



Beatrice Evangeline Breister

May 25, 1924 - June 9, 2015

Beatrice Evangeline (Kottke) Breister, of Fond du Lac, died on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. She celebrated her 91st birthday on Memorial Day. These last two years challenged your body and mind, but you held on and never complained, giving your family precious time to experience your humor, your strength, your faith, your selfless nature and your love. We will miss you but we know you have finally gone home. Bea was born on May 25, 1924, to Ella (Bethke) and George Kottke in Naperville, Illinois. She married Harold Behm and they had two sons, Frederick and Joseph. On October 21, 1958, she married Kenneth Breister. They had two daughters, Cynthia (Breister) Luttenberger and Peggy Breister (Stensland). She also became step-mom to Ken's two children, Cathy (Greg) Pond and Tom (Patti) Breister. Her early days were spent on the family farm on Hickory Road with her sister and four brothers across from what is now Hobbs Woods. She graduated from Fond du Lac Senior High School in 1942. She had great friends throughout her life. She was a great listener and people naturally gravitated to her, telling her their life stories. She worked as an operator at the phone company, in the days when operators were still needed to connect your call. She was Fond du Lac's Dairy Queen and went on to place as first runner up in the state Alice in Dairyland competition. She worked in admitting at St. Agnes Hospital before leaving to join her husband, Ken, at Breister Appliance. She was the bookkeeper, but also the person who listened to everyone who walked through the door. She didn't consider herself an activist or feminist, but she was a former member of the League of Women

Voters and the Fond du Lac Taxpayers Alliance. She also worked on the American Legion Auxiliary. She was a strong woman, who had a clearly defined sense of right and wrong, tempered by compassion. She lived in Minnesota, Texas, and Oregon with her first husband. She moved back to Fond du Lac in the 1950s with two young boys in tow. A natural beauty with a gentle soul, she met Ken Breister and they were married. They settled in the home on Guindon Boulevard in the late 1950s, and she would reside there until 2013, when a second round of chemotherapy shattered her body. That spring, she went from living on her own to hospice and finally to a nursing home. Bea enjoyed concerts, gardening, reading, and time with family and friends. She made the best mashed potato coffee cake in the world, no contest. Bea is survived by her four children: Fred (Linda) Behm of Wheaton, Illinois, and their children: Leah (Norman) Lee (their children: Maribel Beatrice and Louis Apollo), Stacie (Scott) Piper, and Heidi Behm; Joseph (Sheila) Behm of Sun City Center, Florida, and children: Brett and Cassie; Cindy Luttenberger of Fond du Lac, and her children: Rachael (fiancé, Cory), Jennifer (special friend, Andrew), and Katie; Peggy (Greg Stensland) Breister of Fond du Lac, and their children: Annika and Michael. She is also survived by two step-children: Tom (Patti) Breister of Madison, and their son, Dustin; and Katharine (Greg) Pond of Madison, and their children: Jason and Nicole. She is further survived by one sister, Marcella Pfund of Georgia; sisters and brothers-in-law: Elsie Kottke, Barbara Breister, Sophie Breister, David and Ceil Breister, Bob and Angie Breister, and Laverne Brauer; countless nieces and nephews; her good friends, Gloria and Bev; and former neighbors. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ken, in 2005; four brothers: Roland, Gordon, Chester, and James; brothers and sisters-in-law: Robert Pfund, Theda Kottke, Jeanette Kottke, Virginia Kottke, William Breister, Clayton Breister, John "Jack" Breister, Genevieve Kelly; nieces and nephews; and friends. The funeral service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2015, at Mach Funeral Chapel & Crematory, 31 East Division Street, Fond du Lac, with Rev. Michael J. Zuberbier officiating. The visitation will be on Sunday

at Mach Funeral Chapel & Crematory from noon until the time of service. Private burial will take place on Monday in Estabrooks Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The family would like to thank the staff at Grancare for their compassionate care of Bea.

Tribute Wall

EL

“ I got to know this lovely woman when she married my Uncle Ken. The last group picture of my mother (Genevieve Breister (Kelly) was done at a summer picnic at their home. My grandmother Breister, my mother, and her 6 brothers. It is a picture I still treasure. I'm sure my mom and Aunt Bea are having wonderful, long overdue conversations. I wish I had kept in touch more regular and would not have missed all this precious time.

Elizabeth - July 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NY

“ Bea and husband Ken were wonderful next door neighbors. Over a period of 48 years we enjoyed the daily over the hedge communications. We became next door neighbors of the Breister's in 1966. Over the years Bea and Ken held wonderful yearly holiday parties and get togethers for the neighbors. These were first class parties with every possible snack and food to enjoy and of course great conversation. Our deepest sympathies to the entire family.

Nyles - June 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ A wonderful person who led a great life. Our deepest sympathies to the entire family, especially cousins Joe and Fred.

Thomas - June 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ So sad.....to all members of the Behm and Breister families...our deepest sympathies.....what a great lady. Haven't seen Fred & Joey in over 50 years.....some of the girls more recently.....but nobody for a very long time. Our best to all of you.---Mike & Mary Kottke

June 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ My deepest sympathies to Cindy, Peggy, Joe, Fred and family. Aunt Bea was always a welcome presence in my life, offering her love, humor and support. I will always remember her with great joy. I love you Aunt Bea.

Judith Pfund - June 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ For 80+ years I have been blessed with a sister in my life. Oh how I am going to miss her! Lots of laughter over silly things only sisters can enjoy. To Fred and Linda, Joe and Sheila, Cindy, Peggy and Greg and all your families I send my sympathy and my Love. May God Bless All Of You

Marcella May Pfund - June 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ Our deepest sympathies to Cindy Luttenberg and your whole Family. You are in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this very difficult time. May it bring you comfort to know she is at peace now and is a Guardian Angel watching over you. God Bless?

Tom - June 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ Sorry for your loss. May all the memories that you cherished with Bea help you in the days going forward.

Linda - June 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Cindy and Peggy and family: am saddened to hear of the passing of your mom. I have very fond childhood memories of your mother. Bea was such a special woman. Even though several years have passed; she always made an effort to talk to me when i saw her. Bea will be very missed and I will cherish my fond memories. So many memories of our childhood are flooding back. Gods blessings. RIP Bea.?”

Diane Krist - June 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ The Dairy Queen is now in heaven overseeing her big - and little - brothers. Will miss you Aunt Bea.”

Glen - June 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ So very much enjoyed getting to know Bea when she was coming in every week to collate bulletins. Praying that you find comfort in our LORD's promises while you adjust to living without her here on earth.”

Kelly - June 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ My Aunt Bea was a wonderful person who has been involved in my life for the past 60+ years. I always remember her smile and her laugh. Most of all I remember holiday celebrations at her home and the best pies ever! I will miss her very much. Prayers and condolences to all the family.”

Sally Jo Pfund - June 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM