



Betty Louise Kelley

June 13, 1932 - July 24, 2024

It is with profound sadness that the family of Betty Louise Kelley, Alton, IL announce that she passed peacefully on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at the age of 92

years. Born at home on June 13, 1932 to Thomas Leo and Helen Margaret (Vahle)

Fitzgibbons, she lived a full life as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister,

friend, and colleague. Betty retired from St. Anthony's hospital at the age of 80 years.

She was a lifelong Catholic and member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey, IL,

with special devotion to the Blessed Mother.

On November 5, 1954 she married Richard N. Kelley, who preceded her in death. She was devoted to her family and will be sorely missed and fondly remembered.

Betty is survived by her son Richard and four daughters, Margaret Volner (Greg),

LuraSue Graves (Michael), MaryLou Moore (Jeff), and Virginia Ontis. She was a

grandmother to 14 grandchildren, Chris Ontis (Nichole), Kirby Ontis (Laura), Adam

Moore (Zoe), Meredith Thomason (Dan), Bill Ebling (Heather), Jon Ebling

(Kristen),

Drew Moore, Hannah Moore, Jacob Graves, Sarah Graves, Amanda Goree (Tim),

Samantha Wilson (Allen), Alexis Dolan (Sean), and Sam Volner (Katie). She is also

survived by 23 great-grandchildren; Paige, Caden, Gavin, and Jack Ontis, Kyron,

Dagan, Zaila, Mikey, Raelynn, and Owen Moore, Joseph and Kristopher Thomason,

Addi, Audrey, Avenly, Robby, and Bentley Ebling, Marley, Halen, Presley, Everly, Kash,

and Axl Goree. She was a great-great grandmother to Kyron Jr. Moore. Betty is

survived by one brother, James Fitzgibbons, of North Carolina and a sister, Mary

Berghoff, of Godfrey, IL. Along with her parents, husband, and three brothers, she was

preceded in death by a daughter, Linda Kelley, and a grandson, Michael Richard

Graves.

Betty was in the workforce for over 60 years, and she was a strong advocate for

education. She held leadership positions within the Business and Professional Women's

Organization (BPW) at the local, district, and state levels. As part of this organization of

"women helping women" she worked tirelessly to encourage, advocate, and support the

advancement of women in business. She participated in a plethora of community

activities, most noteworthy were her years of coaching young women's softball

teams

within Godfrey Khoury League.

Betty was an avid Cardinals baseball fan, seldom missing a game on TV. She had outspoken opinions about her favorite and least favorite players and would quote

the latest standings, even dedicating a room in her home to Cardinal memorabilia. In

addition, Betty loved jigsaw puzzles, a hobby she shared with several of her children

and grandchildren. She delighted in the art of crochet, making and donating over 400

hats to St. Jude's Hospital.

Her house was the hub for holiday celebrations, especially for Christmas, providing hand-picked gifts to all members of her family. She loved to travel and toured

Italy, France, Ireland, Mexico, Poland, Austria, and Canada. Betty particularly enjoyed a

trip to Germany with her daughter's family, retracing the locations her husband had

described in letters to her from his time in the Air Force. She also had adventures within

the U.S, most notably, New York (Cooperstown), New Mexico, Alaska, Alabama (Gulf

Shores), Michigan, North Carolina, and Hawaii.

Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m., Friday, August 2, 2024 at Gent

Funeral Home in Alton followed by a Mass of Christian burial at 1:00 p.m. at St.

Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey. The officiant will be Father Steven Janoski. Burial

will be at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey. Memorial donations may be made to

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation or St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memorial Park

Godfrey, IL 62035

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 10:30 AM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002

Funeral Mass

AUG 2. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Ambrose Catholic Church
820 West Homer Adams Pkway
Godfrey, IL 62035

Tribute Wall

SD

“ I just learned of Betty's passing; it so broke my heart. I worked with Betty at Saint Anthony's to say the least I gained a special friend, I learned so much from this beautiful lady!!! I loved listening to her tell stories. As I think back what my favorite memory is when Betty would get frustrated with someone and she would call them a dildo!!! That just cracked me up and I would start laughing and then we would both be just a laughing... There will ALWAYS be a special place in my heart for her.

Sherrie Durbin - August 04, 2024 at 06:08 PM

BK

“ *Benny, Robby, Jon, Kristen purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Betty Louise Kelley.*



Benny, Robby, Jon, Kristen - August 01, 2024 at 10:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Louise Kelley.*



August 01, 2024 at 02:43 PM

PE

“ Platform Services Team, Equifax planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Louise Kelley.

Platform Services Team, Equifax - August 01, 2024 at 02:43 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Betty Louise Kelley.



July 31, 2024 at 09:21 PM

JB

“ Julie and Barry Bruton purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Betty Louise Kelley.



Julie and Barry Bruton - July 31, 2024 at 07:16 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Betty Louise Kelley.



July 31, 2024 at 06:24 PM

JR

“ Jim and Julie Routt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Louise Kelley.

Jim and Julie Routt - July 31, 2024 at 06:24 PM

BC

“ Ginny- you are in my thoughts & prayers during this difficult time. I've known your mom & worked with her for over 50 years, at St. Joe's. Betty was a very loyal & hardworking woman that was very dedicated to her work and her community. She was a wonderful friend & she had such a wealth of knowledge & determination. If something needed to be purchased, Betty knew exactly where to go to get it! Betty was also very so proud of all you kids & loved you all dearly.

Becky Chester - July 31, 2024 at 11:43 AM

BH

“ We didn't personally know Betty but Virginia is my best friend and we have heard many many touching stories, so we all feel like we have known her for a long time. Our prayers go out to all of Betty's family wishing you peace through this hard time. Sorry I can't be there Friday but please know Virginia that you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless



Becky Hebel - July 30, 2024 at 02:56 PM

GS

“ Gerald/Jacqueline Schenke lit a candle in memory of Betty Louise Kelley



Gerald/Jacqueline Schenke - July 30, 2024 at 01:33 PM

GS

Gin & family- so sorry for your loss- we know you were very close to your Mom- our thoughts & prayers are with you at this time! See you soon. Love, Jerry & Jacque

Gerald/Jacqueline Schenke - July 30, 2024 at 01:35 PM

MM

“ Mary Lou Moore lit a candle in memory of Betty Louise Kelley



Mary lou Moore - July 29, 2024 at 08:20 PM

MM

“ My Mom, was a kind and thoughtful lady. The most important thing I learned from here was how she always thought of helping others. I will truly miss talking to her. She always called me
Mary Lou

Mary lou Moore - July 29, 2024 at 08:19 PM