



Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Ph.D.

April 13, 1934 - February 22, 2025

Ann O'Quinn Young, Ph.D., 90, of Kearney, passed away February 22, 2025, at CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Memorial services will be on Saturday, April 5, at 1:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church in Kearney with Pastor Clint Cozier officiating, and reception for all attendees to follow. A private family burial will take place at Kearney Cemetery.

Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young, Ph.D., was born April 13, 1934, in Waycross, Georgia. She had a happy childhood growing up in Patterson, Georgia, with two brothers, Billy and Jimmy, and lots of cousins and neighbors to play with. She attended all twelve grades in Patterson, graduating as valedictorian.

Ann attended Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, before transferring to the University of Georgia in Athens, where she earned a degree in history with a professional teaching certificate. She then taught at North Fulton High School in Atlanta before returning to UGA, where she earned a Ph.D. in History. In 1965, Ann joined the faculty in the Department of History at Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska – Kearney). She taught courses in Western Civilization and Modern Europe. She served on numerous committees and the Faculty Senate, being elected Secretary, Vice President, and President during the 1990s.

On August 18, 1968, Ann married fellow faculty member Robert (Bob) Wm.

Young at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jesup, Georgia. They had two daughters, Abbie and Leslie.

Ann retired from UNK in August of 2000. After retirement, she continued to stay active in P.E.O. Chapter AS of Kearney, Presbyterian Women, and Delta Kappa Gamma. She served on the Session of First Presbyterian Church and chaired the Worship and Music Committee. She stayed connected with friends and colleagues through bridge and book clubs. Ann also enjoyed time with her family across the United States.

Ann is survived by her husband, Bob; daughter, Leslie; sons-in-law, Eric Stacey and Mike Zaladonis; sister-in-law, Dosia O'Quinn; nephews, Kevin (Jan) and Jeff (Niki) O'Quinn and Evan (Bethanie) Roberts; nieces, Donna (Gary) Patterson and Kim (Chet) Robson; and brother-in-law, Joe Roberts.

Ann is preceded in death by daughter, Abigail (Young) Zaladonis (deceased May 5, 2024); parents, Foster and Pearl O'Quinn; brothers, William and James O'Quinn; sisters-in-law, Lorraine O'Quinn and Linda Roberts; and niece, Stephanie Roberts.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 5. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Ph.D..*



April 04, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Ph.D..*



April 02, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ *Love, Eddie & Jenny Medellin purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Ph.D..*



Love, Eddie & Jenny Medellin - March 21, 2025 at 01:52 AM



“ *Love, Eddie & Jenny Medellin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Ph.D..*

Love, Eddie & Jenny Medellin - March 21, 2025 at 01:52 AM

TJ

“ *The Robsons & Joe purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Ph.D..*



The Robsons & Joe - March 18, 2025 at 03:41 PM

WB

“ *With love, Evan and Bethanie purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Ph.D..*



With love, Evan and Bethanie - March 09, 2025 at 01:21 PM

GO

“ 🙏💕🇺🇸 No Better Time To Pay Tribute To Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Than On International Women's Day 🙏💕🇺🇸 i Have Really Struggled With What To Say About A Fine Southern Lady And Classy Professional Historian And Strong Smart Woman Teacher, Whom i Truly Did Deeply Respect And Admire. One Of Those Ladies Who Inspired You And Who You Aspired To Be Like. AND i Wanted To Be Like My Many Times Over College Professor Dr. Ann Young. Now People, There Was A Woman Meant To Stand With The Best On International Women's Day. She Was A Classic Professor And Professional, Who Did It With The Most Ladylike Demeanor - A Powerful And Confident Female Presentation That Was Something For A Wannabe, Like Me, To Pay Attention To And Take Notes On, And Folks, i Cried When i Learned Ann O'Quinn Young Was Gone. We Stayed In Touch, On Occasion, For About 50 Years. There Didn't Seem To Be Much Reason For Her To Remember me, But She Did. i Never Shined In The World That Ann Lived In Like She Did. Ann Young Will ALWAYS Be A Bright Spot In The History That Exists In This Gurl's Mind 🙏💕🇺🇸 On International Women's Day, Well, SHE Did It Right And Ann Elizabeth O'Quinn Young Is A Tribute To Women Everywhere 💕

🙏💕🇺🇸 goldie 🧑🏻♀️ True Gem GirlFriends Consulting 🇺🇸💕🙏
Saturday, March 8th, 2025.

Goldie - March 08, 2025 at 09:12 PM

CL

“ I will always remember Ann as a magnificent colleague and a wonderful person. She gave me the tour of Kearney when I interviewed for my job at UNK and made the town seem like a wonderful place to live. As a fellow historian, she was gifted and funny, but above all kind. Early on, she gave my daughter a wonderful gift of *Illustrated Bible Stories for Christmas* that she cherished and read over and over. Many years later, Ann also befriended my mother after she moved to Kearney and was one of the last people to visit her before she passed. I am so sorry that I did not know she was ill, I would absolutely have come to see her and I regret it deeply. I had literally just been thinking about her the day before I heard this sad news.

Carol Lilly

Carol Lilly - March 06, 2025 at 04:45 PM

JB

“ Ann was a marvelous teacher and storyteller. She demonstrated a wealth of historical facts and described cultural examples to students. Ann made history come alive and helped students to see evidence that history and cultural history will always be important and pertinent for every age in our civilization.

Ann’s enthusiasm and warm, friendly personality made learning an adventure. Her classes enlightened students and encouraged further study. For my husband and I, her class on Western Civilization created a base we relied upon time after time as we worked in ministry and discussed the church’s role in history. She was a significant factor in my own call to ministry.

Thank you, Bob, and family, for sharing her wit, kindness, vast knowledge, storytelling skills, and commitment to higher education with students for so many years. We can still hear the excitement and southern charm in her voice as she brings civilizations and historical figures to life.

Jenae and Jeff Bauer - March 02, 2025 at 04:01 PM

EB

“ Bob and Leslie,
I am so sorry about Ann. I think of all the lunches, etc that we had with Ann at UNK. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Elaine Batenhorst

Elaine V Batenhorst - March 01, 2025 at 03:35 PM

JP

“ I had Anne as one of my profs in college. She always remembered my name.

Janice Polk - February 28, 2025 at 11:25 AM