



Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg

March 1, 1967 - June 3, 2026

Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg, 59, of Durant, OK (originally from Mt. Ida, AR), passed away on June 3, 2026. She was born on March 1, 1967, to Tommy and Dana (Gatlin) Cosby in Dallas, TX, joining sisters Karen and Pam to complete the family of five. Extended family gatherings occurred frequently with Texas relatives over the holidays and summers, immersed in talkative aunts and uncles and laughing and bickering Susan cousins, all playing board, card, and dice games into the wee hours and/or picnicking and swimming at the Cosby Family Reunion or in the river behind her parents' house.

Susan met the love of her life, Clint Ronnenberg, in 2003 and they were married in 2004 at Central Lutheran Church in Winona, MN. Over the course of four residential moves, including two remodel projects, they built a wonderful life together, making each home their sanctuary from the rest of the world.

Susan grew up in Mt. Ida, AR, graduating from Mt. Ida High School in 1985. She earned a B.A. in English Literature from Hendrix College in 1989, an M.A. in English Literature from Southwestern Missouri State University in 1992, and a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Oklahoma in 2000.

Her professional career was spent in higher education, working in Student Affairs and in Academic Affairs. She was a Residence Life Graduate Assistant

in Southwestern Missouri State University's Freudenberger House. She served as the Director of Galloway Hall and the Assistant Director of Residence Life at Hendrix College from 1992-1994. From 2000-2002, she was Director of the Women's Outreach Center at the University of Oklahoma. She left that position to become a tenure-track faculty member, teaching college courses as she had long planned.

Susan was an English professor at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI for 18 years. She loved working with students and her colleagues. She was recognized as Viterbo's 2008 Teacher of the Year. In 2010 she received the Alec Chui Memorial Scholarship Award. She received a sabbatical in fall 2010, which included travel to Chicago to make use of the Newberry Library's historical collection. Susan's scholarship focused on gender roles, women writers, literary representations of grief, madness, and melancholy in early modern English drama, poetry, and prose and, eventually, narrative devices in modern American television series. Her dissertation at OU, *Resisting Madness: Women's Negotiations with Social Control in Early Modern English Literature* (2000) analyzed hysteria, madness, melancholy, and non-conformist behaviors in the culture of 16th and 17th century England. In 2011, she received a D.B. Reinhart Ethics Institute Fellowship for her project "Exploring Gender Markers and the *Ars Moriendi* Tradition in Selected Works of Mary Sidney Herbert and Katherine Philips."

She authored *Deadwood and Shakespeare: The Henriad in the Old West* (2018, McFarland Press). Her "So Many Chick Flicks: Dean Winchester's Centrifugal Evolution", was included in *Gender and Contemporary Horror in Television* (Emerald Publishing, 2019). In 2019, based on her *Deadwood and Shakespeare* book, her chapter, 'It's the Beauty that Hurts the Most': Rectify as Televisual Novel", was included in the collection *Television Series as Literature* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2022).

In addition to teaching, Susan served in a number of part-time administrative leadership roles, including as a department chair for English, Assistant Dean for the School of Arts and Humanities, and co-director of the Honors Program. In 2020, she moved into full-time administrative work, as Dean of the Undergraduate College at St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona, MN, and from 2022-2026 as the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK.

Susan was involved in the Rotary Club of Durant and served on the boards for the Crisis Control Center and the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival. When Susan wasn't working or volunteering, she could often be found curled up with a cat or dog, immersed in a book, gardening, baking, sewing, or going for walks or drives with Clint. She loved spending time at home with her hubby and their pets, out adventuring on their day trips, and spending time with family and friends. The homelife that she and Clint built together was a happy, peaceful, and quiet sanctuary that served as a necessary counterbalance to her busy and often stressful work responsibilities. Clint's steady and patient devotion was the greatest gift she ever received.

Susan is survived by her loving husband, Clint; her sister, Pam (Cosby) & David Ollie; niece, Olivia Ollie, great-niece, Sadie Lopez; cousins, Janie Brown & Bill Parrill, Polly & Ronnie Bills, Lisa & Bruce Nagy, Sheila Moschak, Carol Floyd, Randy Floyd and Lesley Serrano, Emily Bills, Michael Moschak, Brian Nagy and Andrew Nagy, among others. Susan was preceded in death by her parents, Tommy and Dana, her sister Karen, grandparents, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM Monday June 8, 2026, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Durant, Oklahoma. Reverend Joan Iker will officiate. Interment will follow in Highland Cemetery in Durant. The family will receive

friends at the Funeral Home on Sunday afternoon from 3-5 PM.

Any gifts in Susan's memory can be donated to your local women's center/domestic violence shelter or your local public library. Online condolences can be left at Browns Funeral Home www.brownsfuneralservice.com

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Durant Funeral and Cremation Service.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/ZCSJ2M799BS3929N>

Cemetery Details

Highland Cemetery

1620 Cemetery Rd
Durant, OK

Previous Events

Family and Friends Visitation

JUN 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant
4900 West US Hwy 70
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 920-0393
info@brownsfuneralservice.com
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church
515 Beech Street
Durant, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg*



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - June 06 at 08:43 PM

LG

Clint:

So sorry for your loss. Our thanks prayers are with you! Sending hugs!!

Lori & Pat Gensmer

Lori GENSMER - June 07 at 08:05 AM

BM

Beautiful tribute! Clint thank you for the happy life you shared with her, you were so important to her. Class of 1985 was so proud of our Susan. We will miss her. I know she has peace in heaven.

Bonnie Martin - June 07 at 04:26 PM

SH

“ It was impossible not to love Susan. She was quick with a kind word. She was quick with an invitation. She included and united people personally and professionally. It was always a joy to be near Susan. I loved her honesty, fun-loving spirit, genuine desire to make things better for other people, and unrelenting support for women.

I am lucky to have known Susan. I'll miss her sharp wit, bright laugh, easy smile, and energetic personality.

Sharla Hutchison - June 19 at 05:14 AM

SH

“ Sharla H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.

Sharla H. - June 19 at 04:53 AM

ML

“ Dr. Cosby Ronnenberg was an incredible educator and I still remember attending my first of her courses at Viterbo. She taught me how to dissect a text and truly search for something important in what you read. She encouraged creativity and criticism. I am grateful to have been her student. My heart goes out to her family. I'm so sorry she has left the physical world so suddenly. She touched so many lives and encouraged their minds to grow.

Megan L - June 14 at 10:50 PM

BS

“ Thinking of you all today. I didn't get to see Susan very often as adults, but got to spend time with her when we'd go to Arkansas to special occasions, birthdays, and graduations and the Cosby reunion. She had the best smile and laugh. She was always in my heart and thoughts.

Brenda Cosby Sharp - June 08 at 01:09 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.



June 08 at 11:40 AM



“ 77 files added to the album Gallery of Pictures



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - June 08 at 09:35 AM



“ Gable Gift Box was purchased for the family of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.



June 07 at 03:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.

June 07 at 03:38 PM



“ So sad to hear this news. So many great memories I have with Susan. I had such laughter and fun with this girl and her family during our formative middle and high school years and even up thru college and beyond. She was an amazing person and I am so saddened by her passing. She made my life brighter and better. Prayers and peace to you all. I will always cherish those memories of her.

Chela Sipes - June 07 at 03:28 PM



“ I was one of Susan's students at Viterbo, and we kept in close contact in the years following my graduation. She was a brilliant mind and a beautiful mentor, and the world is less without her. Thank you for everything, Susan.

Julia Baier - June 07 at 02:36 PM

JO

“ Susan was the bright light and leader of the OU Women’s Outreach Center. That’s where we met and I worked with her as the Graduate Assistant. I’m eternally grateful for her positivity and encouragement for all the students but especially the ones that frequented the Center. Her friendship meant the world to me and she demonstrated strength, kindness and intelligence all wrapped up in one amazing woman. May she rest peacefully.

Joyce Oberly - June 06 at 06:02 PM

HN

“ Hien pham (your neighbour) purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.

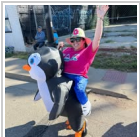


Hien pham (your neighbour) - June 06 at 05:52 PM

PR

“ I. I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know Susan well, however so many Rotarians have shared many wonderful memories. Pam Robinson

Pam Robinson - June 06 at 05:38 PM



“ This is such sad news. She continue to be a bright spot in many of our lives and to all the students she worked with.

Kristin Aguilar - June 06 at 01:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.*

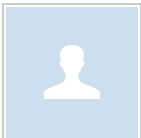


June 06 at 11:36 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.

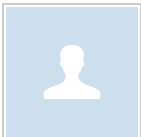
June 06 at 11:36 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.*



June 05 at 07:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Susan Gail Cosby Ronnenberg.

June 05 at 07:25 PM

PM

“ Susan will always hold a special place in my heart. Kind, compassionate, smart and always a joy. I was her guidance counselor and student council sponsor in high school. She was elected student present her senior year and did an exceptional job. She was always organized and on top of projects. I could count on her to run meetings effectively and professionally. She had many lifelong high school friends and I know I was one of them. My heart has an empty spot where my memory of her lay. I will always have love for her and miss her sweet spirit just being out in the world. Rest in peace sweet girl.❤️❤️

Phyllis Martin - June 05 at 04:55 PM

JJ

“ Susan will always have a special place in my heart. She was one of the kindest people I knew, and she will be missed greatly.

Jamie Johnson - June 05 at 04:24 PM

GW

“ What an honor to have gotten to know you. Every single conversation we ever had included two inevitable elements.
1: I learned something
2: I laughed
You will be missed.

George Williams - June 05 at 03:17 PM