



## Bette J. Harris

January 16, 1933 - January 22, 2016

Dateline: Alton

Bette Jean Harris, 83, passed away early Friday morning at her home. Born January 16, 1933 in Judsonia, Arkansas she was the daughter of Thomas G. Bailey Sr. and Lena (Jackson) Bailey. Bette worked for Tri County Beauty Academy in Litchfield with her mother and later as a cosmetology instructor for the J.B. Johnson Vocational School in Alton. She then went back to school and completed her bachelor's degree in 1984 and became an English teacher at West Middle School where she taught for 10 years. She loved the change and the challenge. Bette was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Illinois Hairdresser Association, Illinois Retired Teacher's Association, Alton Community Service League, and P.E.O. Chapter JZ. On October 10, 1953 she married Wiley L. Harris Jr. in Alton. He preceded her in death on June 17, 1990 after 14 years of home dialysis. Surviving is a daughter Barbara Ann Bowen (Andy) of Godfrey, a son, Thomas Wiley Harris (Judy Jones) of Alton and a brother-in-law Joseph Eugene Harris of Godfrey. Also surviving is her loving care giver Viola Link along with Tonya and Candace. Along with her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother Thomas Bailey Jr. Bette's optimism and enthusiastic outlook, her encouragement and caring for others, her creativity, always making the most of what she had her whole life, these traits and many more always made her an inspiration to all those who knew her. "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of

arriving safely in an attractive well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and exclaiming WOOHOO What A Ride!" Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with a P.E.O. Memorial service at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 25, 2016 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Visitation will continue from 10:00 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Father David Boase will officiate. Burial will be at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church or Heartland Hospice of Fairview Heights. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Valhalla Memorial Park

Godfrey, IL 62035

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 25. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

JAN 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Alton, IL 62002

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bette J. Harris*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Bette J. Harris*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I worked with Bette at West. She was a joy to be around. She was a great teacher teacher who always put the interest of her students first. She will be missed by those lucky enough to know her. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.*  
*Lee Jones*

**Lee Jones** - January 29, 2016 at 10:11 AM



“ *Bette had touched me deeply over the years as a client and a friend. There will be no other like her. Now, heaven has a bit of class and sassafrass.*

**Douglas Rogers** - January 27, 2016 at 03:05 PM



“ *I have such fond memories of Bette and the Harris family. My thoughts and prayers are with Tom and Ann at this time. May your loving memories bring you comfort.*

**Melody Marshall Wood** - January 27, 2016 at 02:12 AM

MH

“ Mrs. Harris was my Cosmetology teacher at JB. Johnson 1988. She was a wonderful person. Amazing teacher. She could always find something good about the day. She will be greatly missed.  
Melanie Angel Hill

Melanie Hill - January 25, 2016 at 08:44 PM

RN

“ Roger And Faye Nichols lit a candle in memory of Bette J. Harris



Roger and Faye Nichols - January 25, 2016 at 03:42 PM

LP

“ IF there there was a picture in the dictionary for the word "Lady" it would be Betty. With all her physical problems she was always interested in other people and always had a smile on her face. And will always be missed.  
Leona



Leona Piggott - January 25, 2016 at 10:01 AM

TH

“ Ann, Andy, Judy and I would like to thank everyone for all the love, prayer, care and kindness that's been shown us. Thank you too for sharing your thoughts, memories and beautiful words of tribute.  
Bette lives on in our hearts and all who knew her. Peace and Love,  
Tom

Tom Harris - January 25, 2016 at 06:19 AM

JA

“ Tom and Ann,

*I pray that your memories of your Mom will sustain you as you process your grief. She was, indeed, a beautiful lady both inside and out. I will certainly miss her quick wit and sparkling eyes. She certainly rests in the presence of Jesus and your loved ones who've gone before you. Much love to you both and your family.*

*Joanne Adams*

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**Joanne Adams** - January 24, 2016 at 07:06 PM

SK

“ *What a beautiful lady!! I can't imagine PEO meetings without Betty. By her example, she was a source of great strength and inspiration. I admired her tenacity and her will to persevere no matter what physical difficulties she encountered. I learned to appreciate, admire, and love Betty, and I will miss her greatly! LIPEO, sheryl*

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**Sheryl Kramer** - January 24, 2016 at 03:35 PM



“ *i remember aunt Bette cooking and having the most beautiful table with tons of food during the holidays. Heaven truly gained an angel.... RIP Aunt Bette!!*

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**Robyn Allen Ramsey** - January 23, 2016 at 10:45 PM

JH

“ *Ann and Tom,  
The light of the world shines a little dimmer today. I am so very sorry to learn of Bette's death. She was a joy to everyone who knew her; her no complaining acceptance of everything life sent her was inspiration to all.*

*Too far away to say this in person, please know that I am thinking of you as you lay her to rest.*

*Warmly,  
Jane Hill*

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**Jane Hill** - January 23, 2016 at 01:11 PM

MB

“ *Michelle Bowen lit a candle in memory of  
Bette J. Harris*



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**michelle bowen** - January 22, 2016 at 10:51 PM

PE

“ *Bette was an amazing teacher. She was so charming and graceful, you couldn't help but love her! She was a marvelous friend. She would do anything for others. Bette was the classiest woman I have ever known.*

*Love,  
Peg*



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**Peg** - January 22, 2016 at 07:15 PM

LR

“ *Bette was a beautiful lady inside and out. She enjoyed her friends, family and a good glass of wine. Bette, always had a smile on her face. She will be greatly missed as a friend and PEO Sister of Chapter JZ. LIPEO Linda*

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**Linda Roden** - January 22, 2016 at 06:25 PM

RG

*Bette was a beautiful woman. Always a smile. I will miss her especially at all our PEO meetings. She is in heaven looking down on us. I will never forget her. What a wonderful friend and sister in PEO. Lovingly Ruth Guntren*

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**Ruth M Guntren** - January 24, 2016 at 08:26 PM

AH

*Bette was one of the first sisters in Chapter JZ that I met and her beautiful smile was then and always will be a lasting memory of mine. Her hands were always extended to show her welcoming spirit to everyone as she wanted to hold hands while she made eye contact while speaking. She had the rare quality of allowing the Holy Spirit to constantly work through her and be exhibited outwardly to others. I always looked forward to seeing Bette as I felt an unconditional love similar to the love I felt from my own Mother. What a wonderful human being and I thank God for allowing my life to have been blessed so to know Bette.*

*Allison Hainsfurther*

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**Allison Hainsfurther** - February 05, 2016 at 10:13 PM