

Betty Jane Gerber

GHR Monday 11/18/24

Betty Jane Gerber (maiden name Broyles), age 90, passed away following a short illness at Swedish Edmonds Hospital, Edmonds, Wash., on November 7, 2024.

Betty was born September 18, 1934, in Grinnell, Iowa, the younger daughter of Hiram Perry ("H.P.") Broyles and Petranella McCart.

She graduated from Grinnell High School in 1953. She attended the University of Iowa, pledged Gamma Phi Beta sorority where she made many lifelong friends, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Editorial Journalism in 1957.

After graduating she went to work for the Cedar Rapids Gazette. Later she returned to the U of I and got a master's degree in Editorial Journalism along with a teaching credential. She was recruited to teach high school in Phoenix, Ariz., and spent the rest of her career as a teacher.

Betty taught high school in Iowa City, and later Acalanes High School district in the Bay Area of California for 25 years. She taught English, History, and Yearbook. When she was in Grinnell, she worked at the KGRN Radio Station and The Grinnell Herald-Register.

She loved all animals, and her dogs Missy and Molly were like children to her. She frequently said that her dogs understood English perfectly. Later, when she was in her apartment, she fed and cared for a family of cats that lived nearby and enjoyed watching the cats in her patch of front yard. For hobbies she enjoyed needlepointing, photography, and visiting friends.

When she retired Betty moved back to Grinnell and lived in the family home at 1114 Elm Street for many years before transitioning to an apartment. She loved 12-ounce nonfat lattes from Saints Rest and hanging with her friends in the morning coffee crowd at Saints Rest.

She had many wonderful friends and neighbors over the years who looked out for her. Thanks to her friends from the swimming pool too. Grinnell, like the song, is "where everyone knows your name and they are always glad you came."

She is survived by her daughter Anne Garay, Anne's husband Al, and granddaughters Ariel and Ashley Garay.

A memorial service will be held next spring or summer in Grinnell (date not yet set) and Betty will be interred in Hazelwood Cemetery next to her parents.

