



## Betty Lou Farr

July 2, 1926 - October 3, 2021

Betty Lou Watters Farr went to heaven on October 3, 2021. She was 95 years old.

Born in her grandparents' home on a farm in Henderson County, Illinois, on July 2, 1926, she was the daughter of Seth and Mary Watters. Betty was valedictorian of her Alpha High School graduating class and finished secretarial school in Galesburg, Illinois. She and her husband Jay Farr raised four daughters, all uniquely talented and strong— Kathy Lindroth (Brian), Mary Beth Putnam (Stan) , Teri Farr, and Becky McClellan (Pat). She is also survived by her 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Betty was a waitress for one day at Woo's Chinese Restaurant in Macomb, IL, a secretary, a stay-at-home mom, and a public librarian in Watseka, Illinois. In Petersburg, Illinois, a place she called "her heart's home," she retired from Ideal Industries as Office Manager. She was very active in the community and the First United Methodist Church. Her great honor was to be named Petersburg First Citizen in 1997. Betty was very active in the Petersburg United Methodist Church, the Edgar Lee Masters home, and the Garden Club.

Betty loved so many things—wildflowers (especially daisies), songbirds, original artwork, Dove Chocolate, brownie sundaes, babies, big band music, Frank Sinatra, clipping recipes, reading (Angle of Repose was her favorite

book), staying up on current events and watching news programs especially PBS Newshour, BBC, MSNBC and CNN.

As the end of her earthly life neared, she was so grateful for her husband, children, grands, great grands, and friends. She was able to talk to loved ones near and far to express her love and appreciation before she passed.

As in so many things in her life, mom was a role model to many. Her watchword was kindness and she always demonstrated a servant's heart. Her last words of wisdom to the family were "always forgive each other and stay close." She was so grateful to have been surrounded by beauty and treasured people in her life. She assured her family she was headed for heaven and ready to go. As a matter of fact, she was so ready to go, after only four days on hospice, she muttered, "I never thought dying would take so long." One night, she woke her daughter sleeping nearby, trying to get God's attention, looking past the ceiling and waving her arm and calling, "Sir, Sir, I'm ready to go." More than once, she was disappointed to wake up and find she was still alive. Inspiring faith!

Her sense of humor remained intact throughout her last days. After choosing to go through hospice for her care, mom looked around her apartment and said, " Well, I guess you'll have to have another yard sale." Overall, her last days were filled with so many heartwarming moments of grace, humor, and wisdom. Her daughters and family are blessed to have shared those precious memories.

The loss of her husband Jay in February 2019, was difficult. Her family grieves her loss, but they take comfort knowing that Jay and Betty are together again. The family is planning a celebration of life at a later date. Donations may be made in Betty's memory to St. Mark's Methodist Church, 100 State Road 46, Bloomington, IN 47408.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Tribute Wall

DK

“ I worked with Betty at Ideal Industries in the late 70s and early 80s. I just learned of her passing going thru some back issues of my hometown paper, and also of Jay's passing. I was blessed that they welcomed me into such a wonderful family, we shared many years and holidays together. In all my travels throughout these United States I have never met a kinder lady, same goes for Jay. Although they have moved on, they both influenced my life and how I interact with people and situations to this day. I'm saddened, but so grateful to have known them. And to the family, please carry on the pickle ornament... that was always so much fun.

Sincerest Condolences,  
Darrell Kinney

---

**Darrell Kinney** - November 22, 2021 at 07:00 PM

DT

“ So sorry for your loss. Your mother was a true testimony of her faith. She was a Godly women who showered her love to everyone she met. She had a contagious smile and enjoyed a good laugh. She was one classy lady who was treasured and will be missed by us all.

---

**Denise Hopwood Tietz** - October 09, 2021 at 09:24 AM

BJ

“ What a very nice lady...my condolences to you Becky and Teri...  
Beth sutton

---

**beth johnstone** - October 07, 2021 at 09:04 PM

PV

“ Sorry to hear of Betty's passing. Only knew her from Menard County Garden Club, but know that she will be missed.

Patricia Vig - October 06, 2021 at 07:59 PM

JL

“ JoAnn Lutes lit a candle in memory of Betty Lou Farr



JoAnn Lutes - October 06, 2021 at 03:20 PM

DT

“ We were so fortunate to know Betty and to experience her positive attitude and strong faith. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Dave & Hilda Tanner - October 06, 2021 at 11:59 AM

RW

“ Valedictorian in a graduating class of two from Alpha High; one day as a waitress in Macomb; Betty did NOT get off to a roaring start! But oh did she make up for it! This lady was, and remained, the kind of person you wanted as a good friend all your life! I didn't meet Betty until 1977, when our family moved to Petersburg. She became an instant friend of the Wisner family. She remained that friend until the closing act of her stellar life. How fortunate we were to know her. She was faithful, funny, and first in her class. She was, indeed, valedictorian!

Richard Wisner - October 06, 2021 at 11:56 AM

RH

“ I never knew your beloved Betty Farr but reading her obituary, I wish I had. I am not religious, but at age 78 can imagine being ready to die. I do love gardening, birds, chocolate, brownie sundaes, and big band music. I will put Angle of Repose on my to read list.

My best to you all.

Rob Hongen

---

**Rob Hongen** - October 06, 2021 at 09:54 AM

MO

Rob - thank you so much for your kind words. We all wish you could've met her! It sounds like you would've been wonderful friends. Enjoy Angle of Repose!

Best,  
The Farr family

---

**molly** - October 07, 2021 at 08:20 PM

DB

“ Betty was a wonderful and beautiful person. So active in Petersburg. She was a great neighbor. She gave Cameo a set of crutches from her attic to play with, and she had a great time with them. We are sorry for her passing but at peace with her being reunited with Jay. Blessings to you all at this time. PUMC will miss her greatly.

---

**Dana Blair** - October 06, 2021 at 09:53 AM

ES

“ Ellen Standish lit a candle in memory of Betty Lou Farr



---

**Ellen Standish** - October 06, 2021 at 09:20 AM