



## Betty E. Welter

June 17, 1923 - April 10, 2024

Betty Welter, age 100, of St. Germain, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2024.

She was born June 17, 1923, in Cornell, Wisconsin, to Walter and Estelle (Miller) Gilbert, the youngest of eight children. Just after graduating from Altoona high school, Betty became one of the first women to work on the Southern Pacific Railroad when she took a job maintaining and installing brake parts during WWII. Later she trained to be a Radio Technician and moved to Springfield, OH near an airbase where she built and repaired radios for Army planes. She worked many other jobs throughout her life including 20 years at Spurgeon's Department Store in Prairie du Chien.

She met her husband Donald Welter on a "not-so-blind" date in Eau Claire and they married in 1949 in Stillwater, MN. They built their first home in Eau Claire, and throughout their marriage lived in La Crosse, Onalaska, and Prairie du Chien. They had one daughter,

Sally. Betty and

Don loved hosting parties, entertaining guests, and spending time on the Mississippi River.

In addition to being a lifelong Packers fan and a fan of the Milwaukee Braves and Brewers,

Betty loved to travel, play cribbage, and spend time with friends and family, especially her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughters.

Betty is survived by one daughter, Sally (Jon) Reuling of St. Germain; two granddaughters,

Laura Reuling (Jamie Reese) of St. Paul, MN and Amy Reuling (Sam Arnold) of Bainbridge

Island, WA, and many special nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband

Donald, her parents and stepfather, four brothers (Gerald, Ross, Elmer, and Howard Gilbert),

and three sisters (Verda Jones, Lula Schmit, and Esther Metcalf).

She will be remembered as a strong, independent, kind and fun-loving mother, grandmother,

aunt, and dear friend who cooked a mean fish fry.

A celebration of life will be scheduled in summer, 2024. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be

made to the St. Germain Rescue Squad, the St. Germain Lions Club, or the Vilas Food Pantry.

# Tribute Wall

DV

“ Betty n my Mom, Vergene 'Toops' Viets(Erickson) were best buddies back when, as were Don her husband n my dad Hollis Viets, they did basic tng etc, together. Betty n Mom were Rosie the Riveters, whilst their men were away at war! Their friendship continued all through the years since! My brothers Michael n Terry will always remember them with fondness! Helps knowing they're all up in heaven, having a good ole time!  
D. Byron n Deborah Viets

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**Donald Viets** - April 30, 2024 at 07:56 PM

MV

“ Betty was my mother Vergene Viets's best friend during the war years and continued to be her best friend until mom passed away in 2020. I know they are giving the lord Jesus a run for his money! I knew that Betty was about 100 and talked to her in 2021 to let her know about mom's passing!

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**Michael Viets** - April 30, 2024 at 07:29 PM