



Bette U. Babb

May 31, 1917 - June 21, 2019

Bette Ursula Babb, age 102 originally of Peoria, IL passed away Friday, June 21. Bette was born May 31, 1917, the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. John W. Babb. Her parents and brother, John preceded her in death as well as her cousin and closest friend, Helen Rapp. She is survived by several cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was a graduate of Peoria High School and a member of the Peoria High School Alumni Association, class of 1935. She was a member of the United Presbyterian Church of Peoria and life member of Provena Covenant Medical Center Auxiliary of Urbana, IL where she served on the board for a number of years. She was very proud to be employed by the Army Air Corps where she worked as an aircraft dispatcher during World War II in one of the largest Air Bases of our Army Air Corps in Montgomery, AL at Maxwell Field. This position gave Bette the privilege of meeting and working with hundreds of our finest military men and women who dedicated themselves to the country that they loved so much. There were lifetime friendships made during those most memorable times of her life including a personal friendship with the famous musician/composer and big band-leader, Glenn Miller. She was later employed by the FBI in Washington, D.C. and by the U.S. Navy in Great Lakes, IL before transferring to Chanute AFB where she worked until her retirement in 1982, upon which she resided in Champaign, IL where she resided until her death.

Bette was an extremely avid reader and loved to ballroom dance to big band music. She had a great love for horses and horse back riding and was a huge fan of the Chicago Bears, the 1985 team in particular. Some of her favorite memories were spent in Hawaii, particularly Maui. She had a close relationship with God and her family and cherished many lifelong, loyal friendships. Bette was always known for her huge smile and contagious laugh.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00pm on Friday, June 28 at the United Presbyterian Church at 2400 W. Northmoor Rd. of Peoria, IL. Visitation will be held one hour prior at the church. Burial will be at Parkview Cemetery at 2001 N. University St., Peoria, IL. Friends

can make donations to the United Presbyterian Church.

Cemetery

Parkview Cemetery
2001 N. University St
Peoria, IL,

Events

JUN 28 Visitation 12:00PM - 01:00PM

28
United Presbyterian Church
2400 W Northmoor Rd, Peoria, IL, US

JUN 28 Funeral Service 01:00PM

28
United Presbyterian Church
2400 W Northmoor Rd, Peoria, IL, US

Comments



“ For the Family of Bette

Bette worked for me from 1971 to 1973 when I was an Air Force Captain serving as Chief of the Air Force Audit Agency Office based at Chanute AFB. She was one of the most dedicated, capable people that I have known. She had a wonderful, helpful personality.

I nominated her and she received a high level award for her outstanding performance over many years of service. I had Major General Frank Elliott present the award to Bette in front of a large audience. She was thrilled to be recognized as I think her past service had been overlooked by many.

Jack Westenberg

Retired Executive and Retired Colonel, USAFR

Jack@Westenberg.com

Jack Westenberg - July 08 at 05:46 PM



“ I first met Bette when I was stationed at Chanute AFB in Rantoul, IL in 1968 on my first assignment as a young 2nd Lt with the Air Force Audit Agency. Bette was the Secretary/Administrative Assistant for the office. Bette served in this position until she retired.

Bette was a wonderful lady that I kept keep in contact with throughout my Air Force career and later in life. I last visited Bette to have lunch with her and celebrate her milestone 100th birthday with her family and friends in May 2017.

Many single and married young 2nd Lts on their first military tour were assigned to the AFAA office at Chanute. For me and other Air Force Officers, Bette was like a "surrogate" Mother. She was similar in age to my Mother and was always helpful and supportive.

I will always remember preparing my first Thanksgiving Turkey dinner for my visiting parents, and asking Bette to help me by telling me what to do and how to prepare and cook my first Thanksgiving turkey. My Mother was so surprised I could pull off preparing my first Thanksgiving Turkey dinner by myself!!!

I also remember Bette loving golf and horseback riding. Bette would leave the office at the end of the day several days a week to go ride her favorite horse.

Over the years, I stayed in contact with Bette for Birthdays and Christmas, and whenever I was visiting my family in Illinois, I would do my best to visit Bette for lunch to say hi and reminisce about the office, politics and current events.

I will always remember the fond memories and friendship of Bette.

Rest in Peace Bette,

Bob Hays
South Padre Island, TX

Bob Hays - June 28 at 10:39 AM