



Vicki Hickman

June 23, 1951 - June 27, 2025

Vicki Jo (Martin) Hickman, 74, of Royal Oak, Michigan, passed away on June 27, 2025, after a hard-fought battle with breast cancer. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, she was a gentle soul and faced her diagnosis with courage until the end. She will be forever missed by all who loved her.

Vicki was born one minute before midnight, on June 23, 1951, in Glendale, California, to the late James C. Martin and Elsie (Hays) Martin. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Lewis Martin, who died serving in the Vietnam War.

In the early 1960s, Vicki moved with her family from California to Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. She graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1969 and then attended Oakland University, graduating with an English degree in 1973. Vicki went on to work at the Detroit Free Press where she met Timothy Hickman, who was brave enough to ask for a date and then persistent enough to ask again a year later. They were married in 1975.

Vicki contained multitudes. She was a selfless, caring mother and "nana", who loved watching her grandkids and listening to their stories, playing endless boardgames, and making them endless snacks. She was a patient, quiet soul whose happiest spot was at her big oak dining table in front of a puzzle or

across from a loved one. She made detailed lists, was constantly looking for new music to be inspired by, and did the crossword everyday...in pen.

Vicki was a free-thinker who had the ability to withhold judgment and offer quiet support and unwavering love. She was staunch in her belief that all people should be treated with kindness and fairness. While she generally played the straight-man to Tim's hilarity, Vicki possessed a witty sense of humor and if provoked could laugh harder (yet also completely silently) than anyone. She enjoyed a proper Spanish coffee, and beating everyone in rummy or poker. Vicki was a loyal and good friend who always looked forward to lunching or going on a girls' trip.

Vicki was the center of the universe to those who loved her. She was a safe place to land for anyone in her orbit, and many felt that she was a second mother who happened to come into their lives at just the right time. Vicki was also spiritual and loved ghost tours, tarot, and psychic readings. Vicki was extremely bright and an avid reader, and she spent countless hours visiting art fairs. She also loved animals, doting on her grand-puppies, and naming all the squirrels and blue jays that she fed in the neighborhood.

Vicki leaves all who loved her at a loss as how to go on without her.

Vicki is survived by her devoted husband of nearly 50 years, Timothy Eugene Hickman of Royal Oak, MI; daughter Jessica (Charles) Lowther of Royal Oak, MI; daughter Amanda (James) D'Angelo of Royal Oak, MI; son Zachary (Kerby) Hickman of Detroit, MI; brother Larry Martin (the late Jack Mills) of Santa Rosa, CA; sister-in-law Mary Angellotti (the late Edward Angellotti) of Jonesville, MI; grandchildren Levi, Lincoln, Hudson, Atlas; and beloved sister in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, including but not limited to: Eva (Mailloux) Stahura of New Port Richey, FL; Margot (Mailloux) Calcut of Grafton, OH; Trude (Bill) Peterson of Negaunee, MI; Judy (Randy) Merrill of

Clarkston, MI; Robin (Melissa) Bahling of Farmington Hills, MI; Peter (Tami) Mantyla of Livonia, MI.

Following cremation, her remains will be entrusted to the family for private disposition and the family will host a memorial in her honor later in the year, with the date to be determined. As Vicki loved all creatures, big and small, donations in her memory are welcomed by the Royal Oak Animal Shelter.

"The past and present wilt—I have fill'd them, emptied them,
And proceed to fill my next fold of the future." Walt Whitman

Tribute Wall



“ *In Loving Memory - LED Lit Musical Water Globe was purchased for the family of Vicki Hickman.*



July 07, 2025 at 08:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vicki Hickman.

July 07, 2025 at 08:54 PM

TM

“ Aunt Vicki entered our lives when my Uncle Tim, a larger than life, father-like figure growing up, began dating and married her. She soon became a fixture of loving care and solidity, a pillar in our mostly flamboyant family. It wasn't easy to get to know her, she was so quiet, but Aunt Vicki's love, consistent and steadfast support was constantly felt and appreciated by all. She was an ever gently present and active, treasured family member, making one and all feel welcome and helping to cook and prepare massive extended family meals we enjoyed at holidays and other occasions; watching my younger cousins or siblings in concert with our bevy of aunts, older cousins, uncles and grandparents; and quietly laughing, nodding--or even vigorously shaking her head "Nope!"--in response to the often hilarious, sometimes shocking, always fascinating family, school, or war tales of adventure and mischief which were often (and repeatedly, over the years) told by her beloved husband Tim, their children, Uncle Jerry, my mother Julia, Aunt Sally or Aunt Mary, or one of my brothers, sister or many cousins. I miss Aunt Vicki and send much love to Uncle Tim, cousins Amanda, Zack and Jessica, and all the many, many relatives and friends and family who loved her and were graced by her steady, lifelong outpouring of love and affection.

Tim "KT" Mantyla - July 02, 2025 at 09:49 AM

LS

“ I am so saddened to hear about Vicki’s passing. I have been friends with Tim since we worked together at the Detroit Free Press in the 1970s. That’s also when I met Vicki, who was one of the nicest, kindest people I have ever known. I remember attending Tim and Vicki’s wedding, and thinking that Tim had over achieved in the romance department. But 50 years later, it’s apparent they were made for each other. My condolences to Tim, Jessica, Amanda and Zack. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Len Singer

Len Singer - July 01, 2025 at 08:27 PM

TM

Thank you so much for opening another beautiful window into the life of my beloved aunt who was so present in my extended family, and made such a big impact with much love, so quietly (and efficiently)!

Tim "KT" Mantyla - July 02, 2025 at 10:04 AM

AM

“ Uncle Tim, Jessica, Amanda, Zach & family, please accept our deepest sympathy on your loss. What a beautiful obituary for a beautiful, kind and lovely person. I am sure you will all feel such a huge void in your lives. For a quiet person, she made a big impact. You are all in our prayers!
Much Love, Andrea & Jim Mertz

andrea mertz - July 01, 2025 at 12:38 PM

TM

Thank you Andi and Jim for a beautiful comment on our beautiful, loving aunt we will all miss and remember dearly.

Tim "KT" Mantyla - July 02, 2025 at 09:56 AM

CP

This is Cindy Plumley writing, John Jr.'s wife. We were so, so sad to hear about Aunt Vicki. What a huge loss for all of her family and friends, and the world, really. She is such a beautiful woman, inside and out. Every single time I saw her at a family gathering, she was warm, loving, welcoming. I never had a beautiful extended family like John does, and I SO appreciate John's family. I loved watching Aunt Vicki with her family the most - her husband, children, grandchildren. She adored all of you, obviously!!! She always looked full of joy to me, and not shy about passing joy along. I loved being with her - I know she will be BEYOND missed by you, and we are so sorry.

Cindy Plumley - July 07, 2025 at 08:42 PM