



Elizabeth Lenore Allen

July 1, 1935 - April 14, 2025

Elizabeth Lenore (McCarthy) Allen -affectionately known as Betty Lee or Pokey-was born on July 1, 1935 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

On the morning of April 14, 2025, Betty passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love of her family.

Due to her declining health, her family gathered to celebrate her 90th birthday a few months early. She had 45 family members surrounding her, including all of her children with their spouses, most of her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren all singing Happy Birthday to her.

Betty is survived by her six children and their spouses, including Charles (Tricia) Allen, Deborah (William Radomski) Allen, Cindy (Danny) Farrar, Shari (Scott) Palmer, Bill (Kathleen) Allen, Linda (Randy) Koch; her 16 grandchildren, her 30 great-grandchildren, and her 4 great-great-grandchildren.

A graduate of University High School in Minneapolis, Class of 1953, Betty was an avid reader and loved the theater. She shared her love of the arts by taking her children and grandchildren to many plays at the Ordway, one of many traditions she created for and shared with her family.

Betty had a passion for her career in tax preparation and grew very close to her clients, each of whom she treated like family.

Her favorite places included the Minnesota State Fair and the family cabin on North Center Lake- both of which held countless memories of laughter, togetherness, and joy.

Betty raised her six children across several cities- the Twin Cities, Chicago, and St. Louis; before returning to the Twin Cities. Watching her family grow was a source of immense joy, and her legacy shines brightly through her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great- grandchildren, all of whom love her dearly.

A celebration of Betty's life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

CO

“ I was Betty's tax client for over 20 years. I was always greeted with a hug and sent on my way with a Werther's Original and another sweet hug.

Kind, generous with her time and always delighted to share updates on her family (she was so proud of all of you) and to listen to my annual personal life updates. I remember the big smile on her face when I told her I had gotten engaged and the following year when my wife and I told her we were expecting she said that we would get free tax services for life if our daughter was born on her birthday. Ha!

She even sent us a little note after her retirement letting us know how happy she was for our little family. What a special lady. I will miss you Betty.

Cory Oslin - January 02 at 05:00 PM

KA

“ My mother-in-law Betty was a traditionalist through and through. When her son Bill and I first began dating, I recall her telling me that “teachers work in our family” and soon learned that 2 of her daughters were married to teachers. There were also certain gifts she traditionally gave newlyweds, with the initial ones being the “Our Father” pewter plate and the crystal bud vase and then the annual hand-selected Christmas ornaments for all, each individualized to recognize important moments in each person’s life. Betty also made a point of sending birthday cards to all of her friends and relatives, priding herself on getting them out on time, USPS notwithstanding. Family gatherings also had their own traditions. For years she outdid herself by making a table full of lighter fare and hors d’oeuvres for lunch followed by a sit-down roast beef dinner for Christmas day with dessert coming later that included pie, cookies, and ice cream topped with homemade chocolate fudge sauce. Any other family gathering was not complete without the bacon-wrapped pineapple, the taco dip, the strawberry-spinach salad, and more. No one ever went hungry. A 4th of July celebration at the cabin was another given pretty much every year. This often coincided with her birthday on July 1st, which made it extra special. Then, later in the summer came “the great Minnesota Get Together.” Betty has a cobblestone marker just outside of the grandstand which reads, “Once is never enough,” which truly encapsulates her feelings about the fair. There were even years when she went every day, from sunup to sundown. And over the years, Grandma Betty made special memories with her grandkids by taking them on trips, and if one of her kids or grandkids needed a place to live, she opened up her door. Betty will be remembered for her deep love of family, her generosity, her love of the arts, and her unparalleled work ethic. R.I.P. Grandma Pokey.

Kathleen Allen - April 17, 2025 at 06:59 PM

LJ

“ Grandma Pokey was an amazing lady that will be missed by many. I was blessed to have been able to be there before she passed. The celebration that we had was amazing and she would have loved to know that 45 of her family members were there to celebrate her. We love you grandma and we can't wait to celebrate you again in July.

libby Jackson - April 16, 2025 at 12:34 PM

LD

“ Grandma Pokey had a tradition of taking her grandkids on a special trip when they turned 13. My cousin Shayna and I went to LA together with Pokey for our trip and it was my first time being that far away from family on a big trip. I remember we dragged her from shop to shop on the strip and we walked miles around universal. We also took a double decker buss tour of hollywood. On our flight back we flew through a thunderstorm which was kinda scary but mostly exciting. She spread so much joy and love to her friends and family. (She was pretty nice to strangers too haha) I'm really glad my fiance got to meet her last summer. She shared so many stories with him (he's got a degree in history and he loved everyemory she shared)-
Lena Dettke

Lena Dettke - April 15, 2025 at 04:29 PM