



Betty Kempe

December 22, 1938 - November 17, 2009

Betty Jane Kempe was born to John Henry and Jeanette (Rens) VanMiddendorp on December 22, 1938, in their farmhouse in Rock Valley, IA. She passed away on November 17, 2009, at the age of 70 years, at Lakewood Health Systems in Staples, MN. Betty was united in marriage with Robert Leroy Kempe on June 11, 1956 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bertha. Having lived in the community for 57 years she will be remembered as a dedicated elementary teacher and principal. She was a member of the Ladies Aide, Empty Stocking Fund, Salvation Army, Teachers Retirement Organization, and the England Prairie Pioneer Club. Her hobbies and interests included hunting, fishing, gardening, and embroidering. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, reading, and playing cards. Betty was preceded in death by her father, John and her brother-in-law, Don Peterson. She is survived by her husband, Robert of Verndale; her mother, Jeanette of Wadena; sons Bradley Kempe (MaryDee) of Verndale, and Rodney (Brenda) Kempe of Hewitt; five grandchildren; and her sister-in-law, Bette Peterson of Wadena. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on November 20, 2009 at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Vicar Stephen Melzer officiating. Honorary pallbearers were Jason Kempe, Ryan Kempe, Kayla Kempe, John Kempe, and Cathy Kempe. Pallbearers were Frank Tranby, David Tranby, Bill Hess, Mark Hess, LaVerne Dahlvang, and Eugene Boelz. Interment was in Greenlawn Cemetery in Verndale.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ My heart goes out to your family in the loss of Betty. She was always so easy to work, so positive, and encouraging. Her relationship with the children was outstanding. She spent many days in the lunch room eating lunch with the children. The children loved it. She will always be with you in your memories of her, cherish them. My prayers are with you at this time.

Rosanna Sanford - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ My heart goes out to all of Betty's family. Betty was a super lady, fun and I always enjoyed talking to her. I haven't seen Betty in years but will always remember her smile. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. You have some great memories that in time will be priceless right now it hurts I know but in time it does get better.

God Bless your family,

Carla (Stokes)Nelson

Carla (Stokes) Nelson - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ As a student - she was an amazing teacher who you certainly couldn't pull the wool over her eyes. She always had so much energy!

Then as the parent of a student who had trouble sitting still in class, I will always remember her for saying, "I love little boys with energy." It meant so much to me that she would take the time to let me know that my 'naughty' little boys were going to turn out just fine!

Your family will be in my prayers. Please accept my condolences on the loss of such a wonderful lady.

Anji (Gilbert) Mousseau - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Our community lost such a wonderful person. Mrs. Kempe was my second grade teacher and is one of those teachers you will always remember. She touched the lives of all her students. What I remember most about Betty was her stories of her hunting trips and her amazing Canada fishing pictures. She was a true outdoor sportswoman. She was meant to be a teacher, so positive and full of life, she had the patience of a saint and cared about each and every student she taught. Betty holds a special place in my heart. She is a true angel!! My thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time.

Jill (Dolezal) Perius - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Betty was an awesome lady, no other words can describe her as well. Who else was on the playground everyday in her orange hunting suit, right in there, sliding down the bank on the back forty with the kids? Betty was a kid at heart! She had an amazing respect for kids with an abundance of energy, never discouraging their possibilities. She was remarkable in coming up with creative ways of having the kids solve their own problems and deal with situations they created themselves. She was so respected by not only those who worked with her but by all the students as well. I will never forget all of her encouragements she would give on those days when she could see you needed it.

Thank you Betty, for sharing with me your honesty, your humbleness, your desires of life enjoyment, your bluntness (no beating around the bush), your fearlessness, your courage, and for value you placed on every little face. What you have instilled in others will live on! You will be missed but not forgotten.

Ruth Bowman - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ This is a sad day for me, losing Betty
We met in sixth grade, she joined us one day, in the middle of the year. Mrs Voge was our teacher. She was a little different then most of us (an only child),
but she fit in quickly.

We didn't see much of each other, during the years we were raising our families and when both of us were going back to school. she far out did me.

We saw each other last summer, in the grocery store parking lot. We hugged , laughed, and I felt of her dark soft hair that was back.
I'll miss her

Lois

Lois Stelflug - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

S(

“ *Bob and Family, I am so sorry to hear that Betty passed away. I always enjoyed her company and yours as well, I remember playing cards with her.*

*Love
Shirley*

Shirley Rogers (Boelz) - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *My condolences to Bob, Brad, Rod and families. I share in your pain in losing someone so special to all of you, as my loss is still so fresh in my mind and heart.*

*Thoughtout my childrens school years Betty was a very special influence on them. They all spoke very kindly of her.
As your days go by think of all the fun and joy you shared together.
When someone mentions Bertha-Hewitt I think of Betty.
My prayers are with you all today.*

Betty Lipinski

Betty Lipinski - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *My sincere sympathy to all of you at this time. She was a really special person.*

Cecelia Haffner - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Mrs. Kempe was my second grade teacher and she was one of my favorite teachers. She always had a smile on her face and she was there every morning welcoming you into the classroom. Even long after I was out of her class, she always said hi to me in the hallway and took an interest in what I was doing. She was not only a great teacher, but a great friend. She will missed.

Heidi Stokes - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I worked with Betty for 2 years as her Title 1 teacher. She was always so helpful to me as a first year teacher and willing to share ideas etc. Betty was always a kind but firm teacher that her students respected. My sympathies to her family.

Deb Andrews - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM