

# Rosemary Stauss a leader in expanding arts at NKU

'A super lady' held key positions at university

**By Karen Andrew**

*Enquirer staff writer*

**WILDER** – Rosemary Imbus Stauss, a former Northern Kentucky University associate provost and Wilder council member, loved the arts and loved to teach. She was a key figure in the development of the arts programs at NKU, expanding the original tiny art department into today's three departments of Art, Music, and Theater & Dance.

"Rose was one of those faculty members who was with the university from the beginning and held many different administrative positions of distinction," said Dr. Leon E. Boothe, NKU president from 1983 through 1996. "Clearly she left her imprint on her colleagues and students ... She had great ethics and values and would go the extra mile when someone needed it.

"She was a super lady," Boothe said.

Mrs. Stauss died of cancer Friday at Carmel Manor in Fort Thomas. She was 76.

She was born and raised in Cincinnati and attended Villa Madonna Academy in Villa Hills, where



**Mrs. Stauss**

she joined the Benedictine Order of Sisters. As a nun, she taught math and founded the drama department at Villa Madonna High School.

She left the religious order and Villa Madonna Academy in 1966.

She earned a bachelor's degree in 1953 from Thomas More College, now in Crestview Hills. She earned her Master of Fine Arts in 1962 from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

In 1968, Mrs. Stauss became an instructor in speech and theater at Northern Kentucky Community College, NKU's predecessor, and in that same year she was appointed chairperson of the Fine Arts Department. She became associate provost for academic affairs in 1991.

She also served as councilwoman for City of Wilder in the late 1990s and was a member of council's Property Development Committee. She unsuccessfully ran for mayor in 1998.

Mrs. Stauss was a member of the Fine Arts Fund and a founder of the Friends of the Arts of Northern Kentucky. She volunteered at elementary schools, teaching arts and putting on plays.

While traveling, she met her future husband, Robert. The two married in 1970 and the couple enjoyed traveling worldwide. He died in 2004.

Mrs. Stauss' survivors include two sisters, Virginia Mendel of Harrison and Martha Hoffman of Dunedin, Fla.; a brother, Eugene J. Imbus Jr. of Delhi Township; and nieces and nephews.

Visitation will take place 9-11 a.m. Tuesday at the Muehlenkamp-Erschell Funeral Home, Fort Thomas. Prayers will be at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, with a Mass of Christian burial following at 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring. She will be buried in St. Stephen Cemetery, Fort Thomas.

Memorials may be made to the NKU Foundation Inc., Mark R. Herrmann Center, Nunn Drive, Highland Heights, KY 41099.

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