



Elizabeth Walnum

October 25, 1923 - April 7, 2017

Elizabeth "Bette" (nee Totte) Loving wife of the late Rex Walnum. Beloved mother of DaleAnne (John) Stewart, and Paul (Gina). Proud grandmother and great-grandmother. Sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend to many. Visitation Friday 4-8pm at Barr Funeral Home, 6222 N. Broadway, Chicago. Funeral Leaving Saturday 11:30 for 12 noon mass at St. Ita Church.

Interment private. In lieu of flowers donations in Bette's name to Bethany Methodist Capital Campaign Fund, or the St Ita Church Restoration Fund. We ask that to honor Mom on Friday, wear something Purple!

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **21**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Barr Funeral Home
6222 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 743-4034
info@barrfuneralhome.com
<https://barrfuneralhome.com/>

Service

APR **22**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St Ita Catholic Church
1220 W Catalpa
Chicago, IL 60640

Tribute Wall



“ *Elizabeth Walnum*

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM

“ A Loving Tribute To Mom

For myself, my wife Gina, my sister Dale and brother-in-law John, we would like to thank all our immediate family, friends and acquaintances for all your expressions of kindness, caring, love and support demonstrated to us over these past weeks, but more importantly demonstrated to our mom throughout her life.

I want to share a little about my mom. Not in mourning, but in celebration of the life she lived and the tremendous blessing and example of an unselfish, giving heart she demonstrated to everyone who came into contact with her.

She was “Elizabeth, Barbara, Mary, Totte, Walnum”, an enjoyable response she would often give when asked by a curious grandchild or anyone who had interest. Typically putting a smile on her face as she explained the origin of each name.

To our dad she was affectionately known by several different titles: “Lick” (short for “Lickie”), “Mrs. Walnum”, (if he really wanted to get her attention), and of course the ever endearing “Chief cook and bottle washer.” But, often times, when away from the crowd, would show deep down he was a real softy, addressing cards to her as “My Bride”.

To my sister and I she was “Mom”, the standard title of course, but oh when said was filled with so many expressed and unexpressed words of love, complaint, appreciation, disappointment and everything in between. “Mom” said it all.

To a host of other family members and friends she was “Bette”, “Aunt Bette”, “Auntie Lickie”, “Ms. Elizabeth”, “Grandma”, and “Great Grandma Bette”, to name just a few.

In her childhood she was one of the “Three Musketeers”, a name of love, survival and determination that included her brothers Albert and Peter, as they faced the early loss of their mother.

During World War II she was a “Junior Hostess” at the Illinois National Guard Armory, also known as the Broadway Armory. She was a long-time member of the “Mother's Club of St. Ita”, volunteering and participating in more school-related and fund-raising activities than I could ever remember or have the time to

describe.

She was a volunteer “Gym teacher”, what they called them back then, giving basic instruction in gymnastics and movement to grade school children on the weekends.

She was a St. Ita school “Room Mother”, “Field Trip Organizer”, “Bridge Club President”, and “Square Dance teacher”, providing dance instruction to each year's graduating class. Of course when it came time for my graduation, mom would consistently call upon me to demonstrate each “square dance” step to the entire class, which of course I thoroughly enjoyed and cooperated (“NOT”).

For many years she was a Cook County “Election Judge”. Now early on I wasn't quite sure what all that meant, but it was sure fun telling my friends”Yeah, my mom's a judge”.

She was an accomplished “Amateur Thespian”, participating in nine different plays, many with dad, bringing much pleasure and enjoyment to her and those who had the good fortune to see her.

She was a “choir member” of the St. Ita church choir for over twenty years. Raising her voice to the Lord and singing God's praises each week.

And she was a “Fishing Buddy”, taking many fishing trips with my dad and cousin Bob to Canada, enjoying the great outdoors, the beauty of the Northern Lights, the close company of family and friends, and of course those beautiful fish, when they cooperated.

Yes, mom had a very full and blessed life. Filled with both trial and tribulation, joy and happiness. But, if there was one title that speaks most accurately of her life, and one that would mean the most to her more than any other, it would be “Devoted and loving wife and mother.” There was nothing more important or critical to her in her life than to insure the love and caring of her family. And for that unselfish, “Christ-like” example, I am surely blessed and eternally grateful.

I thank you mom and I love you with all my heart!!!!

*Your son,
Paul*

Paul K. Walnum - April 24, 2017 at 10:28 AM

LY

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lindsay Young - April 22, 2017 at 09:13 AM

LY

Dear Dale Anne, Paul & Family. We will always recall Aunt Bette's love for family, her beautiful spirit, great personality, how wonderfully generous she was to all, and of course her great sense of humor. We also have fond memories of how Aunt Bette and Uncle Rex were such an affectionate and loving couple and we hope you will take comfort in knowing that they are together once again. Our deepest sympathy, Ken and Lindsay (This picture was taken at your Uncle Al and Aunt Jean's 50th wedding anniversary party, I think they were dancing)

Lindsay Young - April 22, 2017 at 09:20 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Allen Young - April 19, 2017 at 09:06 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss, Dale Anne and Paul. Although distance has prevented much contact over the years' I'd love to share a very fond memory of an unexpected visit your folks paid to me in Glens Falls, NY. I think it was 1984. I was still new to the area and feeling kind of lonely, having no family within 900 miles. I got home from work, the phone rang, and to my great surprise it was Aunt Bette and Uncle Rex! They were vacationing in the area with golf clubs in the trunk of their big Mercury. We all went out to dinner and had a wonderful evening, talking and reminiscing, but mostly laughing. It was just the tonic I needed. Your mom was always such fun to be around — I know you will miss her greatly, but I hope you will mostly remember the good times.

All our sympathy,
Allen and Donna Young

Allen Young - April 19, 2017 at 09:03 AM

MF

“ We have fond memories of all the years with Bette at St. Ita's. She is now singing with the angels, at peace and with Rex. Dale and John, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Paul and Mary Foster



Mary Foster - April 19, 2017 at 07:26 AM

EA

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Edith aguda - April 18, 2017 at 03:05 PM

JH

“ So Sorry for your loss Dale Ann and Family. Our family and yours have been such good friends for so long.. she is now with Dad, and our Mom (Alice) and Dad (Jack).. they are playing Bridge. We loved the old Mercury we got from Bette.. and when we see one on the road we always think of her.
Love you all our prayers go out to you.

Joanne L Helzer - April 18, 2017 at 08:40 AM

LI

“ I am very sorry for your loss. At Jo 5:28,29 it tells us that God will remember our dead loved ones and will bring them back to life on earth to enjoy living forever. Ps 37:11,29
Soon God will wipe away all tears and death and pain will be no more. Rev 21:3,4
May these promises bring you comfort

linda - April 17, 2017 at 08:56 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Walnum.*



April 11, 2017 at 11:24 PM



“ *Edith Aguda lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Walnum*



Edith aguda - April 11, 2017 at 10:19 PM