



Betty J. Sweeney

June 14, 1928 - September 16, 2011

Betty Sweeney, 83, of Toledo, passed away on Friday, September 16, 2011. She was born in Toledo, on June 14, 1928 to Ralph and Elizabeth Toland. She was a survivor and thriver. Born during the depression Betty was placed along with three of her siblings in the Lucas County Children's Home. Her oldest brother did not join them. She was eventually taken in by the William B. Saxbe family of Mechanicsburg, Ohio. Betty was deeply committed to her family and her profession of nursing. In 1955, she was awarded the Marguerite d'Youville award, the highest honor bestowed upon nursing graduates from the Grey Nuns at St. Vincent School of Nursing. Having a special call to teach and being the consummate caregiver, Betty was a nursing instructor at St V's for nearly 40 years. She was recognized as a strict teacher, but having taught her students to treat patients with the highest degree of compassion and professionalism. Betty was constantly serving the needs of others right up until her last days. She was a woman of great impact. Betty, "The Big Kahuna", made a difference beyond her nursing duties. Having been a two time breast cancer survivor, She volunteered for the Reach for Recovery program thru the American Cancer Society, was instrumental in bringing the guide dogs for the handicapped to Toledo, served on the Lucas County Citizens Advisory Committee, and closest to her heart was the role she played as the long-time president of the St. V's School of Nursing Alumni Association. Even though she grew up separated from her own parents and siblings, Betty had an unwavering sense of family. She spent her life deeply devoted to her

husband, children and grandchildren, her greatest pride and joy. She was always ready for a good party and never met a stranger. She will be dearly missed by her children, Doug (Denise) Sweeney, Joe (Susan) Sweeney, Sheila Sweeney Lopez and daughter-in-law, Wendy Carlile; grandchildren, Shane, Jacklyn, Brianna, Jane and Connor; brother, Donald Toland and sister, Margaret Leupp; brother-in-law, Mark (Ruthanne) Sweeney and sisters-in-law, Judy (Hugh) Tobin, Barb Roland and Rosie Toland. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Joseph; her brothers, Ralph Toland and Gilbert Roland. Friends are invited to visit from 2-8 p.m. Thursday, in the Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Avenue. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, in Corpus Christi Parish. Interment will follow in Toledo Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to St. V's School of Nursing Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. A special thank you to all her caregivers at the end of her life, especially Hospice of Northwest Ohio on Detroit Avenue. With your love, she was able to die with great dignity. She leaves behind a legacy of love, loyalty, laughter, service to others, a strong work ethic and an unbelievable inner strength. She will be deeply missed.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ To the family of Mrs. Sweeny: Mrs. Sweeny was my freshman nursing instructor. I adored her. I gave my first shot with her. She kept saying "just like a dart, just like a dart", so I aimed and let that needle sail. There it waived, big as you please in the patient's hip. She just calmly said, "now you need to take a hold of it and give the medication." Today, I teach others - inspired by Mrs. Sweeny.

Janet Welzbacher Johnson - jmj001@ucsd.edu jmj001@ucsd.edu - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ I was deeply saddened to read Betty's obituary in the paper today, it brought back many memories of conversations I had with her when I was her mailman for 24 years. I wish I would have seen it sooner I would have enjoyed seeing her family again. She loved her family very much, she would always have good things to say about everyone and she loved to talk. If I saw her outside I knew I was in for at least 10-15 minutes of conversation, I got to say I miss that. My wife is a nurse so she always had stories of her nursing career and the changes that sould be made, she was really into making things better. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her but we will all have our memories to hold onto. With my deepest sympathy,
Gordon Watts

Gordon Watts - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Cousins Doug, Joey and Sheila, I am so very sorry that the time has come for God to call your mom, (Aunt Betty) to his side. She was a wonderful Aunt and adopted mom. She will be greatly missed by me, my family and especially my dad. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you. With our love, Judy and Carl Barnard

Judy & Carl Barnard - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Betty was my nursing hero. She was my first clinical instructor at St. V's and showed me what a wonderful profession nursing could be. I always enjoyed seeing Betty in the hospital and worked with her on the Alumni Board for 3 years. You could always count on Betty's great smile and friendliness. We'll miss her. Chartel

chartel peterson - char.peterson@bex.net char.peterson@bex.net - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ To The Sweeney Family, We send our deepest condolence on the passing of your mother. She was quite a woman and we loved her great personality! I loved her stories that she told and enjoyed hearing them. We loved her laughter and her smile. She will be missed! Katrina and Jim Pfaender

Jim & Katrina Pfaender - kat464@msn.com kat464@msn.com - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ It was always great fun hanging out at the Sweeney household and have nothing but very fond memories of Mrs. Sweeney. She was always kind, always smiling and had a great sense of humor...just like her kids. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

John Sprenger - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

T(

“ Dearest Doug, Joe and Sheila, I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a marvelous woman!! She was so full of life and she always made me smile! I mention her often when I tell the story of how I wanted to go into nursing and she really encouraged me! Now she is once again with your Dad! You will be in our thoughts and prayers, I will try to make it to Ansbergs. God bless, Love Theresa

Theresa (Scally)Sutcliffe - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ To the family of Betty, I had the privilege of knowing and working with Betty for over 20 years at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center. She was one of my most favorite people in this world. Betty was an outstanding nurse, a patient and effective instructor, a dear friend and above all, a beautiful soul. She was both a nursing instructor and also trained unit clerks, of which I was, trained by Betty. I was so sad to hear of her passing. I pray for her family, her close friends and the hundreds of nursing alumni who she imparted her wisdom and character to. She will be forever missed by all who knew her. I am a better person for having known her. With much love, Jim Brenizer (Unit Clerk Class of 1970) Holland, Ohio

Jim Brenizer, Holland, Ohio - jbrenizer@tamohio.org jbrenizer@tamohio.org - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ Dear Sheila, Joey, and Doug, I am so sorry to hear about Betty. She was a dear friend and I feel as tho I saw you grow up through your mother's stories,She loved you all dearly.She was a very giving person as you all know.I think of all the lives of young people she touched during her long professional career. She will be sorely missed. She was also well known in the community.Here again she gave of herself. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Frona Hunt - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I absolutely loved talking with this spunky lady at Shanes baseball games. What a joy!! So full of life, our sympathies to Doug, Wendy, Shane and the entire family.

Laura Kuzma & family - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Doug, Joe and Sheila: I am deeply saddened for the loss of your mother. She was a wonderful and caring person. I can't imagine not having her as an instructor, she taught us so much and made us the nurses we are today. I will miss not seeing her on the many occasions she came back to St V's and she made it a point to stop in and see me. Obviously she always had an opinion and more often than not, she was right. May the road rise to meet you Mrs. Sweeney, and thank you so much for caring and being such a wonderful nurse and friend.

Marilyn Rajner Stoner - mctarry@sbcglobal.net mctarry@sbcglobal.net - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I can't count the number of times Betty and I stopped to converse in the halls of St. Vincent. She was dedicated to bringing new nurses into the world and making sure they were well prepared. Betty was always cheerful - well, almost always - and I really enjoyed talking with her. I had the opportunity to run into her after her retirement and she hadn't changed a bit. I can only think what a great person and how much she will be missed.

Jim Fenn - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ To the family of Mrs. Sweeney, your mother was my instructor for the P.C.A. nursing at St V's, strict she was only because she wanted us to be serious about patient care. May she rest in peace. My condolences to the family.

Bettye Randle - bettyeboop@hotmail.com bettyeboop@hotmail.com - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *I always loved that lady! We had many wonderful times together. As my one time instructor at St. V's , she scared me silly. The world has lost a unique and wonderful person*

Jan Wales,Scottsdale, AZ - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *The Nursing profession has lost a caring and compassionate nurse. May God Bless her and her family in this time of grief.*

Karen Martin Reau - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM