



Mrs. Betty Jane [nee Geldbach] Hagenbrok

June 7, 1929 - August 12, 2015

Hagenbrok, Betty Jane (Geldbach)

Betty Hagenbrok (Nonnie or Non to those who adored her), age 86, transitioned on August 12, 2015. Born June 7, 1929 in St. Louis, MO she resided in Riverview, FL and eventually Alpharetta, GA. Betty Jane, the daughter of John and Ruth Geldbach, was the youngest of eight children. As a child her favorite song was "Jesus Loves Me". Betty was also a tiny daredevil who would ride her scooter at break neck speed whenever possible. As a young girl she won a Shirley Temple look-a-like contest and as a young woman was voted a Ralston Purina Checkerboard "Sweater Girl". That career came to an abrupt end when her young husband said "no more"! A recent widow in January 2014, Betty was married 64 years to her high school sweetheart, Edward Hagenbrok, who she met at the age of 16 at a St. Patrick's Day dance. Eddie had to be impatiently waiting for her to join him because they were never apart for long. If you were lucky enough to be loved by Nonnie you knew it because she told you all the time. Even in her final days her typical grace, ease and sweetness surrounded us as she invited her loved ones and visitors in bed with her for a snuggle to make sure they were warm, cozy and felt loved. Everybody elected to snuggle. At maybe 4'10 of petite perfection (she'd like to claim she was just shy of 5 feet) she was our soft place to fall in our darkest days and a towering pillar of strength to lean on. She was the one who could calm our inner fears, keep our secrets and

help us fulfill our dreams. She reveled in all our successes and was our greatest cheerleader in whatever we attempted. As one family member said, when you spent time with her you left wanting to be a better person. A talented and gifted artist, she had a flair for fashion and decorating. You could always count on her to look beautiful in her clothing accessorized with a fabulous purse and fun jewelry. She was the original total package. Her family was everything to her. She loved her babies, grandbabies, great-great grandbabies and her Eddie. Some of her favorite things included ice cold salad plates, piping hot coffee in a pre-heated cup, going to the Jazz Festival, kicking up her heels to Willy Nelson's Whiskey River, traveling, her home, her garden with its sunny yellow patio umbrella, butterflies, good shoes, her mink coat, sassy sun visors and sunglasses, Lancome cosmetics, a great Macy's sale, and her cozy chaise lounge. Banana pudding and her famous cream of wheat (with ice cream no less) was a staple request of her grandchildren along with her special back scratches and amazing Rufus the Squirrel stories. And, if truth be told, we could have made a fortune if we would have sold her potato salad to the public! Betty Jane Hagenbrok, our Nonnie, is survived by her loving children, daughter Susan Lynn Rhatigan of Alpharetta, GA and son Mark Edward Hagenbrok (Maureen) of Memphis, TN as well as five of the most wonderfully close and loving grandchildren Nathan Edward Rhatigan (Erin), Jessica Michelle Hagenbrok Morris (Tommy), Ryan Michael Hagenbrok (Katie), Shane Patrick Rhatigan (Gina DiCamillo) and Caitlyn Suzanne Hagenbrok Kiedis (Zach) she delighted in her love for her five great-grand children Wyatt Patrick Rhatigan, Delle Florence Morris, Travis Sean Rhatigan, Hagen Rose Morris and our newest sweetie pie Ruthie Jane Kiedis, whose appearance is greatly anticipated. Ruthie Jane is being named after Betty, her sister Ruthie and her mother Ruth. Betty's brother Harold Geldbach of Sun City Center, FL is her surviving sibling along with nieces, nephews and many friends who loved her to pieces. Our Sunshine Lady was and is our treasured jewel and we will hold her close to us always.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Cemetery

7600 St Charles Rock Road
St Louis, MO 63133

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Valhalla Funeral Chapel, Crematory and Cemetery
7600 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63133
(314) 721-4900
<https://www.valhallafunerals.net>

Tribute Wall



“ *Your Memphis Chemtreat Team purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mrs. Betty Jane [nee Geldbach] Hagenbrok.*



Your Memphis Chemtreat Team - August 20, 2015 at 07:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Betty Jane [nee Geldbach] Hagenbrok.*



August 19, 2015 at 04:56 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Betty Jane [nee Geldbach] Hagenbrok.*



August 18, 2015 at 09:33 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Susie Rhatigan - August 17, 2015 at 12:19 PM



“ I read the obituaries, not to see who passed, but to read about the lives people have led. Many are so touching. I did not know Mrs. Hagenbrok but the obituary gave me such insight as to the kind of lady she was. It was so thorough and so heartwarming. I was especially touched by the fact she invited family and friends into bed with her to snuggle even in her final days. What a smile that brought to my face! In addition, the words, "she was our soft place to fall in our darkest days" was probably the most poignant message of all. That one sentence says it all. I didn't know her but I wish I had.
 Hal Miller
 Captivahal@aol.com

Hal Miller - August 17, 2015 at 10:19 AM



Thank you so much for your kind words. She was an amazing woman and she taught us all so much. I've acquired a fondness for obituaries myself in that they are the life story of our human experience while we are here. I'm glad to know my mom's brought a smile to your face and warmed your heart.

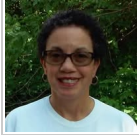
Susie Rhatigan - August 17, 2015 at 12:30 PM



“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Susie Rhatigan - August 16, 2015 at 07:02 AM



“ Sorry for your loss. You're in my prayers.
Ramona



Ramona Williams - August 13, 2015 at 07:18 PM



Thanks Ramona. I know you have felt this deep pain. Isn't it wonderful though that we have such incredible memories of our outstanding role model xo

Susie Rhatigan - August 16, 2015 at 07:59 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Valhalla Funeral Chapel, Crematory and Cemetery - August 13, 2015 at 06:05 AM