



Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp

January 15, 1936 - February 23, 2019

Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp

Gold Medal Flour and Nestle Toll House Chocolate Chips lost their most loyal customer on February 23, 2019 with the passing of Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Hodapp of Marine, Ill. Over the course of her 83 years, Betty baked more than one million chocolate chip cookies using a closely held recipe she could recite by memory even as she entered the late stages of Alzheimer's. In all that time, she is known to have baked only one bad batch. In her defense, her youngest daughter was born a few hours later.

Born on January 15, 1936, Betty grew up on a family farm outside of Marine, Ill. With the possible exceptions of being chased by chickens, and butchering day, she enjoyed an idyllic childhood. Upon her graduation from Highland High School (Class of 1953), she enrolled in the Weaver Airline Personnel School of Kansas City. After realizing that a career as a stewardess would likely require air travel, she opted instead to put her exceptional typing and shorthand skills to work at the Edwin F. Lowenstein Insurance Agency in Highland.

In addition to being suspicious of how Betty paid for the car she drove to work on her \$35/week salary, Mr. Lowenstein had an uncanny need for dictation whenever Betty had a lunch date with a young suitor named John Hodapp.

Nevertheless, she persisted in her job until marrying John on Feb. 9, 1957 and convincing him to open his own eponymous insurance agency. The small, home-based business would eventually finance the college educations of the eight children they had together.

In one particularly good year – known in the family for unknown reasons as The Year of the Contingency – John bought Betty a fur stole and a wig for Christmas. Neither were of particular value when she waited tables at the annual church chicken dinner or canned vegetables from the huge family garden. But they hung at-the-ready in the living room closet for many special Saturday nights of fine dining at Michael's Restaurant and dancing at the Lindendale Ballroom.

A homemaker who put June Cleaver to shame, Betty was also a trailblazer. She discovered Martha Stewart long before she became a household name. A photo of the two taken at a home entertaining workshop in 1988 was displayed prominently on Betty's dining room hutch – until Martha divorced her husband. "What good is a pretty place setting if you don't have a happy home?" Betty said in explanation. She eventually forgave Martha and the photo re-emerged, at least until Martha was sentenced to the federal penitentiary. Upon her release from jail, the photo was again restored to its place of honor. One of the many letters Betty wrote to Martha was later featured in an advertising campaign for Martha Stewart Living magazine.

Betty enjoyed many, many things. Among those things were pantyhose, her Eureka vacuum sweeper, Kevin Killeen novels, her weekly hair appointments, the air-conditioned kitchen in the family camper, Palmolive dish soap, her home security system, daily visits from her dear neighbor Sandy, her cookie sheets and dish towels, and the two washing machines John purchased so she wouldn't have to go up and down the basement stairs so frequently on laundry day, which was every day.

None of these things were nearly as important to her as the time she selflessly spent caring for her beloved husband and ever-growing family.

After 44 years of marriage, Betty lost John on June 1, 2003. She was also preceded in death by her parents, William and Amanda Mayer of Marine. Among her survivors are four sons, John (Cathy) of Marine, Jim (Sue) of Bozeman, Mont., Mark (Marlene) of St. Louis and Steve (Cindy) of Swansea, Ill.; four daughters, Mary (Frank) Bufe of Webster Groves, Mo.; Karen (Michael) O'Brien of St. Charles, Ill., Debbie (Scott) Wick of Highland, Ill., and Sue (Peter) Deakos of Edwardsville, Ill.; 25 grandchildren, Ryan (Gena) Hodapp, Ashley (Daniel) Bugg; Jack and Andy Hodapp; Frank (Lydia Ferraro), Sam and Jane Bufe; Michael (Viviana), Nate, Peter and Kelly O'Brien; Benjamin, Amanda, John Paul, Thomas and Daniel Wick; Joseph and Jenna Ryan and Christian Hodapp; Katie, Luke, Grace and Tate Deakos; and Owen and Sophie Hodapp; and 2 great-grandchildren, Beau Hodapp and Tucker Bugg. Pretty impressive, eh? She is also survived by her sister, Dorothy Wittig of Collinsville, Ill., five sisters-in-law, dozens of nieces, nephews, cousins and anyone who had the good fortune of enjoying one of her one-million-plus cookies.

Heartfelt thanks go to the caregivers at San Gabriel Memory Care in Highland, who provided not only a beautiful kitchen for Betty to bake in as recently as two weeks prior to her death, but also a peaceful and compassionate environment during her transition from this life to the next.

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 1, 2019 and 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home, 1501 Ninth Street in Highland. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 2, 2019 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Marine, where Betty received every single one of her sacraments. Burial will be at St. Elizabeth Catholic Cemetery, Marine. Those so-inclined are invited to wear pantyhose in her honor.

Mass memorials at St. Elizabeth's are welcome. Memorial donations in Betty's name can alternately be made to the Alzheimer's Association of St. Louis or Divine Mercy Senior Living Center in Maryville.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *My sincere condolences to a most wonderful family. I once asked John senior what the secret was to having such tremendous kids and great family. Without hesitating, he smiled and said: “I’ll tell you the secret...I married an angel.”*

Mike Scroggins

Michael Scroggins - March 02, 2019 at 07:55 PM

SG

“ *Sandy Gentry lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp*



Sandy Gentry - March 01, 2019 at 08:34 PM

SG

“ Talk about an Amazing Lady!!! ❤️ Wow!! Is the only word to describe her? I always wanted to be like Betty when i grew up!! Well that never happened! Being like her or growing up. I love that beautiful woman, just like a second mom. Betty and her family were neighbors to my dad and mom, and also me for Many years. I use to go over to visit her on a daily basis. We had such great times visiting and laughing. She was so very proud of her family. She loved John and her children more than life. But God always came First. So I'm sure she was met with open arms. By God and John! And their all enjoying those Chocolate chip cookies! Along with Wayne. Hope he's sharing! He never wanted to with me. If you had one of her cookies you wouldn't want to share either. Wonderful article on your precious mom. Love to All. She sure will be missed. Sending Prayers to comfort the hurting hearts. 🙏 Sandy Gentry

Sandy Gentry - March 01, 2019 at 08:33 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.



March 01, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.



February 28, 2019 at 08:09 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.



February 28, 2019 at 04:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.



February 28, 2019 at 04:06 PM



“ *Terry & I are so sorry for the family she cared for so much. I will never forget meeting with her husband in his insurance office over the years and she in her position as CEO in the house with so much love. And cooking. And laundry. Her memory will always live on through her kids and grandkids. Patti Smith & Terry O'Connell*

Patti Smith - February 28, 2019 at 09:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.



February 27, 2019 at 07:51 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.*



February 27, 2019 at 03:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.*



February 26, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Betty Hodapp Pics*



Frank Bufe - February 26, 2019 at 11:29 AM



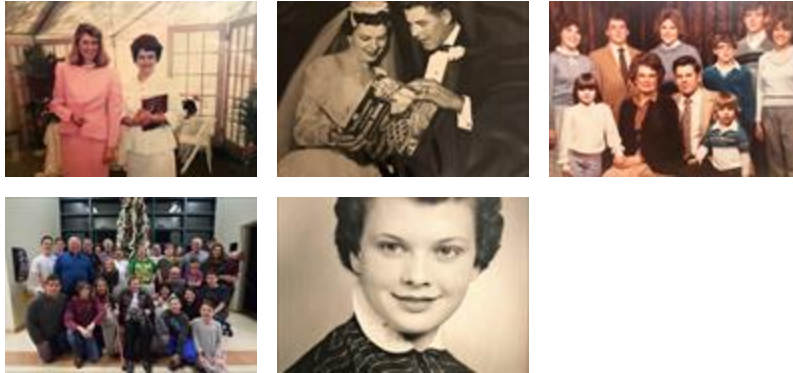
“ *Your Friends at Spectrum Asset Management purchased the Ringed by Love for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.*



Your Friends at Spectrum Asset Management - February 26, 2019 at 09:54 AM

FB

“ 6 files added to the album Betty Hodapp Pics



Frank Bufe - February 25, 2019 at 08:46 PM

LH

“ Linda And Huck Huckaby lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp



Linda and Huck Huckaby - February 25, 2019 at 08:41 PM

JH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Hodapp. May God comfort you through this season of loss.

Sincerely,
Joan Harmon (co-worker of Frank)

Joan Harmon - February 25, 2019 at 02:56 PM

JL

“ Betty came to visit me after my surgery bringing those delicious cookies. She was a very special lady and will be missed. May your family find comfort knowing Betty is resting comfortably in God’s loving arms. With deepest sympathy, Jim and Debbie Laughlin



Jim and Debbie Laughlin - February 25, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.



February 25, 2019 at 01:36 PM

FB

“ 3 files added to the album Betty Hodapp Pics



Frank Bufe - February 25, 2019 at 01:25 PM

MF

“ Michael and Karen O'Brien and CLC family purchased the Finest Farewell Spray for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Hodapp.



Michael and Karen O'Brien and CLC family - February 25, 2019 at 10:40 AM