



Betty A. Winchester

September 28, 1946 - June 17, 2023

PETERSBURG, IL – Betty A. Winchester, 76, passed away, June 17, 2023, at Memorial Medical Center.

She was born September 24, 1946, in Springfield, Ill., the daughter of Cecil and Audrey Ratliff. Betty married Bill Winchester on Feb. 4, 1967, in Greenview, Ill.

Betty is survived by her sons, James and David (Melinda Ballinger) Winchester; two grand-children, Joshua Winchester (Tori) and Elizabeth Van Hove (Jeff); two great-grandchildren, Kensley Winchester and Daniel Van Hove; brother Robert (Mary) Ratliff, sisters Barb (Lyle) Hunsley and Kay Engel; and several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by husband William and parents.

Betty worked for the State of Illinois, primarily in the Department of Corrections and the Illinois State Police.

Betty and Bill enjoyed supporting their sons and their sons' friends in their 4-H and school sports events endeavors. When their boys grew up, Betty and Bill needed a new hobby: they started accumulating items at yard sales and auctions; then hosting big yard sales at their home across from the New Salem Campgrounds. The next venture — a business selling the treasures they found. While still employed full-time with the State, she and Bill began Estep Mercantile and Antiques in Petersburg, IL in 1991 after buying a warehouse on Third Street. Their business was later relocated to a Victorian house on Fifth Street, then to the Robbins Building on Sixth Street. Betty sold the Robbins complex in 2020 and continued Estep's with booths in the Williamsville Antique Mall and a section in Petersburg's Crazy Daisy Gift Shop.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Visitation will be held July 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg. Burial services will follow visitation at Oakland Cemetery in Petersburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made the Menard County Animal Control or to a charity of choice.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg assisted the family with arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Burial

JUL 14 (CT)

Oakland Cemetery
Petersburg, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Betty was one of the kindest people I have ever known. There were people who came into her antique shop just to share a story or just have someone to pat them on the back and say everything will get better. Betty was my friend and my best listener. I only wish we could have had her just a little bit longer. Right now she is sitting in heaven, feeling no pain, and smiling down on all her friends and family. Kay, if you read this, please contact me so we can talk. Love, Rosie

Rosie Cahill - June 26, 2023 at 02:35 PM

DE

“ My condolences to the family. I always enjoyed stopping to see her on my Sunday afternoon cycling workout which she had the store. What a wonderful lady. Derrick Stevens

derrick - June 26, 2023 at 02:30 PM

RS

“ I remember when I conducted an auction for Betty's grandmother in Greenview many years ago Betty and Bill got hooked on auctions and from that time on they attended just about every one we had and started in the resale business. If they did miss one I would give them a call to see if they were alright. Their permanent number with us was #13. They were great support to us and if there are auctions in heaven I know they are sitting in the front seat buying and having a fun time. R.I.P. Betty. Ron & Susie Sanert

Ron & Susie Sanert - June 26, 2023 at 01:09 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album Betty From 2020



Paula Atwood - June 21, 2023 at 12:16 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album *Betty 2*



Paula Atwood - June 21, 2023 at 12:15 PM

PA

“ 2 files added to the album *Early Pix From 2018*



Paula Atwood - June 21, 2023 at 12:11 PM

LH

“ *Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Winchester*



Larry and Mary Hundt - June 21, 2023 at 08:59 AM