



Betty E. Miller

January 12, 1925 - January 16, 2024

Betty E. Miller, age 99 of Mattoon, IL peacefully passed away Tuesday, January 16, 2024, surrounded by family at Willow Breeze Hospice House in Mattoon, IL.

A memorial service in her honor will be held at 11:00 AM, Friday, June 28, 2024, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, located at 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend Matthew Froeschle will officiate. A committal service will follow in Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Mattoon, IL.

Betty was born on January 12, 1925, to the late Benton Otis and Roberta Irene (Funkhouser) Ehrhart. She was the youngest of six children: siblings Charles, William, Robert, Mary Carrell, and Virginia Bowlby. She is survived by six of her children: Marcia Ronchetti of Santa Rosa, CA, Jim Ronchetti of Crescent Head, New South Wales, C. Richard Ronchetti and wife Carol of Dallas, TX, Bob Ronchetti and wife Tammy of Mattoon, IL, Scott Ronchetti and wife Janet of Mattoon, IL, Frank Ronchetti Jr. and wife Daniela of Denver, CO; nine grandchildren: David Schoch of Belgrade, Serbia, Chandler Ronchetti of Chicago, IL, April Ronchetti Little of Scottsdale, AZ, Andrew Ronchetti of Littleton, CO, Seth Ronchetti of Forsythe, IL, Whitney Weber of Ft. Collins, CO, and Felix Ronchetti, Elliot Ronchetti and Samuel Ronchetti of Denver, CO; and nine great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her son, Gregory Ronchetti; her siblings, and husbands, George Seaman, Frank Ronchetti, and Robert Miller.

Betty's father, Benton, worked for CIPS in Olney, IL but sadly passed away of

typhus fever in 1925. Betty attended grade school and part of high school in Lerna, IL and Evanston, IL before moving back to study at Eastern Illinois Teachers College in Charleston, IL. She received her teaching certificate in 1943 and taught 5th and 6th grades from 1944 until 1945. She then became an airline stewardess for United Airlines. While her college sweetheart, George H. Seaman, was home on leave from the Navy Air Service, he proposed to Betty, which she happily accepted. They were married at the naval base in Quonset Point, RI in 1945, where she knew no one except her groom. Betty embarked on the life of a navy pilot's wife being stationed at many bases. She and George shared two sons, Gregory, who was born on June 8, 1946, in San Diego, CA, and Scott, born on July 3, 1951, in Lubbock, TX. Lt. Seaman was stationed in Adak, AK until late 1951 and Betty joined him as soon as her new son was old enough to travel. Lt. Seaman was assigned a medical mission to Attu Island, AK, on July 16, 1952, and sadly, he lost his life in a crash landing due to drifting sand on the runway. The Navy informed Betty she and her sons had thirty days to clear the base.

Betty returned to Mattoon, IL where her mother and sister were living. Jobs were scarce, so Betty returned to then-Eastern Illinois State College in Charleston, IL, obtaining BS in Education. She wanted to expand her social life and joined the Little Theater Group. It was there that Betty was introduced to a widower of four children, Frank Ronchetti. They fell in love and were married on October 22, 1955, combining Frank's children: Marcia, James, C. Richard, and Robert with Betty's two boys, Gregory and Scott. After adopting each other's children, Frank and Betty had one son together, Frank, Jr. Betty considered these some of the best times of her life, living in a big house on Prairie Avenue, with numerous activities and involvement with school and sports, and watching all the children grow and leave the nest. Sadly, Frank Ronchetti passed away on July 30, 1981.

Since Betty and Frank had played bridge socially for years, she joined a local Duplicate group and took lessons and studied the game deeper to improve her skills. Betty joined the American Contract Bridge League, traveling to

tournaments around the county, teaching the game to others, and earning the distinction of Life Master. During this time, she purchased a home in Winter Haven, FL.

In 1989, Robert "Bob" Miller asked Betty on a date to the horse races in Fairview, IL. She had met Bob in the late 1960's when Betty was on the school board and Bob was applying for the position of Mattoon High School basketball coach. They were married on September 29, 1990, when they were both in their sixties. Their marriage was an endless vacation, splitting their time between Mattoon and Florida. They traveled extensively, played bridge and golf, and attended dances on Friday nights. Later, Bob's health began to fail, and he passed away on January 26, 2021.

Betty is eternally grateful to all the people who have helped and guided her along her path in life. From principals who assisted with her admittance to Eastern Illinois while still a senior in high school, to her aunt Edna who took her in and helped get her get a job with an airline, and to her sons who helped her during her twilight years.

Memorials her honor may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 10 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 or EIU Foundation, 860 West Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920. Please direct your gift to EIU Ronchetti Art Fund in the memo.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Resthaven Memorial Gardens

1701 Dewitt Avenue
Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Service

JUN 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Tribute Wall

IK

“ Ivana a Jiri Koreckovi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty E. Miller.

Ivana a Jiri Koreckovi - June 27, 2024 at 10:30 AM

IK

“ Ivana a Jiri Koreckovi purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Betty E. Miller.



Ivana a Jiri Koreckovi - June 27, 2024 at 10:30 AM

BB

“ Brad, Kim and Brook planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty E. Miller.

Brad, Kim and Brook - June 26, 2024 at 03:16 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty E. Miller.



June 26, 2024 at 03:16 PM

CM

“ It was such a pleasure to have been able to meet Betty last summer, and hear firsthand, her accounts of her adventurous life. Such a life well lived! Sending peace and love to the Ronchetti family. Your Second Cousin,
Colleen Miltenberger



Colleen Elaine Miltenberger - January 23, 2024 at 01:49 PM

KC

“ Kathi Sewell Cobble lit a candle in memory of Betty E. Miller



kathi sewell cobble - January 20, 2024 at 08:19 AM

IK

“ Ivana Korečková lit a candle in memory of Betty E. Miller



Ivana Korečková - January 19, 2024 at 12:53 PM

RK

“ *BETTY AND BOB WERE IN OUR BRIDGE CLUB FOR MANY YEARS. WE HAD MANY GOOD TIMES TOGETHER AS COUPLES AND ENJOYED THEIR COMPANY. BETTY WAS A POSITIVE PERSON WITH A VERY PLEASANT PERSONALITY. BESIDES BEING AN EXCELLENT BRIDGE PLAYER SHE ALSO EXCELLED IN GOLF, PLAYING IN MANY COMPETITIVE TOURNAMENTS AT MATTOON COUNTRY CLUB. SHE WAS VERY PROUD OF HER FAMILY MEMBERS AND LOVED TO VISIT WITH THEM. OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO FAMILY MEMBERS FROM RUBY ANNE AND BOB KOVACK*

ROBERT KOVACK - January 18, 2024 at 11:44 PM