



## Marjory E. Clayton

February 24, 1929 - April 28, 2017

Marjory E. Clayton, age 88 of Highland, IL, died Friday, April 28, 2017, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL.

She was born on Sunday, February 24, 1929, in Centralia, IL, the daughter of Harl and Louetta (nee Dawson) Hicks.

On Saturday, December 26, 1953, she married Richard D. Clayton at First Baptist Church-Highland, IL, who survives.

She was a member of Evangelical United Church of Christ, Highland, IL; EvUCC Choral Director for 25 years; Southern Illinois Choral Director Assoc; Madison County Fair Board (Vice President); Highland Country Club; Order of Eastern Star Highland Chapter #524; Highland Illinois Area School Alumni Assoc. (Committee Member); Red Hats Ladies; Southern Illinois Nursery Association; Ducks Unlimited (Committee Chair); Illinois Federation of Business & Professional Womens (BPW)-Highland (Women of Achievement Award 2009).

Her passing on April 28th leaves a giant hole in our hearts, We will miss her beautiful singing voice, that laugh and her unconditional love... She was a small woman with a big heart the size of a mountain. She greeted everyone with an open mind and an open heart. She took in stray animals and met life

with passion and enthusiasm, always eager to know what other adventures lay around the next bend.

Born in Centralia, IL, reared in Decatur, IL, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education with an emphasis on voice - a Minor in English & Sociology attending both Milliken University and graduated from Greenville College.

Marjory taught Junior High School English from 1952 to 1970 when she became the new Highland High School Choral Director until she retired in 1984. Her music students were such a very special part of her career at Highland High School - all the choral classes, Swing Choirs and competitive State Music competitions. She never forgot a name of a student and kept in touch with many of them over the years.

Feeling they were both too young to "retire", Marjory and her husband, Richard started second careers opened Chipwood Acres Tree & Plant Nursery along the Grantfork Road in 1985, retiring in 2011. She was frequently a soloist at weddings, funerals and Highland Summer Band Concerts. She enjoyed progressive dinners, bus tours, social gatherings, cruises (Australia, Alaska, Caribbean, Panama Canal) and trips to England.

Survivors include:

Husband - Richard D. Clayton, Highland, IL

Daughter - Patrice A. "Patty" (Chris) Lockwood, Lenexa, KS

Son - Warren D. (Robyn) Clayton, Saint Ann, MO

Grandchild - Matthew D. Clayton, Leavenworth, KS

Grandchild - Benjamin R. (Valerie) Clayton, Saint Louis, MO

Grandchild - Curtis M. Jaeger, San Francisco, CA

Great Grandchild - Isaiah Robert Clayton, Saint Louis, MO.

She was preceded in death by:

Father - Harl L. Hicks

Mother - Louetta Hicks (nee Dawson)

Sister - Pearl Rethard  
Sister - Martha Whitlock  
Brother - Ray Hicks

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Thursday, May 04, 2017, at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland, IL.

Memorial service will be at 11:00 AM on Thursday, May 04, 2017, at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland, IL., with Rev. Christopher W. Hill, Senior Pastor, officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriner's Hospital for Children; Evangelical United Church of Christ or Highland Animal Shelter.

# Tribute Wall

MJ

“ My sincere condolences to the family. We were out of town and could not pay our respects to the family. Mrs. Clayton was one of the first teachers I had back in the early 50s at the old Jenne School in Beaver Prairie. I can still hear her wonderful voice as she taught us early music. I remember her as being 'strict' or so I thought - but she was a wonderful teacher and taught us the basics of hard work and great study techniques - something that has stuck with us all these years. Every time I ran into her she always had a kind word - and she remembered me - after all these years. Heaven has gained a wonderful teacher. Rest in peace - my favorite teacher - Marjory Clayton! Loved you.....Mae Drake Jacober

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**Mae Jacober** - May 08, 2017 at 10:52 AM

ES

“ I remember she was more strict and tough on us as our high school choir teacher--but then we got a lot of 1's and superior's!! She was a tremendous and courageous lady..

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**Elise Schumacher** - May 06, 2017 at 04:50 PM

JH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Marge's passing. As a new teacher, she was an outstanding mentor, colleague and friend. She showed me what high school teaching was all about. I will always be indebted to her for her guidance at the beginning of my teaching career.

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**John Heath** - May 04, 2017 at 02:51 PM

VV

“ I still can't hear the Hollies song "He ain't heavy- he's my brother without thinking of Marge and our great choir group (graduating class of 1974). Rest In Peace Marge!

Vicki Neathery Vik - May 03, 2017 at 08:25 PM



“ Sharing fond memory that lasted, for many years. Margie was instrumental in helping me develop my lifelong love of books and a passion for the English language as well as a passion for working with books in a library setting. I remember her clearly teaching her seventh grade class while I one of her students worked in the library daily and her stopping by her window in the classroom and making sure all was well as I was in the library working alone. She was indeed a special lady in my life and remained as friends later after school was completed for me. Hardest thing I ever had to do was as an adult was to call her Marge.

Sandy Heim Schleper - May 01, 2017 at 10:36 PM

PL

“ Pam Ulrich Lecerf lit a candle in memory of Marjory E. Clayton



Pam Ulrich Lecerf - May 01, 2017 at 07:17 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Marjory E. Clayton.*



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May 01, 2017 at 04:11 PM



“ *Carol Schmitt MacKnight lit a candle in memory of Marjory E. Clayton*



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**Carol Schmitt MacKnight** - May 01, 2017 at 10:16 AM



“ *Her influence began my life in singing. Thank you, Mrs. C! 💕*

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**Brenda Harris** - May 01, 2017 at 05:17 AM



“ *Marjory Clayton was another step to my love of music. She helped me get into private lessons and took me to State competitions! We spent a week in Chicago at State Choir! I enjoyed being a Soprano in her choir. She helped me grow as a musician! Thanks Mrs C. for always letting me be a part of your music! I'll always remember you!*

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**Ellen (ellie) (Niggli) Mitchell** - April 30, 2017 at 09:06 PM

EC

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to the Clayton family. I had the privilege of playing for her choral classes all through my High School years. That was truly a delightful experience! She provided great training and a wonderful foundation in playing for both choirs and soloists. I still enjoy playing for choirs thanks to her training, and I certainly learned to do so with the very best! Special thanks to you Marj for all of those wonderful years! We will miss you! Sending our sympathy and aloha from Hawaii.  
Ellen Caringer

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**Ellen Caringer** - April 30, 2017 at 07:37 PM

KB

“ What a great teacher! She made sure her love of music was contagious. Yes, you made a difference!

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**Kate Broadhurst** - April 30, 2017 at 06:36 PM

JN

“ My deepest sympathy to everyone. I will always remember her compassion for teaching and I appreciated her gentle demeanor. God will wrap his arms around the family as support in this sad time. She's now with Him and is new again! What a great thing!

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**Jim Nickerson** - April 30, 2017 at 02:37 PM

GS

She was instrumental in my love for English and determining my career. A great teacher! Later, she helped my husband and I with our landscaping needs with her expertise. My sympathy to her family.

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**Gale Starks** - May 03, 2017 at 11:49 PM

BD

“ *Becky Decesaro lit a candle in memory of Marjory E. Clayton*



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**Becky Decesaro** - April 30, 2017 at 12:59 PM

C(

“ *I was the president of the high school choir her last year of teaching. We won 1st place at state that year. I remember the choir room as a fun and caring place to be because of Mrs. Clayton. Thanks for believing in us. Rest in peace.*

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**Connie (Korte)** - April 30, 2017 at 07:56 AM

NK

“ *Nancee Carrillon Knebel lit a candle in memory of Marjory E. Clayton*



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**nancee carrillon knebel** - April 29, 2017 at 11:04 PM

CM

“ *Cecilia Maerz lit a candle in memory of Marjory E. Clayton*



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**Cecilia Maerz** - April 29, 2017 at 09:52 PM

DR

“ We are so sorry of our very good friend with a heart of gold passing. We will miss the evenings out dining with them and the euchre games following. She will be missed by many. Dale & Rita Rinderer

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**Dale & Rita Rinderer** - April 29, 2017 at 09:12 PM

DR

“ Dale & Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Marjory E. Clayton



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**Dale & Rita Rinderer** - April 29, 2017 at 09:01 PM

JB

“ June Barney lit a candle in memory of Marjory E. Clayton



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**June Barney** - April 29, 2017 at 08:17 PM