



Betty A. Harris

July 7, 1929 - July 7, 2020

Betty Harris, 91, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, passed away Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at Willow Gardens Care Center in Marion, Iowa. In spite of her long-determined spirit, she lost her battle with Alzheimers. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Burial will take place at Rose Hill Cemetery in Eagle Grove, Iowa. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Gunderson Funeral Home in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Thoughts, memories and condolences may be shared with them at:

www.gundersonfuneralhome.com. Memorials may be directed to Mercy of Hospice in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Betty was born July 7, 1929 in Eagle Grove, Iowa, the daughter of Jesse and Goldie Agard. She graduated Eagle Grove High School in 1947. She attended one year of community college. Her first job, was as a secretary for an insurance agent in Renwick, Iowa. It was in Renwick where she met her husband. On September 20, 1948 she was united in marriage to Duane (Phil) Harris. They shared 57 years of marriage. He later passed in 2005.

After their marriage, they moved to Des Moines and Betty became a telephone operator. Upon completion of Phil's training, they moved to Fort Dodge for his job with Goodyear. Betty experienced various jobs. Her proudest employment was as a nurse aide. She enjoyed her position in health care and comforting people. Betty's hobbies were numerous; crossword puzzles and knitting mittens. She was also a savvy card player. She enjoyed summer and tended a small flower garden in the back yard. She also enjoyed watching wrens who faithfully built nests each spring in the hollow clothesline post. When weather was to her favor, she was known to go walking and visit her friends. Together, Betty and Phil enjoyed square dancing, camping, and fishing trips.

Iowa winters became harder to endure as the years passed. "Selling it all" and trying Texas was greatly debated. They had been long time residents in Fort Dodge, and the snowy season forced them to stay indoors far too long. Betty and Phil took the plunge and retired to McAllen Texas. They took up residence in Trophy Gardens Park and found what

they were looking for: Fun and Sun. Betty suddenly added new hobbies. She continued her walking hobby and became a social butterfly. She took up golf, got a hole in one and laid up her clubs. She became a good cribbage player and experienced a perfect hand. She took up pool and belonged to Pool Hall Babes. She never missed Bingo or Saturday night dances. She discovered the hobby of stain glass. She collected angels. Betty was honored to serve as Queen of her Red Hats group in Trophy Garden. She collected Teddy Bears to donate to children in McAllen who were hospitalized. However, her claim to fame were her angel food cakes, she made for every potluck supper at Trophy Garden Park. Her second claim to fame was life as a "Winter Texan". Trophy Garden had many "snowbird" residents representing many states, including Canada, and she welcomed each and every one.

Betty led a very fulfilled and active life during her 91 years. She walked her earthly journey with much grace, beauty, kindness, strength and love. Betty made friends easily and enjoyed life. She always carried a smile on her face.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Judy (Tom) Peek, their son Derek (Amanda), and daughter, Elizabeth (Jake) Worsham and Great Grandsons, Nathan and Everett. Betty's nephews Denny (Kathy) Jergenson, Dick Jergensen, John (Sue) Jergenson and Randy Jergenson. Sister in law Kay Agard and daughter Deb. Sister in law Virginia Harris. Half-sister Mary Newsum.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Phil, brother Roger and his daughter Becky, a half-sister Helen Jergenson. Nieces and nephew Mardell (Jergenson) Jaskolski, Bonnie (Jergenson) Hill, and Ronnie Jergenson.

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to Willow Gardens Care Facility and Staff, and Mercy of Hospice. Thank you for your kindness, and dedicated care. You were the Angels she believed in. God bless all of you.

Cemetery

Rose Hill Cemetery

Eagle Grove, IA, 50533

Comments



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October 30 at 11:59 AM



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October 28 at 02:42 PM



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October 28 at 02:31 PM



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October 28 at 02:15 PM



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October 28 at 01:53 PM



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October 28 at 06:14 AM



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October 26 at 03:09 PM



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October 26 at 02:45 PM



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October 26 at 02:23 PM



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October 26 at 01:58 PM



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I worked with Betty from 1967 to 1971 at Arlan's Department Store on Fort Dodge, Iowa. She worked in the Warehouse and I worked in the office. She was always cheerful and always was talking about her daughter. She always had great parties with lots of games to play. She will be missed .

Linda Nelson pingel - July 19 at 11:32 AM



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So sorry for your loss. Betty work at Target when I work there 74/78. Enjoyed working with her
My sympathies Jean (Fiala) Birkland

Jean Birkland - July 18 at 08:47 AM



“ Judy and family: Mark and I are so sorry for your loss. Her obituary was marvelous. She truly enjoyed life to the fullest, especially after their move to Texas. We look forward to seeing you next fall. We really enjoyed our time with you in Tampa many years ago. Love from Elaine and Mark Johnson

Elaine Habhab Johnson - July 17 at 09:03 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Betty's passing. We were neighbours to Betty and Phil at Trophy Gardens in Texas. Later on we became close friends with Betty , went on bus trips with her and attended many dances with Betty, a lot of Dirty Board games and yes at the end of the evening we got to eat her famous Angel Food Cake which she only purchased at a specific grocery store in Iowa. We went through a very sad time at Trophy when we knew it was time to pack up her belongings and head back home to Iowa to be with Judy. Betty was a very special person to us and will always be remembered with many smiles.
Love Carol and Ralph
Canada

Carol and Ralph Ahlstrand - July 16 at 09:07 AM



“ Met Betty at Trophy Gardens, always pleasant and sharing a smile. My Sympathy to the family. Kaye Stock Arndorfer

Roger & Kaye Stock Arndorfer - July 15 at 11:42 PM



“ sorry to hear about betty she was a great friend and neighbour in trophy a just a very nice lady liked to kid around my kinda lady rotten ron

ron pollock - July 15 at 11:12 PM



“ Betty was a great friend, she and PHil played many a game with Jerome and I when we were also inTrophy.as full timers. RIP Betty Margo Hansen!!!

Margo Hansen - July 15 at 10:41 PM



“ betty, we really your company

ken ludwig - July 16 at 08:14 AM



“ As Pool Hall Babes chairman I had occasion to play pool with Betty quite often. She played with Grandpa's unique stick and when she would make a good shot she would look upwards and say Thank You Grandpa or if she had a particularly difficult shot she would say Don't fail me now. She was a special lady. God has a new flower for his bouquet .

Trudy Vedsted

trudy vedsted - July 16 at 01:08 PM

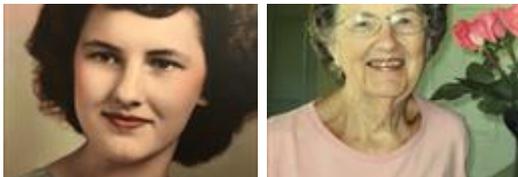


“ I remember Betty well. Always wearing a smile on her face. I played pool with her and she talked a lot about Grandpa's stick, she never missed a dance on Saturday night. I belong to her Red Hat Group also. She enjoyed life and was a special lady.

Barb Utech - July 16 at 10:06 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Gunderson Funeral Home & Cremation Services - July 13 at 04:20 PM