



Betty Joanne Crews

July 22, 1926 - February 6, 2021

Betty Jo Crews

Betty Joanne Crews (née Anderson), of Golden Valley, Minnesota, passed away in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, on February 6, 2021, at the age of 94. Betty was born at home in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, on July 22, 1926. She graduated from St. Louis Park High School in 1944, and for the next couple of years, her occupations involved processing Hollerith cards and chickens. Feeling footloose and the need for change, she and cousin Lela made an eventful train journey to Denver, where Betty met Ralph Wilson Crews, an Air Force officer who served in Europe during the war. Their odyssey began.

Betty and Ralph married in 1947 and welcomed five children within the next eight years. They also steadily relocated around the country: Denver, El Paso, Alamogordo, Chicago, Dayton, Los Angeles (twice), and Cheyenne. The family of seven eventually set up permanent housekeeping in Golden Valley in 1965. Betty and Ralph became honored volunteers in their new community, supporting Cub Scouts, Brownies, Girl Scouts, the Methodist Church, Aquatennial, and the Golden Valley Historical Society. Betty was especially passionate about the needs of Native Americans, establishing an ongoing bond between her church and the Division of Indian Work. Betty hoped to be remembered as a good neighbor. She was that and much more.

Betty inherited Scandinavian spirit and bootstrap endurance. Her ancestors hailed from the Swedish farmland of Värmland and Härjedalen. Betty's middle name honors her great-grandfather (John Magnus Johnson) and her grandmother (Hannah Larson), who cultivated the rich landscape near Holmes City, Minnesota. Betty planted her own garden wherever she lived, generously sharing zucchini and rhubarb with family and friends. She prescribed a singular, lifelong therapy for any challenge: just pull a few more weeds.

There were challenges. Her father endured TB and had to live away from the family for two years at a sanatorium; scarlet fever damaged Betty's hearing; her brother flew combat missions in the Pacific; the family rationed food and goods during the war. There were

joys. Betty would escape by streetcar to downtown Minneapolis for concerts by Spike Jones, Tommy Dorsey, and Duke Ellington. Later, with five kids and a dog, Ralph and Betty drove a packed station wagon on most trips, and they eventually visited all 50 states. She loved the adventure and her family.

Betty is predeceased by Ralph, her husband of 66 years, her parents, Ruben and Amanda Anderson, her brother, Wayne Anderson, and her son, Richard Wayne Crews. She is survived by four children: Mary Amanda "Mandy" Heard (Don), Jean Elizabeth "Betsy" Carnahan (Jim), Stephen Walter Crews, and Kenneth Donald Crews (Elizabeth). She was a reliable fount of love and cookies to nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Donations to honor the memory of Betty Jo Crews may be made to Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church (<https://spiritofhopeumc.org/>) or to the Division of Indian Work (<https://www.diw-mn.org/>).

Graveside services were private. Arrangements were made through Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels, and the family may be contacted at the website (<https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/>). Many thanks to the staffs of Grace Edgewood and Chippewa Manor in Wisconsin for their loving care. Special thanks to Rosario Delgadillo and Lorraine Kosakowski for the devoted attention they gave Betty through recent years.

Events

FEB **Chapel Service** 02:00PM - 02:30PM

11

Glen Haven Chapel

5125 West Broadway, Crystal, MN, US, 55429

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Washburn-McReavy - February 10 at 02:18 PM



“ Sandra Ross lit a candle in memory of Betty Joanne Crews



Sandra Ross - February 11 at 10:21 PM



“ Please say Hello to Richard, you will be missed!

Sandra - February 11 at 10:22 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Kenneth Crews - February 11 at 09:45 PM



“ Rhonda Collier lit a candle in memory of Betty Joanne Crews



Rhonda Collier - February 11 at 05:17 PM



“ A golden candle for all my golden childhood memories in Golden Valley, MN which were like sunshine in my life the year we were so fortunate to live in Minnesota and get to know many wonderful cousins! Betty and Lela were so happy to be near each other again and I was so delighted to share the joy of the visits with Rueben and Amanda as well as at Betty's home and garden where I also developed an unending love for Rhubarb and flowers! I learned that my Mom and Betty still delighted in pulling off little funny pranks on family together. It was so wonderful to finally visit again more recently with my daughter and even celebrate a birthday of Betty's. What a fabulous family to be part of! I'm so grateful and blessed! Thank you Betty (& her family) for all the love and caring you have always given me. I will always remember you Betty with great love and appreciation until we meet again someday in Heaven. ~ Rhonda Collier

Rhonda Collier - February 11 at 05:51 PM