



F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett

August 4, 1940 - January 13, 2024

F. Elizabeth "Betty" Garrett, 83, of Lake Villa, IL passed away Saturday, January 13th, 2024 at Alto Senior Living in Grayslake, IL.

Betty was born August 4th, 1940 in Chicago, IL, and moved to Lake Villa at the age of 8 with her parents Charles and Dorothy Garret, and siblings Charlene Huhnstock (nee Garrett) and James Garrett.

Growing up with stories of badminton, swimming across the lake, softball, and biking in Venetian Village, she made many friends and memories that lasted throughout her life.

Betty attended Lake Villa Grade Schools and Grayslake High School where she found her love for the oboe, music, and band. She continued her love for music and learning at Millikin University by earning her Bachelor's Degree and continuing on to Northwestern University where she received her Master's Degree in Music Education.

After college, she started her career as a Middle School Band Director. She spent the majority of her career teaching band in the Lake Villa School District directing scores of students. While teaching in the band room was among her greatest accomplishments, she positively impacted the lives of her students for decades to come by also facilitating private music lessons, performances

at Wrigley Field, bike trips, raking leaves, hosting bonfires, marching in parades, and trips to Six Flags.

After retirement from Band Directing, she went on to continue her own education earning a Master's degree in Divinity at Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York, followed by a Master's degree in Theological Studies at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. With these new degrees, she continued to excel as an organist playing for several churches in the area.

Outside her professional endeavors, Betty enjoyed numerous pastimes including playing in the Northshore Band, Palatine Band, Glenview Band, foreign and domestic travel, being a member of the American Coaster Enthusiasts organization, gardening, reading/movie/television/photography, rescuing beagles, walking Lake County Forest Preserves, rooting the Chicago Cubs on for their World Series win and months of staging and admiring her ever-growing Christmas Village collection.

Betty is survived by nephews Jeffrey (Liz) Huhnstock and Jason (Nancy) Garrett, nieces Joey Brower, Cissy (Ed) Hamm, and Emily Garrett (Chris Werner). She is also survived by great nephews and nieces, Jeffrey Huhnstock (Adriana Marjanovic), Jackie (Kenny) Swank, John (Debbie) Brower, Paul Brower, Kasey (Jamie) Killilea, Taylor (Drake) Isaacs, Ruby Garrett, Arloa Werner, Eloise Garrett, Otto Werner, Grace Garrett and CoraRose Werner. Also surviving are great-great nephews and nieces.

Memorial visitation will be 3 - 7 p.m. on Friday, January 26, 2024 at Ringa Funeral Home in Lake Villa, IL. A memorial service will take place at 10 a.m. the following day, Saturday, January 27, 2024 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 31 Park Avenue; Grayslake, Illinois 60030. Interment of the cremated remains in the church columbarium will take place immediately following the

funeral service.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to Alzheimer's Research, Waggin' Tails Rescue Inc., or the Lake County Forest Preserves.

<https://www.alz.org/get-involved-now/donate>

<https://waggintailsrescueil.org/>

<https://www.lcfpd.org/preservation-foundation/donate-now/>

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN **26**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-2146
info@ringafuneralhome.com
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

JAN **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
31 Park Avenue
Grayslake, IL 60030

Tribute Wall

LA

“ Love, Jennifer and Tom Anderson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett.



Love, Jennifer and Tom Anderson - January 26, 2024 at 03:32 PM

JP

“ Jeff (Tyrone) & René Powers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett.

Jeff (Tyrone) & René Powers - January 26, 2024 at 09:56 AM

JP

“ Jeff (Tyrone) & René Powers purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett.



Jeff (Tyrone) & René Powers - January 26, 2024 at 09:56 AM

MA

“ Mary A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett.

Mary A. - January 24, 2024 at 05:57 PM

KS

“ *Kathleen, Jimmy, Mary Ellen and Susie purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett.*



Kathleen, Jimmy, Mary Ellen and Susie - January 24, 2024 at 05:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett.*



January 24, 2024 at 01:57 PM

JM

“ *Miss Garrett pushed me to be my best in middle school band. She taught me bassoon and helped to grow a love of music into something that lasted well beyond public school. Now entering year 24 of teaching music, I know that I owe part of that history to her. Rest in peace.*

Jason Mondello - January 23, 2024 at 03:54 PM

KG

“ I met Betty in the late 60's/early 70's thru my father, Charles Groeling, when I joined the Northshore Community Band and along with a few other various musical performances over subsequent years. I had a chance to reconnect with Betty when I joined the Palatine Band several years ago. We all mourn her passing.



Katherine Groeling - January 22, 2024 at 10:03 AM

MS

“ Betty mentored me when I had just graduated college in 1978 and was starting my 1st music teaching job in Lake Villa. At that time, the 2 of us were the only 2 music teachers in the whole district-- Betty was the band director, for beginning band students plus band at Palombi, and I was the music teacher for Pleviak & Hooper. We were friends ever since! I enjoyed her as a friend and respected her tremendously both as a band director and as a professional oboe player. She touched the hearts of many students and planted the seed of love for music in literally hundreds of them!---Mary Jo Schwontkowski

Mary J Schwontkowski - January 21, 2024 at 05:16 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of F Elizabeth 'Betty' Garrett.



January 21, 2024 at 09:56 AM

TB

“ My mom, Ida Howland, was the choir director at St. Andrew’s when Betty sang there. Betty was also my oboe teacher. As an adult I came to realize what an amazing teacher she was. I stopped playing for several years. When I decided to play again I dug out some of the music she had me play & discovered how difficult it was. Without her guidance I would not have been much of a player. I have so many wonderful memories of Betty. I’m sorry I didn’t know she was on Facebook until today. If I’d known sooner, I would have reconnected with one of my favorite people from my childhood.

Toni Howland Barnett

Toni Barnett - January 20, 2024 at 01:00 PM

DB

“ My deepest condolences to Ms. Garrett's family. I have great memories of band at LVI - I still have all of my medals and pins and can remember a lot of the songs we performed. Also remembering how every year at Halloween she played old, spooky radio recordings for us to listen to! She definitely cared about all of her students, and I am thankful that she was there for me throughout middle school.

Danielle (Rideout) Bishop - January 19, 2024 at 06:59 PM

MK

“ I took over for Betty after she retired from Lake Villa District 41 Bands in 1994. She was a big help to a brand new teacher and continued to be a wonderful resource for students. I also marveled at how well she played oboe and was able to pass on that musicianship on to others. She will be missed in the music community.

Sending peace and comfort to her family and friends.

Matthew Kastor - January 19, 2024 at 03:09 PM

MZ

“ Betty was a special friend to our family. We shared many years together in the Northshore Concert Band, as well as camping/traveling adventures. One special memory was when I accompanied Betty as she took several of her band students to Cedar Point Amusement Park. Following her graduation from Colgate Divinity School in New York, and after returning back home, she often returned to New York to continue her organ lessons. I was privileged to go with her on one of those trips. One of her (and our) special memories was in 1975 when the Northshore Band played a concert in Windsor, England. A worker from the nearby animal park brought over a very large snake to show to the band. Betty stood up and on her oboe played the famous "snake charmer" melody, but she refused to let the worker wrap the snake around her. Betty was a wonderfully giving, friendly person, who gave our family so many memories of when we were with her, in many different settings. She was a beautiful friend. I will miss her.

Marilea Zajec - January 18, 2024 at 12:55 PM

HS

“ A great fun lady who made lots of great music and taught others to appreciate the same. Henry

Henry J Schmidt and Rev Marth M. Schmidt - January 18, 2024 at 11:35 AM

JO

“ I was lucky to have had Ms. Garrett my first year of beginning band back in '93/'94, which ultimately was her last year of teaching at Lake Villa. Every Wednesday, I'd watch the clock until it was time to leave class to go play clarinet in the basement at Pleviak. Just couldn't wait and once bent the side keys trying to put it together, Betty bending it back with pliers! I continued private lessons with her and she accompanied me on piano for so many little pieces I did for contest, concerts, and more...fueling a love for clarinet & making music. She quickly became a family friend. I vividly remember attending a few of her Northshore Concert Band performances. Years later when I majored in music in college, she came to my senior clarinet recital and more recently played music with me for my mother's services at Ringa's back in 2019. It was special to share that kind of connection with a teacher. We share a love for Dept 56 village houses and her display of little Christmas houses everywhere is definitely an influence on my home. My condolences from Arizona, she will be missed. - Jeff Ouper

Jeff Ouper - January 18, 2024 at 02:55 AM

JR

“ Betty was one of the first teachers I met when hired at LVI in Aug 1979. She was a welcoming and generous person. We shared a love for music and would ask for me to internal sub her 4th period band for years. I'd been a music major for years and so enjoyed directing a band once again and she didn't need to plan a study hall for a non-musical substitute. I shared many a roller coaster ride with her over the years. Her smile was contagious and she was loved by her fellow staff and her students and will be missed.

Janet Reynolds - January 17, 2024 at 11:28 PM

CL

“ My heart felt sympathy goes out to Ms. Garrett's family. I have many fond memories of band class with MS. Garrett. One of my favorites that I like to brag about is playing the National Anthem at Wrigley Field. I am currently completing my 30th year as a music educator which I could not have done without her influence in my life. Most importantly I am still playing my horn in bands and orchestra in the Atlanta area. Thank you Ms. Garrett for the joy and music you have brought to so many!

Christi Skinner Lenz - January 17, 2024 at 07:37 PM

AR

“ I am forever grateful for having been a student of hers and benefited from her passion, devotion, and care.

Adam Reidel - January 17, 2024 at 07:12 PM

KF

“ Betty was a great oboe player. She played in our quintet at North Park College. Fond memories of many rehearsals. And good memories playing in North Shore Band with her. A great lady!!

Kathleen Freer - January 17, 2024 at 04:33 PM