAY 13.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Vivian was a very dear person. It has been a long tie since I have seen her. But, she was never forgotten and will never be forgotten. Sending prayers for comfort as you make your journey without her.

*Sending love and hugs,  
Carol R Elliott Smith*



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**Carol R. Smith** - June 16, 2020 at 01:35 AM



“ 2 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - May 12, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ I have so many fond memories of both Don and Viv as friends and neighbors growing up. I remember being a little girl and helping Viv pull weeds in her flowers (probably interfering more than helping) and her coaching me about getting those dandelions by the roots! I always remember her spending time in the yard. I remember her smile, her laugh, her wit. She brought the book mobile to our neighborhood, it seemed. She took stacks of books. That made such an impression on me. I have never met more generous people. Don and Viv both always attended our important family events when they could and were great friends to my parents. That always impressed me, too. I didn't know Viv was ill and was surprised and deeply saddened by news of her passing. My thoughts and love are with Don and the kids and the rest of the family.



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**Amanda Owens-Olson** - May 12, 2020 at 08:41 PM



“ *Three Cross Throw* was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.

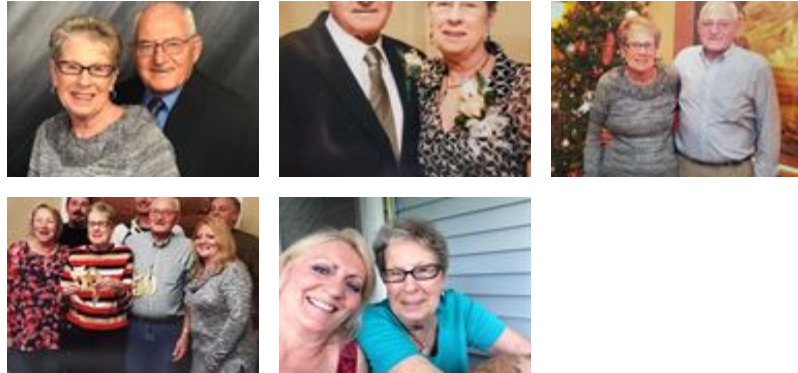


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May 12, 2020 at 06:49 PM



“ 180 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - May 12, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.



May 12, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.



May 12, 2020 at 02:04 PM

KB

“ *Kristin Bennett purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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**Kristin Bennett** - May 12, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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May 11, 2020 at 07:56 PM

JH

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. We are keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers.*



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**Josh and April Hallatt** - May 11, 2020 at 07:55 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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May 11, 2020 at 05:37 PM



“ *Loving Grace was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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May 11, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ *The Mangus Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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**The Mangus Family** - May 11, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ *The Indiana Small and Rural Schools Assoc. Board purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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**The Indiana Small and Rural Schools Assoc. Board** - May 11, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ *Don and family, we was so sorry to read about Viv, she was a very sweet lady. Sending our sympathy and prayers to all. May God wrap his loving arms around each of you and give you the strength to endure this sad day and the days ahead.*



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**Ron and Donna Ragan** - May 10, 2020 at 04:51 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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May 10, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ *I could never put into words what is in my heart today as it is Mother's Day and some VERY SPECIAL people to my heart are experiencing their first Mothers Day without their dear Mother. She was my Mother In-Law, but also a friend. She NEVER treated me like an In-Law. I will miss her dearly and our talks we had and getting to see her sitting beside the love of her life as they watch their Great Children with such pride at the many sporting events as they did their Grandkids years ago. My prayers are with you all you guys today*



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**Frances** - May 10, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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May 10, 2020 at 11:14 AM

VM

“ I have so many! Viv was such a good friend! I am going to miss her so very much!

Our many times eating at Ponderosa! We felt the same way, we never got a salad, we went straight to the good stuff, meat, mashed pot. Green beans, and dessert!

Viv I will miss that beautiful smile! That beautiful voice singing Sweet Caroline at the basketball games!

I love you so much, my heart is broken, until we meet again sweet lady!

Vicki Moles

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Vicki Moles - May 09, 2020 at 10:32 PM

AN

Gerald and Susie I am so sorry for the loss of your sister. Siblings are so special.

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Alberta Nelson - May 10, 2020 at 05:15 PM

RB

She thought the world of you. She loved sitting with you at the games. Thanks for all that you and John have done for Mom & Dad 💕

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Rhonda Bennett - May 10, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.



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May 09, 2020 at 02:04 PM

WS

“ *with love from James, Anna, Mila, and Stormi purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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**with love from James, Anna, Mila, and Stormi** - May 09, 2020  
at 11:24 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



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May 08, 2020 at 09:57 PM

SC

“ *Rhonda and Family,  
We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your sweet mother. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.  
Steve and Susanne Chriswell*

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**Susanna Chriswell** - May 08, 2020 at 08:34 PM

RB

*Thank you!*

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**Rhonda Bennett** - May 10, 2020 at 08:58 PM

FB

“ From Phyllis Cherry, Juanita, Craig & Bobette purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.



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**From Phyllis Cherry, Juanita, Craig & Bobette** - May 08, 2020  
at 07:03 PM

PH

“ A beautiful soul and a good friend for many years as our two boys grew up and got into so much mischief together. Many long talks about family and our lives were shared. She will be missed by many in the neighborhood. Thanks for being a friend many years ago. Prayers for Don and the family for peace in the difficult times now and in the future.  
Dave and Pat Hartwig

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**Pat Hartwig** - May 08, 2020 at 06:50 PM

RB

Thanks Pat!! And for all of those pizzas!

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**Rhonda Bennett** - May 10, 2020 at 09:03 PM

DC

“ Dennis & Tracy Chambers purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.



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**Dennis & Tracy Chambers** - May 08, 2020 at 05:11 PM

JO

“ *John & Donna Osborne lit a candle in memory of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman*



John & Donna Osborne - May 08, 2020 at 05:05 PM

MB

“ *Michael Shane Bowsman purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman.*



Michael Shane Bowsman - May 08, 2020 at 04:52 PM

LJ

“ *Linda & Monty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Vivian Ann "Viv" Bowsman*



Linda & Monty Johnson - May 08, 2020 at 04:35 PM

MW

“ *Rhonda and I and many others hung out together as we were all neighborhood kids. What an awesome group we were/are! Viv was the sweetest/kindest lady I knew. Anytime I saw Viv growing up she Always had a smile on her face. You will be sadly missed sweet lady! May God give the family Strength during this difficult time. Hugs & Prayers to all of you.*

Marilyn Ward-Humbles - May 08, 2020 at 04:21 PM

RB

*Marilyn we sure had a great childhood. Now to think my son & family live across the street on the fields we played in.*

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**Rhonda Bennett** - May 10, 2020 at 09:01 PM

MW

“*Aunt Viv was a great lady. when my mom was going through her cancer treatment us kids couldn't be at home with her and dad. Aunt Viv and uncle Don took me in while mom was doing chemo. I can remember her cooking something with onion i remembered her ask me if I would try it i said no! When ask why I said I don't like onions. Thank you Aunt viv for taken care of me I Love you you will be missed. Love you all.*”

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**Mary Bowsman Wilson** - May 08, 2020 at 02:25 PM