



Betty Arline (Taff) Harris

May 22, 1927 - April 25, 2017

Betty Arline (Taff) Harris, 89, passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 25, 2017 at Lakeview Village Care Center, Lenexa, KS, a month shy of her 90th birthday. She was born in Hutchinson, KS to Verlus and Helen Taff and spent her early years in Wichita. She graduated in 1944 from Westport High School (Kansas City, MO) and attended Cottey College (Nevada, MO). She met her husband Joseph J. Harris when he moved from Ferguson, MO in 1943 to the boarding house run by her parents at 100 E. 36th, KCMO. They were married April 3, 1948 and in 1949 settled in Prairie Village. Joe worked for TWA and Betty was a housewife and mother of their two children (born 11 months apart!) Bill and Kay. Because Joe worked for the TWA, they were able to travel extensively as a family, but their favorite times were spent at the cabin built by the Taffs at the Lake of the Ozarks. Later on she worked for the Red Cross and the Heartland Presbytery (1983-2003). She loved her church and was the oldest charter member of Southminster Presbyterian Church, remaining active until the end. When Betty finally retired at the age of 76, she moved to Lakeview Village, meeting many new friends and making some of her happiest memories. She even took up pool, proudly touting her own monogrammed pool cue. Betty was also an avid reader, tireless KC Chiefs fan, 70-year member of PEO (chapter GJ) and regularly attended live theater events. Due to her commitment to walking and exercise, she was profiled in the US News & World Report article (Nov 12, 2007) on senior fitness. She relaxed by playing games with her Lakeview

Village friends and doing (NY Times) crossword puzzles. People were drawn to her wonderful sense of humor and endearing personality. On her trips to Maui during 1970's she developed a deep love of whales. Friends and family gave her so many whale collectibles that she had to tell them to stop. She attended many Founder's Day Reunions at her beloved Cottey College with her classmates, completing the last trip just 3 weeks before her death. These gals were always known by their nicknames - Betty was "Taffy", the name engraved on her pool cue.

Betty was preceded in death by her only sibling, Barbara Peterson in 1983. She is survived by both her children - Bill Harris (Kathy) Sioux Falls, SD and Kay (John) Holden, MO and her 3 grandchildren Emily Erkmann (Jack), Gabriel Harris (Libby) and Kristina Jackson (Nick) and 8 grandchildren. She was also Grandma to John's daughter Chris, sons John & Steve and their 8 children. Also surviving are her nephew Craig Peterson (Kokomo, IN) and niece Chris Miller (Almont, CO). Betty was a special gift to those that knew her, made all our lives better and will be greatly missed. Please join us for a Celebration of her Life on Saturday, May 20th, 2pm at Southminster Presbyterian Church, 6306 Roe Ave, Prairie Village, KS. Donations in honor of Betty can be made to the church or Cottey College, Nevada, MO.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Southminster Presbyterian Church
6306 Roe Ave.
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Arline (Taff) Harris*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Betty Arline (Taff) Harris*

September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *I have wonderful memories of Betty as our girl scout leader. She was a lot of fun - I fondly remember her humor allaying the fear of a little girl in an adirondack at Camp Timberlake. She was such a bright spirit and drew people to her. There is a lot more laughter in Heaven! God bless your family! - Kathie Spannuth Glenn*

Kathie Glenn - May 16, 2017 at 01:01 PM

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“ I could not begin to tell you about all the fun we had at the lake. You know. I remember having Sunday school with Mom and Pop around the picnic table. I remember how Betty and Barbara played serious scrabble games, even on the dock. Mother enjoyed being with all of the ladies, playing bridge etc. The lake was and still is our favorite place to relax and enjoy all the beauty of nature. When, I returned to Southminster, Betty always invited me to sit with her. She would always mention how she wrote a note and the wall of the church to my Mother when they remodeled the church. Mother and Betty sat together in church. They liked sitting near the front of the church. They were not back row people. They wanted to see everyone after church, during and before. Betty will be missed. She was a very special friend to me. I am sorry for your loss. I send you all my love and prayers. Harriett Gandy Killingsworth

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Harriett Killingsworth - May 15, 2017 at 04:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Arline (Taff) Harris.*



May 09, 2017 at 08:23 AM