



Betty Bowers

January 13, 1923 - February 7, 2010

Betty Jane Bowers passed away in peace on Sunday, February 7, 2010. Born January 13, 1923, in Chicago, Illinois, to Charles and Flossie Turley, Betty grew up on the south side of Chicago, two doors from the love of her life, Victor Bowers. They were married on February 9, 1946, in Chicago. Betty graduated from Avalon Park Elementary, Hirsch High School, Wilson Junior College, and then attended the University of Illinois in Champaign where she was a proud Delta Gamma.

They lived in Evanston, IL, during Victor's residency, then the Great Lakes Naval Station during the Korean War where he served as the base obstetrician, and she tended to their growing family. They moved to Rockford, IL, in 1954, and there they raised their three boys. In Rockford Betty enjoyed playing tennis and supporting Wesley Willows, Court Street United Methodist Church, and the Hospital Auxiliary.

When Victor retired in 1984, they moved north and spent the next 25 years on Fence Lake in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. Betty was a member of the Church of the Pines, the Red Hat Ladies, the Hospital Auxiliary, and the Happy Hookers. She loved playing Uno, golf, dominoes, and checkers with her grandchildren. Many quiet summer evenings at the lake were interrupted by the uproar of grandchildren and their grandma laughing and playing cards on the porch.

A gracious lady with a warm smile, she provided encouragement to everyone she met. A strong spirit and positive outlook guided her through life, especially during Victor's declining health and long stay at Dr. Kate's Nursing Home. Her daily visits sustained and encouraged him. Betty was devoted to her husband, her family, and her friends.

Betty is survived by her sons: Victor (Ann) Bowers, Delavan, Wisconsin; Brian (Julie) Bowers, Kansas City, Missouri; and David (Bridget) Bowers, Rockford, Illinois, her grandchildren: Matthew (Lisa) Bowers, Berkeley, California, Nicholas Bowers, Hobe Sound, Florida, Katherine Bowers, Oak Brook, Illinois, Robert Bowers, Iowa City, Iowa, Daniel and Hannah Bowers, Rockford, Illinois; and her first great grandchild: Mae Bowers, Berkeley, California. Predeceased by her loving husband, Victor in 2007, daughter-in-law Dannette in 2006, parents Charles and Flossie Turley, sister Alice Turley Grimes, and brother, Richard Turley.

The family would like to thank The Seasons of Life Hospice House for helping Betty through her last days. It has been a comfort knowing she was in their care.

A memorial service to celebrate Betty's life will be held 11 AM Friday, February 26, 2009, at the Church of the Pines in Minocqua, Wisconsin. A memorial fund has been established in Betty's name for the building fund at Church of the Pines.

Tribute Wall

TP

“ My deepest condolences to Betty's family. My grandmother, Jackie, and Betty became friends at Seasons of Life. I called her "Miss Betty" as that's how I taught my little 5 year old daughter and 4 year old son to respectfully address her. We had great lunch and dinner conversations with "Miss Betty" and shared stories of vacationing in Florida. Coincidentally my grandparents lived in Bradenton and we beached it at Anna Maria Island many times...which we quickly learned Betty and her husband had a second home. We shared our stories about the local hangouts. She was a pleasure to be around, such a bright smile, and she certainly gave my grandma comfort after losing her husband a short time ago. My thoughts are with you Brian. My uncle Gary also passes along his deepest condolences. Sincerely, Tammy Polfuss

Tammy Polfuss - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

HB

“ Since hearing the sad news, we think of Mrs. Bowers every day. Her smile. That song in her voice. Always cheerful. We think of all she did for us growing up. She and our mom shared the same chauffer's cap, the same rock-steady presence, and an ability to create a supportive home life all of us could count on as we grew up.

Howard & Katie Bell - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

RB

“ Betty Bowers

Richard Bremner - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

JB

“ *The Bremner's have been blessed to have the Bowers family in our lives for so many years. What a great story! It all started with Betty and our mom, Marian, who met in the hospital in November, 1949 in Rockford, as Betty was having Kim and our mom was having my brother Bill. Our moms became best friends and so did our families. So many great memories over the years with 7 boys between us! Growing up in Rockford, Court Street, summer vacations at Lake Ripley, combined family reunions at Watsons on Lac du Flambeau....and all the joy and laughter in between. They just don't get any better than Betty. She was a second mom to us and so very loved. God truly has another angel with him today. She will be missed so very much, but her legacy lives on in her children, grandchildren and great grandchild.....and the permanent love between our families.*

John Bremner - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

KB

“ *I was blessed to call Betty Bowers "Grandma" for twenty five years. I have many years of cherished memories to keep her love for life and beautiful smile alive in my heart and mind for years to come. She was my weekly pen pal and Delta Gama sister. We shared a bond that was unique and the two of us cherished. During her last few days she still mustered enough energy to wave her hands in the air and shout "Katie Kate" as I walked through the door. She had a way of making anyone feel important and loved. She never missed a big event in any of her children or grandchildren's lives. I will miss her terribly, but find comfort in the hundreds of letters I can reread to remember all our special moments we shared.*

Katherine Bowers - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

KA

“ I cleaned Betty's house for several years and I just adored her! Whenever my daughter had to come along, she would let her play with games or play outside by the lake and she was just an absolute sweetheart. I saw her once or twice after I quit cleaning houses and she was always smiling and friendly. I was so sorry to hear of her passing. She was a very nice lady.

Katy - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM