



Elizabeth "Bette" Connor

April 14, 1932 - October 11, 2017

Elizabeth Connor nee Biggins, 85, passed away peacefully on Oct 11, 2017 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Joliet, on April 14, 1932 to the late James J. and Elizabeth Kohley Biggins. She attended St. Victor grade school, Calumet City, graduating from St. Patrick school in Joliet, St. Francis Academy High and the College of St. Francis Joliet, IL. While there, Elizabeth and close college classmates formed the "Friends Forever" club which is still active today. She later attended the Ray Vogue School of Design, DePaul University and Northeastern University where she earned her Master's Degree in Education. Bette met and married her beloved husband, the late Patrick Connor in 1959. Together they raised 4 children; Mary (Joseph) Czuba, Patrick Connor, Michael (Judy) Connor and Annellen (Marty) Gomez. Bette and husband Pat enjoyed traveling and seeing the world together. Elizabeth taught and inspired hundreds of students over the years beginning in 1954 Rehn School Joliet, Jahn, Bell, and Ferry Hall Schools in Chicago and Lake Forest, retiring from Walt Disney Magnet School after a 20-year career there. Always providing for others ahead of herself, she personified the concept of altruism. Elizabeth exquisite talents in art design, sewing, construction and academics, led her to improve the lives of others, volunteering at her children's schools in Great Books and Library programs, After School Tutoring and Citizenship volunteer for the Vietnamese Association of IL. Elizabeth was co-author with her sister of the Libby Books, based on their mother's life. She was a member of the Joliet Writers Group.

She backpacked around the world, for three months in 2010. Asked what the best part of her trip was, she answered, "The people."

Preceded in death by her husband Pat (2008), brother James E. Biggins, sister, Cathi Biggins, sisters and brothers in law, Mary Jane Olivetti, Paula and John Springer and James Bibb. Besides her devoted children, Elizabeth is survived by 4 grandchildren, Nicholas and Matthew Gomez and Shannon and Brian Connor. She is also survived by brothers Edward (Sue), William Biggins, sister, Mary (Gordon)Kinzler, Brother in law, Matthew (Josephine) Connor and Sister in Law, Kathleen (James, deceased) Bibb. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral Mass will be held Wednesday, 11AM at St. Ita Catholic Church, 5500 N. Broadway St., Chicago, IL 60640. Donations to St. Ita Church appreciated.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

OCT 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Ita Catholic Church
1220 W Catalpa
Chicago, IL 60640

Tribute Wall



“ Elizabeth *"Bette"* Connor

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ Sincere condolences to the Connor Family for your loss. May Bette be at peace.

Prayers!
Bob Lang

bob lang - October 22, 2017 at 11:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth *"Bette"* Connor.



October 18, 2017 at 09:27 AM

DB

“ What a joy to have had Bette as a friend since college ! She amazed me with her talent and resourcefulness in art, sewing and many travels overseas. It still makes me giggle in disbelief thinking of our double date to a college dance. While driving to our destination she was still sewing flowers on her gown. That didn't faze her a bit.

I will always remember what a great inspiration Bette was to all of us during her illness and her concern for others. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to all the family members. She and all of you are in our prayers.

Dollie and Al Bajusz

Dollie Bajusz - October 17, 2017 at 04:58 PM

LN

“ Bette Connor was a role model for all of us: welcoming, cheerful, optimistic, creative, generous, gentle, and kind. We were blessed to have known her. Our hearts go out to her family and her countless friends and admirers.

*Linda and Bob Nachtrieb
Joliet, Illinois*

Linda and Bob Nachtrieb - October 17, 2017 at 09:07 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Bette" Connor.



October 16, 2017 at 10:20 AM

AN

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Ann - October 14, 2017 at 10:53 PM

MC

“ 3 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Mary Czuba - October 14, 2017 at 05:55 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Bette" Connor.



October 13, 2017 at 11:39 PM

MC

“ *My condolences and prayers to the Conner clan on the loss of your mother. From the pictures below, her love and joy for life will surely remain in your hearts forever.*
Mike and Kate Cerney

Mike Cerney - October 13, 2017 at 09:50 PM

AC

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Ann Connor - October 13, 2017 at 08:37 PM

MP

“ *Mary and family so sorry for your loss.*

Mary Mackey Pennino

Mary Mackey Pennino - October 13, 2017 at 12:23 PM

BH

“ *RIP Mrs. Connor. Your sewing skills were beyond compare--I always wanted to win the doll and outfits you made for it at the St. Ita's Christmas Bazaar; I loved your understated sense of humor and enjoyed stopping to chat on walks down Wayne where you and Mr. Connor could be found relaxing on your porch. When people tell me their kids attend Disney School, I always brag about how I knew one of the first teachers there when the school opened. You will be missed. Love and sympathy to Mary, Pat, Michael and Annie and your families. Barb Kraeger Hailey*

Barb Hailey - October 13, 2017 at 11:54 AM



“ 11 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Barr Funeral Home - October 13, 2017 at 08:21 AM