



## Betty Jane Engebretson

February 22, 1920 - February 1, 2022

Private family graveside services will be held Thursday, July 7, 2022 at Hillside Cemetery in Sheffield for Betty Engebretson.

Betty Jane (Lilley) Engebretson, 101, of Sheffield, passed away peacefully at the Sheffield Care Center, February 1, 2022. Per her request, private family burial will be held at a later date.

Betty was born in Lakota, Iowa, February 22, 1920, to Edward and Lena (Caulkins) Lilley. She graduated from Mason City High School and Mason City Junior College (now NIACC). She attended the University of Iowa and the State Teachers College (now UNI).

She married Everett Engebretson, February 22, 1940. They shared their lives within Franklin County, settling in Sheffield. To this union six children were born: Christina [Alan] Dueda of Gilbert, AZ; Beverly [JR] Munnik – deceased; Emily [Duane] Kruckenberg of Iowa Falls; Bertha [Jim] Heilskov of Palm Desert, CA; Martin Engebretson of Sheffield; LuAnn Sharp of Davenport.

Betty had been active in the First United Methodist Church teaching Sunday School and leading the UMYF. She was also active in Rebekas, IOOF, Eastern Star, various cards groups, and local Library and Swimming Pool boards. Betty was selected as Sheffield Citizen of the Year. She enjoyed her children's activities and served as leader of their 4-H club, girl scout troop, and

cub scout pack.

Betty remarked many times that her greatest enjoyment in life was her family. In addition to her children Betty is survived by her 11 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband Everett, daughter Beverly, son-in-laws: JR Munnik and Robert Sharp, grandson Timothy Kruckenberg, and brother Haldane Lilley.

# Previous Events

## Private Graveside Service

JUL 7 (CT)

Hillside Cemetery  
Sheffield, IA 50475

# Tribute Wall

EG

“ I am so sorry to hear that Betty Engebretson has passed. When I was a child, her book "What Happened to George?" was my favorite book by far. I insisted on having it read to me every night, and my family even nicknamed me George. When my older brother Peter went away to college, he cheered me up by having a bakery deliver a dozen donuts to me, with a note saying not to eat them all like George.

"What Happened to George?" was incredibly funny and creative, and whenever someone would read it to me I'd just laugh all the way through, anticipating the moment when George ate one last bit of donut. That was fifty years ago, and my family still talks about how much I loved that crazy book. (I have a worn copy in my nightstand).

This was the book that made me love literature. I went on to become an avid reader, and eventually I got my PhD in American Literature and became an English professor. I'm currently teaching at a small college in Oklahoma. I wanted to tell Betty all that, because I probably am her biggest fan and I wanted her to know how much her little book meant to me. So I decided to write her a fan letter, only to find out I'm too late.

God bless Betty Engebretson, all her family, and all of her friends.

Eric Gray

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Eric Gray - February 19, 2023 at 08:56 PM

DT

*The author of "What Happened to George?" was Betty Louise Engebretson, St. Louis Park, MN, who passed away March 14, 2023, at the age of 103. She would have loved your tribute, and your fan letter. <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000452899/?fullname=betty-louise-engebretson>*

Dee Tvedt - March 20, 2023 at 04:58 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty Jane Engebretson.



July 06, 2022 at 12:04 PM

KH

“ I knew Betty when I was at the care center for a month from the middle of November to Middle of December of 2021. I just found out that she passed away! I am deeply saddened at her death! She was such a nice and special lady. I will miss her! Kay Haugen

Kay Haugen - February 19, 2022 at 08:11 PM

LA

“ Am sorry to hear of your moms passing. Her and I were roommates for a week or so, she was a special lady.

Lavonne Doane

Lavonne - February 15, 2022 at 05:10 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Betty Jane Engebretson.*



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February 06, 2022 at 07:44 PM



“ *Betty always had a big smile for the SC students as went through the lunch line. My mom Gretchen loved playing cards with this jovial friend. Loved her easy laugh.*

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**Mardell (Moehle) Schaefer** - February 06, 2022 at 02:38 PM



“ *To me, she was 'Aunt Betty'! She was my father's younger sister. When ever we would go to visit, if she knew we were coming, she would make donuts, just plain donuts. I loved them and there was always a glass of cold milk that went with them!! Will miss her!!*

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**Michael Lilley** - February 04, 2022 at 12:11 PM



“ *Randy & Holly Coffee / Block 10 Gals purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Jane Engebretson.*



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**Randy & Holly Coffee / Block 10 Gals** - February 02, 2022 at 05:19 PM

DI

“ Loved our chats over the years / your contagious laugh&smile You were a treasure for sure. 💕💕

Ding - February 02, 2022 at 09:30 AM

EE

“ Ed & Betty Etnier lit a candle in memory of Betty Jane Engebretson



Ed & Betty Etnier - February 01, 2022 at 10:46 PM

DS

“ Always enjoyed seeing Betty as I went the lunch line. Mom loved working with all the wonderful lunch ladies. As I know we all enjoyed our beautiful lunch ladies! Hugs, prayers and thoughts to Betty's family!



Deanne Sullivan - February 01, 2022 at 09:36 PM

DS

Deanne Hubka Sullivan

Deanne Sullivan - February 01, 2022 at 09:38 PM

PM

“ Pam Mott lit a candle in memory of Betty Jane Engebretson



Pam Mott - February 01, 2022 at 08:37 PM