



## Betty Jane Edwards

October 12, 1926 - December 16, 2020

Betty Jane Edwards - Oct. 12, 1926 - Dec. 16, 2020

Betty was born to Herman Dittmer and Sadie (Schroeder) Dittmer in Trenton, IL. She joined her big sister, Naomi, to live a wonderful childhood in an idyllic small town setting. Her early life was spent taking piano lessons, sewing lessons (from mom), playing in the nearby woods, making lifelong friends, faithfully attending church services and activities and putting her excess energy into cheerleading when she got into high school. She ended up singing in that that same church choir for over 50 years. After high school, she took the position of school secretary that she held for 35 years until her retirement as secretary to the superintendent of Wesclin Schools. During this time, she married and had one daughter, Jo Kauffman. After 12 years, she and Jo would continue their lives by themselves. Betty worked hard to support the two of them and sewed many of Jo's clothes (that Jo would design!) and was like a second mother to her daughter's close friends while providing a welcoming environment where Jo's friends could, and would, hang out. Betty met the love of her life, Earl Edwards, and they were married in 1974 and resided in Highland, IL. They shared a wonderful life for 6 years until his passing. She was his loyal fan at Michael's Restaurant where he entertained customers, playing the organ. They went on many trips together, some to attend meetings of the Organ Society. She would, also, during this time, lovingly oversee her mother's care. Betty was, also, a loyal volunteer at the

Highland UCC Synod office. At age 65, she was gifted a fur baby, Freddie, a toy fox terrier, by her daughter. He would become her constant sidekick for 17 years. Betty also had many good times with the Oak Street Mamas, a group of Highland neighborhood ladies who socialized together and wore their red hats on many, laughter-filled excursions! She also appeared in the Looking Glass Playhouse production of "Fiddler on the Roof", playing Golda and gifting audiences with her beautiful singing voice. She also appeared in "South Pacific" and was secretary at the playhouse in its fledgling years. For the last 13 years, she, first, resided with her daughter and husband, then, at an assisted living facility and, then, at a nursing home where they will never forget her! All are located in Canon City, CO. At age 94, she leaves behind, her daughter Jo (Charles) Rann and her nephew Lee (Bonnie) Wille. She is now reunited with her parents, sister, many friends and her beloved Earl. A private burial will occur at her gravesite in Highland City Cemetery. If anyone wishes to acknowledge her memory, gifts may be contributed to St. John UCC, Trenton, IL, the Trenton Cemetery Association or to the Madison County Humane Society.

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ Was so sorry to hear of Betty Edwards' passing. Our paths crossed numerous times over the years - she relayed board minutes to me when she was a secretary at Wesclin and I was covering the board meetings for the Breese Journal, then ran into her again when she was at the UCC office in Highland & I was dropping off printing from the Journal. Also knew her through mutual friends in Trento, Mim Huelsmann specifically. She was always such a gracious lady and so interesting to talk to. I always admired her style - she always looked like a million bucks! Again, deepest sympathy on your loss!  
Mary L. Heeren

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**Mary L. Heeren** - January 14, 2021 at 04:03 PM

KK

“ Jo and Charlie, this reminds me of that great alto voice that was able to withstand pitch "variations" surrounding her, and do it with a great smile and from a small stature! I saw her in "Fiddler" because our kids were playing in it too at the time. She was humble about her talents, but I remember how she exuded happiness and pride during the "Earl" years at Michael's. Nobody could ever quite fill her place in the choir or in life. Sincere condolences. Karen Koch

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**Karen Koch** - December 30, 2020 at 04:33 PM

SD

“ Jo, I am so sorry to hear of the death of your beautiful mother. I knew her and husband Earl, and they were both lovely people. You and Charles have seen to it that she had wonderful care for these last several years, and I know that she is happy in heaven!

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**Sue Ellen Drewer** - December 29, 2020 at 10:51 PM

SG

“ Jo & Charlie, so sorry to hear of Betty’s passing. When she still lived in Highland, I would occasionally run into her at a store. She was always happy-go-lucky and always had a smile...such a kind and wonderful person. I’m sure you will miss her but her memories will always be with you. Sending prayers, a hug and love your way.  
Sandy Giger

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**Sandy Mersinger Giger** - December 29, 2020 at 10:30 PM

JH

“ My deepest sympathy regarding the death of your Mother. She had such a positive outlook on everything and was a joy to be around. It is so difficult to lose your Mother, but know that she will still be watching over you and be that warm spot in your heart. Gentle hugs,

*Jeanne Kuhn Heuberger*

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**Jeanne Heuberger** - December 29, 2020 at 07:18 PM