



Elizabeth J. "Betty" (Ziegler) Crabbe

March 16, 1944 - March 15, 2019

UTICA - Elizabeth J. "Betty" (Ziegler) Crabbe, R.N., age 74, passed away peacefully, independently, and unexpectedly on Friday, March 15, 2019, one day prior to her 75th birthday.

Betty was born on March 16, 1944, in the small town of Carlyle, Saskatchewan, Canada to the late Clifford and Thelma (nee MacDonald) Ziegler. Betty grew up on a 1,000-acre working farm, attended a one-room elementary school in Manor, High School in Carlyle, and in 1966, Betty graduated from the Regina General Hospital School of Nursing. After working in Regina for two years, Betty and her close friend, June, a classmate from nursing school, decided to pack a bag and head to Hawaii! Betty and June found themselves in Honolulu, without jobs or a place to live. Within a week, they both had jobs working in a local hospital and living near Waikiki!

While living in Hawaii in 1969, Betty met her former husband, Patrick Crabbe, and ended up moving to Utica in 1971. Betty continued her nursing career at St. Luke's Memorial Hospital, and soon became the Charge Nurse in the Trauma Unit. Betty remained the Charge Nurse for the next 40 years until her retirement in 2011.

She was passionate about her work and was a dedicated professional. She amassed a record of almost perfect attendance over those 40 years, never missing work except for taking maternity leave for the births of her three children.

The number of lives Betty touched can never be truly calculated, but she left a

lasting impression on her patients, co-workers and subordinates, alike. Her compassion, kindness and professionalism were well-known throughout St. Luke's. Betty was always ready to give a helping hand and enjoyed teaching the new nurses under her care. She was also known for her beautiful penmanship. Long before medical charts and records were computerized, and doctors' orders were written by hand, everyone knew who had taken care of a particular patient when they saw the hand-writing on the person's chart! It was near-professional calligraphy!

Betty is survived by her three daughters and sons-in-law, Michele and Michael Mock, Karen and Vincent Turczyn, and Laura and Keith Baston. She was Macka to her grandchildren, Joshua, and Jeremy Mock; Angeline, and Davina Turczyn; and Ada Baston; and three great-grandchildren, Eloise, Lucas, and Rowan. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, John and Susan Ziegler, of Moosejaw, Saskatchewan; a niece, a nephew, and cousins. She was preceded by her brother, Donald Ziegler.

Betty knew from an early age that she would devote her life to helping others, as evidenced by her nursing school yearbook quote: "Reverence for life demands from all, that they should sacrifice a portion of their own lives for others."

In keeping with Betty's wishes, there will be no formal funeral services. She will be honored with a Spiritual Hawaiian Ceremony, as that was her happy place. Those wishing to honor Betty may make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association, 441 W Kirkpatrick St, Syracuse, NY 13204 or online at <https://www.alz.org/centralnewyork>.

Rest in peace, Nurse Betty.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Hello to Karen, Michele and Laura. I don't know whether this will be forwarded to you but could not pass up the chance to express my condolences to you and your family in the loss of your mum. Betty and I were roomies in Honolulu so of course I have many fond memories of her there. Also of times spent with your Auntie Brenda, and your dad Patrick. Even your Uncle Don visited us there plus as a bonus your grandparents. Very private and almost shy folks but also very kind.

After a visit to Honolulu Betty and I decided we would love to work there, so came back to Canada and proceeded to get a visa to work there not knowing if we would be able to get a job there. Fortunately we were employed quite early in our arrival.

That was where we met Brenda and Patrick! And what characters they were always good for a story!

Eventually it was time to move on in our individual lives. Your mum and dad and Brenda to Utica and myself back to Saskatchewan. Betty and I corresponded for quite a while after that but eventually it became more spread out and stopped for whatever reason.

I've often wondered how your family was but no response from your mum until we sadly heard from you girls of her passing which was a terrible shock to our class of 66.

Hope this letter gets through to you at this late date. Thought I'd share some wonderful memories of times shared with your mum.

June Duck - August 22, 2023 at 10:39 PM

NF

“ My condolences to all of Betty’s family. I grew up on the farm next to Betty’s family farm, I remember her well, and after the little country school closed, we rode the school bus together for 3 years, then she was off to Regina for her nurses training. I lost track of her, and her family.

Many fond memories of Betty. My first memory that comes to mind, is, it was my first day of school, small country school, I didn’t want to stay, Betty took me aside, and painted my fingernails with red polish, the first time I ever had nail polish 😊, , she had that natural caring inspiration way back then.

RIP

Norma Ross Flemming

Norma Flemming - August 17, 2019 at 10:05 PM

KT

Hello Norma, I am Betty's daughter, Karen. Thank you so much for you kind words and your beautiful memory of my mom. I love to hear stories of her early life, especially since it was so different from how I grew up. My mom was a special lady. Thank you again.

Karen Turczyn - March 11, 2020 at 11:11 AM

NF

Hello Karen

I’m not sure if this message will get forwarded to you, but , an old school/ university friend of your Uncle John Ziegler is trying to locate him. According to your mom’s obituary, Johnny, as I knew him was in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan at that time.

Johnny was always a very private, quiet individual, and may not wish to share this info with anyone.

If you do contact him, the friend’s name is Grant Mac Murray, school and university friend. Hope all is well with you and you can reach me at : n.c.flemming @hotmail.com.

Norma Ross Flemming.

Norma Flemming - February 03, 2023 at 01:24 PM

DG

“ Karen, Michele and Laura,
I am so very sorry to hear about the passing of your mom. I have many wonderful early childhood memories of her. I remember her as a kind and very patient mom. She was soft spoken and always had a smile for me. I can't imagine what you are feeling but big hugs, love and prayers to you all.

Debra Krzemien Griesbeck - March 21, 2019 at 07:32 PM

SF

“ Rest In Peace my friend. You're loved and admired by so many and will always be remembered in our hearts as the kind, generous and remarkably devoted mother, grandmother, nurse and friend. It was always an honor and privilege to know and work with you over the years. May God bless you and your beloved family always and forever.

Aloha

Sue & Larry Fish

Sue & Larry Fish - March 20, 2019 at 07:31 PM

LD

“ Michele, Karen, and Laura, I'm so very sorry to hear of your moms passing. She was a wonderful, kind women. I know she will live on in your hearts. May her soul Rest In Peace. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. All my love, Leah Muraco Donaldson & family ❤️

Leah Donaldson - March 20, 2019 at 02:06 PM

SC

“ Michele, Karen and Laura,
I am so sorry to hear of your mothers passing.
She was such a caring person. Our family all
loved her! She will be truly missed. If you
need anything just let me know. Love, Shirley
and Steve Copperwheat



shirley Copperwheat - March 18, 2019 at 10:39 PM

FA

“ Michele, Karen and Laura
My deepest condolences on the loss of your mother. She was a big
part of my childhood. I will always remember the field trips she
would take us on and all the hours in the pool in the summers.
Sending you love during this difficult time. May she Rest In Peace.
Sincerely Franca

Franca Armstrong - March 18, 2019 at 08:47 PM

MG

“ I will truly miss you Betty. We had so much fun and laughs at all the
parties. I will also miss your Christmas cards and beautiful
handwriting.
Maria Gregorka

Maria Gregorka - March 18, 2019 at 04:57 PM

PH

“ I always loved working with Betty, she was a wonderful Nurse and
person for the short time I got to know her. RIP Betty. My sincere
sympathy to Betty's family.

Patty Hines - March 18, 2019 at 11:31 AM