



Elizabeth Jane "Betty" "Liz" LaRock

March 20, 2016

LaRock, Elizabeth Jane "Betty" "Liz" Died peacefully Sunday, March 20, 2016. She is survived by three daughters: Marcia LaRock, Carol LaRock (Sorenson), and Nancy (Daniel) Tuomie; grandchildren: Michael and Corey Sorenson, Danielle and Ashley Tuomie; and great-grandson: Chance Sorenson. Preceded in death by her loving husband of 65 years: Kenneth "Jack" LaRock. Betty loved Jesus and she loved people (especially children)! Foster care, daycare, teaching, foster grandparenting, reading to school children, and playing with her (and other peoples') grandkids gave her great joy! She brought people together through acceptance and unconditional love. Hospitality meant "make yourself at home" and many did! And her smile lit up rooms even to the end! Betty grew up in Duluth, MN; she met the love of her life while teaching in Wakefield, MI; married Ken and raised their three daughters in the Twin Cities. Betty retired to Willow River, MN, enjoying years of bird-watching, quilting, volunteering at the school, and fellowshiping with church friends; spent her final years back in the Twin Cities near family. Betty, in simple ways you taught us to enjoy life and each other. Memorials preferred to Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Memorial service to be held at Church Upon the Rock, 7901 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, Wednesday, March 30 at 5:30 pm, gathering one hour prior to service; reception to follow. Washburn-McReavy.com New Brighton Chapel 651-636-9821

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Jane "Betty" "Liz" LaRock.



March 29, 2016 at 08:31 AM



“ *Kris Hargis and Family* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of Elizabeth Jane "Betty" "Liz" LaRock.



Kris Hargis and Family - March 26, 2016 at 01:51 PM

“Betty was so precious to our family. She babysat our three girls while I taught school at Red Oak and Valentine. The girls loved all her centers in the basement, particularly the center where they were to match the cap with the bottle. She had empty pill bottles, vanilla bottles, ketchup bottles, you name it, she had it. They loved her listening center with all the books on tape. They loved her dress-up center and her puppet stage. But mostly they loved her hugs and her loving calmness. They loved playing in her backyard or in the front yard under the big pine tree where they had their fort. We moms would come to pick up the kids after school where we would find Betty in the backyard watching the kids playing, sometimes up in the tree. We would always say, "Don't fall." Betty thought that was so silly that we felt we needed to remind them of that. Wednesdays were the most fun for the moms. We would all descend upon Betty's house where she would have a warm fire glowing on the cold winter mornings at 7:00 AM. If we were the first to arrive we would always find Betty reading her Bible. As more came in the door she would be taking the freshly made bread out of the oven and the coffee pot was always on. She would have a variety of table cloths on the table, sometimes one at an angle on top of another, all beautifully color coordinated with the season. We would bask in the warmth and the love that Betty created and then trudge off to school as our husbands were bringing the little ones. Fridays were looked forward to by us moms, as well. We would all meet at Betty's after school where we would again have coffee and treats. We would stay, and stay, and stay - often watching our children perform plays. In fact, we would stay so long that our husbands started calling Betty to see if we were still there, wondering if we were coming home for dinner!!! The children all loved Betty so very much. We celebrated every birthday at Betty's with the gang. We met at one another's houses for parties - swimming parties, bonfires, picnics. Betty instinctively knew what each child needed emotionally. She held Sonja and rocked her for almost an hour everyday when her daddy dropped her and Anna off. Betty wrote personal stories for each of the children. One Christmas our tree fell over because it had too many decorations on one side. Betty wrote a long story about that

mouse that got into our house and knocked our tree over that year. She had her daughter illustrate each of her stories, and she bound them into books before giving them to the children. Later, when the children had grown, Betty and Jack moved up north. They would always welcome us on our way driving home from skiing in Duluth. We loved seeing how their lives were enhanced with nature in their new home. Betty couldn't have possibly given us a more important gift than the gift of caring for our children. Her love of God seeped through every pore of her being, and every parent and child she touched were blessed. We love you dearly, Betty. What a remarkable Christian woman! Thank you, Precious Precious Betty. Oh my, how you've touched our lives!

CINDY MORTENSON - March 25, 2016 at 11:52 PM