

ANITA M. HIGGINBOTHAM



Anita Marie Higginbotham 55, of Hilliard, was received into the loving arms of Jesus on September 2, 2021, at Shands Hospital Jacksonville. Anita was born the second of three children to William and Rita Chiovatero on January 28, 1966 in Morris, Illinois. After graduating from high school, Anita moved to Jacksonville, and started a family with her previous husband Michael Ciccone who was stationed at Naval Station Mayport. Together they were blessed with four children who were the greatest joys of her life. After 13 years of marriage, Anita and Mike parted ways and she relocated to Hilliard, accepting a position as Leasing Manager at Eastwood Oaks apartments.

There she met and married Leland (Scooter) Higginbotham. Together they built a wonderful life and just celebrated 15 years of marriage in April. Together they would spend time on the St. Marys River fishing, as Anita LOVED to fish. Often saying, "She wasn't leaving till she caught one more fish." She was a fierce cook with the skills of an amateur chef unafraid to try new things for her family and friends. They would all gather around and fully enjoy the fruits of her labor. As her children grew so did her family. Each of her children finished school and started families of their own. Anita became a grandmother (Nana) of 14 starting in 2007. Anita loved being a Nana. She would often express how proud she was of her children and grandchildren. Anita often joked that she had enough grandchildren to start her own baseball team. Anita had a laugh and smile that could lift your spirits and light the darkest room. If you heard her laugh you knew without a doubt Anita was close by. She was the best daughter, sister, wife, mother, nana and friend anyone could ever have. We will all forever miss and love her.

She is survived by her parents William and Rita Chiovatero; husband Leland "Scooter" Higginbotham; daughter Brittany (Shaun) Sullivan, grandchildren Logan, Noah, Nicolai and Angelo; son Christopher Ciccone, grandchildren Carter, Crystal and Ella; daughter Lasea (Joshua) Rodriguez, grandchildren Cooper, Lennyn Kate and Sophia, Isaiah; son Michael (Rachael) Ciccone, grandchildren Aubree and Raegan; step-daughter Brandi (Tyler) O'Hara, granddaughter Lilith; sister Jenette (Paul) Rochnowski and nephew Paul; brother William (Bill) Chiovatero, Jr. and nieces Stephanie and Tabitha; along with many other family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date at the St. Marys River.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.