



Betty Kerans

September 15, 1922 - November 24, 2019

Betty Eileen Hancock Kerans died in her sleep at her home at Elmcroft of Fairborn, Ohio on 24 November 2019. She was 97 years of age. Betty was born in Decatur, Illinois on 15 September 1922, the middle of the three children of Dorothy Agnes Moore Hancock and Harry Hershel Hancock. With older brother Jack and younger brother Gene as coconspirators, Betty grew up in Paris, Illinois with just enough to get through the Great Depression happily and healthily with many great stories. By all accounts, they had a great time in school. Betty was a member of the Class of 1940. Those of the class that survived WWII remained a close group throughout their lives, holding heavily attended reunions for more than 60 years. Betty and James Kerans were married in 1946. They had two children; Ronald and Nancy. Jim's career in the U.S. Air Force led to frequent moves and interesting venues including Johnston Island in the Pacific and Bangkok, Thailand. Nancy developed a serious heart defect at age 7, which challenged her throughout much of her life. She had numerous special needs for many years, including home schooling, that provided many additional challenges for Betty. When Nancy became able to carry on a normal life, Betty moved back into the workplace and went from part-time school secretary to senior administrative support for the Life Support Systems Program Office at Wright-Patterson, AFB, to admin support for several programs at UES, Inc. in Dayton, OH. Her organizational skills and high standards made her a highly valued colleague everywhere she worked. Betty's life experiences made her an unusually independent woman for her time. After Jim's death in 1984, she continued travelling on her own, frequently driving to Illinois and beyond to see family and friends. She also travelled world-wide, sometimes with family, but often with a friend or two. These trips included Australia, Central Europe and the UK. She also acquired the necessary skills and did much of the maintenance on her home, which she shared for a time with her granddaughter, Jessica. Betty had many interests and was always on the lookout for new ones. She was a longtime member of Toastmasters, took up leaded glass, learned to windsurf, square-danced, acted in stage plays, took writing classes, and wrote a memoir. Her book, *Movin' On: Stories of My Life and Times* chronicles vignettes from nearly all stages of her life. She became a member and regular attendee at the Fairborn Baptist Church and developed many good friends in the congregation. Betty is preceded in death

by her husband James Kerans, daughter Nancy Kerans, and younger brother, Gene Hancock. She is survived by her older brother Jack Hancock of Nashville, TN, son Ronald Kerans and daughter-in-law Robin Hamilton, of Yellow Springs, OH, and her beloved granddaughter Jessica Kerans of Columbus, Ohio. A celebration of Betty's life will be held at Adkins Funeral Home at 7055 Dayton Road, Enon, OH 45323, on Monday, 2 December 2019. A visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m. immediately followed by the service at 2:00 p.m. There will be no graveside service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Save A Child's Heart Foundation, U.S., <https://www.saveachildsheart.org>.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Funeral Home
7055 Dayton Road
Enon, OH 45323
(937) 864-2288

Memorial Service

DEC 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

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7055 Dayton Road
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Tribute Wall

GJ

“ Betty Kerans has been a great friend of mine since the 1960s when we worked in the Life Support System Program Office at WPAFB. We were part of a group that became known as the lunch bunch, and with that group we stayed in touch and shared life's ups and downs through our careers and into retirement. I'll always remember her for her quiet strength. The autographed copy of her memoir was a cherished possession. To her family, you are in my thoughts as you grieve this loss. Betty will be missed. Hers was a life well lived.

George Sherer Jr. - November 30, 2019 at 01:52 PM

JB

Betty was a sweet sweet loving lady in my "Writing About Your Life & Times" Class at Sinclair Com. College Lifelong Learning - know affectionately as Kay Berg's Class. I remember so many of her warm stories, especially about the little dog who rode the trolley with her. She was our self-appointed class secretary & kept our contact list updated. We missed her bright smile & presence the last few years & I missed her even more, because I have been plagued with crises the last 6 years too. The ripe age of 97 was a challenge for her to reach. I just like to think of her resting now in comfort. God bless, dear Betty. Hope to honor you Monday. Lovingly, Jan Beedle (Franklin, OH)

Jan Beedle - November 30, 2019 at 06:33 PM

WB

My deepest condolences to Ron and Robin and the rest of the family in the passing of a great woman! I hope and pray you find peace and comfort from God through the form of family and friends of Betty. Betty was an amazing great aunt. In many ways she treated my sister and me as her children. You could feel her compassion, interest and love for us through her questions, conversations and lovely experiences that we shared. Her obituary scrapes the surface of such a quiet, strong and adventurous young woman who learned and tried many new things into the last chapter of her life. She wanted to be a part of our lives - showing me one of my first fine dining experiences, playing cards, going fishing, going to family reunions, and inquiring about my future. I am so grateful to be loved by someone two generations away that felt so personal. God bless Betty. God bless her family that carries on the many traits of a beautiful woman!

Wesley Benson - December 01, 2019 at 10:52 AM