



## Tami Sue Gripka

November 1, 1958 - January 31, 2023

Tami Sue (Boman) Gripka was born Nov. 1, 1958, in Wichita, KS to Dan and Carolyn (Palmer) Boman. Tami was the second of 6 children born to Dan and Carolyn.

In 1975, Tami married Douglas Gripka. Together they would create a family that continues to carry their spirit of love and unity. Four children grew in her tummy and three grew in her heart. Four children she created, three children she chose. Brandi was born in 1975, married Scott Burt in 1994 and gave her four grandsons that stood by her until her final moments. She loved Jordan, Evan, Ian (Reba), and Jackson more than she could often put into words. Jami was born in 1977 and married Bryant Lawrimore in 2002. Jami and Bryant brought Seth, Jeremiah, and Jacob into her life. She was so proud of their accomplishments and their love for their mom. Seth blessed Tami with her only great-grandchildren. Presley, Rowan, and Bently were undoubtedly one of the things she was most proud of. She often talked about “Ms. P or Piddle Pot”. She took every opportunity to take 5 generation pictures with them. Tim-Bob was born in 1979 and married Molly-Bob in 2009. Tim and Molly’s world travels gave Tami reasons to visit places she probably never would have imagined. Tim and Molly gave Tami Lula and Willa. These two girls held a special place in Granny’s heart that was evident each time they Skyped or the girls came to visit. Isaac was born in 1981 and he gave Granny her first grand daughter. Marley was adored and doted on. Nolan had a

special connection with Granny when it came to his love for investments. They always had important business to discuss. While Zac, Philip and Uriah had long been a part of the family, it became official in 1999. Zac gave our family Rodi in 2014. This blue-eyed squirrely boy gave Granny a run for her money but she could always count on him for big hugs and sweet smiles. Uriah married Eugenia in 2022 and together they added Liam and Wyatt. Philip married Amy in 2022 and Xavier became another one of Granny's boys. Tami was so proud of her children. She laughed with them. She celebrated new homes, new jobs, and new adventures with each of them. She sat with them during times of sadness and during times of uncertainty. Tami attended graduations and weddings with her children but her most deeply treasured moments were being present at the births of her grand kids. Tami's grandchildren were truly the light of her life. She would often say she wasn't sure what kind of parent she was until she saw how well her grandkids turned out. She loved the sound of the door opening and the laughs/giggles of the kids echoing through her home. Tami beamed when her grands would sit and sing "Grey Kitty" or take a bath in her oversized tub. She was tender and affectionate when she held each of them as infants.

Tami traveled extensively, setting foot on 5 continents. She saw beautiful beaches and majestic mountains, but she always returned to her "home", Pierce City, Missouri. After years of living in Appleton City, Missouri and Warsaw, Missouri, she was happy to have her dad help build her dream home just a few miles from her siblings. She enjoyed family parties at her brother Danny's (Frances) home, sharing dances to Brown Eyed Girl with her sisters, Teresa Knott (Tommy), Jill Kaiser (Mike), Jennifer Brown, and her brother, Joe (Pam). She looked forward to any reason to celebrate with her family. It truly brought her joy to see the people she loved the most in the same room. Through periods of grief, the loss of her nephew, Erik Boman, the loss of her father, Dan Boman, and the passing of her brother-in-law, Tommy Knott, Tami and her family gathered, comforted by the presence of the "Boman Clan".

Tami loved sharing “creek time” with her family. Campouts and BBQ’s by the creek, laying in the sun with her sisters and daughters filled her with joy. Watching her nieces and nephews splash nearby, catching minnows and building dams was the culmination of everything she had worked for.

Tami valued education. She attended college while raising children and working as a fry cook in Warsaw, Missouri. She sacrificed so many things to pursue a career in education. She balanced family and work to complete a Bachelor’s Degree, a Master’s Degree, and her LPC certification. She pushed others to find their paths by attending college. When it came to furthering education and career choices, Tami encouraged each of her kids and grandkids to pursue their dreams by saying, “Do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life”.

Tami chose a career that blessed her as well as hundreds of others. Her teaching career spanned a period of over 3 decades. She taught 2nd grade and elementary gifted and talented in Cole Camp, Missouri. She briefly taught high school in the Skyline Missouri School District. Tami worked as a guidance counselor and alternative school director for Seneca Public Schools. She finished her career and retired as an elementary school guidance counselor for Pierce City Schools.

Even after her retirement, Tami continued to give back to her community through the Food for Thought Backpack Program. She partnered with other community organizations to provide nutritious meals to students over weekend breaks from school. She and Doug also worked with Benton and Newton Counties in Missouri to provide foster homes for nearly 100 children. They created meaningful relationships with many children who have remained in touch over the years.

While Tami had relationships with her family and her community, the love of her life and best friend was Doug. They married young and spent nearly 50 years doing life together. They held hands, laughed, cried and weathered every storm. Together Doug and Tami faced struggles but vowed to stay until they laid the other in the arms of their waiting savior. Their love for each other was deep, unconditional and evident in the lives of their children and grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at the First Baptist Church in Pierce City, MO from 12:00 PM until service time at 2:00 PM. Funeral services will begin at 2:00 PM with Pastor Greg Hagebusch officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Food for Thought Backpack Program. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City, MO.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
21819 Hwy 97  
Pierce City, MO 65723

## Funeral Service

FEB 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
21819 Hwy 97  
Pierce City, MO 65723

# Tribute Wall



“ *Tami Sue Gripka*

October 09, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *Doug, I remember having a wonderful conversation with you over a year ago at Dollar General here in Monett. I've appreciated your beautiful singing voice for several years. May our Lord and memories bring comfort to you in the loss of your dear wife.*



**Tom and Yvonne Kerr** - February 07, 2023 at 12:07 AM



“ *So sorry to hear about the passing of Tami. Our thoughts are with the family. Frederik Nygaard and family.*



**Mette Nygaard** - February 04, 2023 at 05:53 AM



“ *<a href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518" target="\_blank">Memorial Trees</a> was purchased for the family of Tami Sue Gripka.*

February 04, 2023 at 05:47 AM

BD

“ *Tami was a great friend and encouragement to me as a new born again believer back in 1984. I have always appreciated her and Doug’s encouragement during that time. My heart goes out to all of her family and friends* ❤️

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**Beverly Dennis** - February 03, 2023 at 08:56 AM

RE

“ *Thinking of your family.*

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**Randy and Marsha Eaton** - February 03, 2023 at 08:41 AM

IR

“ *Some smile when one says that God allows angels to work among us. While biblical angels are spirits , we see kindness and support and encouragement thru their instruments. Tami was such a biblical lady and lived out the WORD. Your students and kids and grandkids and Doug will always remember what you did and what you said and smile and miss you terribly. See you upstairs in our precious gift of Heaven.*



*Chaplain Cathy*

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**irene** - February 02, 2023 at 11:16 PM

LR

“ *Mr. Gripka I am truly so sorry for your loss. It is a hard road to travel. Hold tight to your wonderful memories.*

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**Lori Ruark** - February 02, 2023 at 08:42 PM

GS

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Tami. Our prayers & thoughts are with the family. Gary & Jera Swartz

Gary & Jera Swartz - February 02, 2023 at 08:15 PM

RC

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers

Ron and Debbie Creed - February 02, 2023 at 04:45 PM

RC

“ Tami was so special. She was always there there for me growing up. There are so many wonderful memories.



Rosie Shaskey Cheek - February 02, 2023 at 02:13 PM

AN

“ Not only was Tami special to her Grandchildren and Greats, the new generation of cousins loved Tami. Each one has something special with her, from funny nicknames to a funny memory. She was loved by all the little kids and big kids too! ♥♥♥ Andi

Andi - February 02, 2023 at 01:03 PM

JA

Thoughts and prayers are with all of your family

Julie abramovitz

Julie abramovitz - February 02, 2023 at 06:10 PM

CB

“ Charlotte Brady lit a candle in memory of Tami Gripka



Charlotte R Brady - February 02, 2023 at 12:34 PM

SC

“ Love and prayers to everyone Tami touched in her life!!



Susan D Cearley - February 02, 2023 at 11:37 AM

BE

“ I am so very sorry. I know how close your family is. I love you and will be praying for you.

Beverly - February 02, 2023 at 11:36 AM

PA

“ So very sorry for the loss of this sweet lady. Our grandson will miss her dearly. Thoughts and prayers are with the family, Doug, and their children and grands. May God be with you all.



Penny Acheson - February 02, 2023 at 11:30 AM

DB

“ Cousins are our first best friends and Tami will be missed. I cherish all the memories of family gatherings, game nights and traveling.

Debbie Beebe - February 02, 2023 at 10:32 AM

DB

“ Debbie Beebe lit a candle in memory of Tami Gripka



Debbie Beebe - February 01, 2023 at 11:08 PM

JB

Our thoughts & prayers to all the family for peace & comfort! 🙏

John & Agnes Bruner - February 02, 2023 at 10:34 AM

BP

So Sorry For Your Loss Doug she Is With Jesus now No More Pain And Suffering Prayers For You and Family God Bless You And Yours

bob Parks - February 02, 2023 at 03:00 PM

BP

Pauline parks so sorry about your loss she will missed by so many people. Wish we could be there but we are able. Will keep you all in our prayers, we had a lot of memories in Appleton city. We love. You all and will keep you in our prayers.

bob Parks - February 02, 2023 at 03:08 PM

JG

“ She will be missed so much. I will always have memories of us growing up and all the girl cousin trips. Love 💕💕

Julie Garrett - February 01, 2023 at 09:49 PM

TH

“ Loved growing up and being neighbors with her and her family! Have so many memories of sledding down there hill and warming up by the fire afterwards! Prayers of comfort during this very sad time in your lives!



**Tammy L. Hayworth** - February 01, 2023 at 05:50 PM

MV

“ Michael Velten-Heeter lit a candle in memory of Tami Gripka



**Michael Velten-Heeter** - February 01, 2023 at 03:30 PM

BF

*She will be deeply missed by all that she was friends with, her family plus her church family. Prayers and loving thoughts for her husband, children, and grandchildren.*

**Bufford Family** - February 02, 2023 at 08:20 AM

JA

*I worked with Tami at Triway and admired her professional skills and a love for children.*

**Jack Andris** - February 02, 2023 at 06:03 PM

VB

*“We are so sorry to hear of Tami’s passing. Praying for you all.*

**Vikki Branum** - February 02, 2023 at 06:31 PM

LH

*We are very sorry to hear of your loss. Prayers for your family. Benny and Linda Haught*

**Linda Haught** - February 04, 2023 at 10:15 PM