



Betty Koechel

January 7, 1935 - September 12, 2004

Betty Jane Goodale was born at home on January 7, 1935, to Gertrude and Alvah Goodale of Woodside Township. She started first grade when she was only five years old and graduated from Bertha High School in 1952; following graduation she worked for an insurance company in St. Paul. On July 17, 1954, she married Roy John Koechel at the Wrightstown Evangelical United Brethren Church, and moved to the farm west of Bertha where she lived her entire life. Following her marriage she worked for the telephone company in Wadena until she became a mother to Joanie in 1958 and to David in 1960. She was a full-time wife, mother, and farm partner for the next 46 years. Betty was an active member of the Wrightstown United Methodist Church, serving as the church treasurer for more than 30 years, pianist, and a member of the Lydia Circle. She also belonged to the local Home Extension Study Group of Otter Tail County while it was in existence, and for the last several years had been a Woodside Township election judge. Betty's hobbies and interests were gardening, including all the canning and freezing that accompany having a large garden; making scrapbook photo albums for her two grandchildren, Kyle and Christina; working and playing on the computer; doing digital photography and making cards for special occasions for her friends and family; and spending as much time as she could with those people who were dear to her. On September 12, 2004, Grandparents' Day and just one year after being diagnosed with cancer, Betty passed away at Fairview-University Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Larry Hager at

the Wrightstown United Methodist Church on September 17, exactly two months after celebrating her and Roy's 50th wedding anniversary. Interment was in the Woodside Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Roy; daughter Joanie Zirbes and son-in-law David, Parkers Prairie; son David and daughter-in-law Kristi of Garland, Texas; grandchildren Kyle and Christina Zirbes; and sister-in-law Etta Goodale of Seattle, Washington. Other survivors include nephew Gary Goodale (wife Gale) of Gig Harbor, Washington; nieces Joanne Hansen of Providence, Utah; Mary McBride (husband James) and Barbara Hoftell (husband Ed) both of Marysville, Washington; Judy Croft (husband Don) of Palm Desert, California; Cheryl Goodale of Fargo, North Dakota; Kathleen Matthews (husband John) of Wasilla, Alaska; and a special little great-nephew, Mark David Matthews, as well as many cousins. Preceding Betty in death were her parents, brothers Herbert and Gordon Goodale, and her sister Margaret (Goodale) Folden. Pallbearers were Harry Wood, Kieth Schwantz, Arvid Fischer, Don Church, Glenn Harris, and James Juvrud. Honorary pallbearers were Don Dillie, Don Carter, Mervin Harris, and Bob Aldrich. Musicians for the service were Kathleen Schwantz-Dahl and Janice Kinn.

Tribute Wall

CD

“ *Joan and Family,
My thoughts are with you during this time. Betty was always one of my favorite "Moms". I remember laughing with her and how she would try to keep us quiet. I will always remember her patience and love for her husband, children, and grandchildren. She was special!*

Carolyn G. Decker - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with you. I know Mom enjoyed her visit with all of you in Minnesota and will treasure those memories.*

Debbie Ryan - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Our deepest sympathy is with all of you. Betty was a strong and kind woman. I remember the wonderful fun and great meals we had at the farm the few times we visited when I was a small child. It was a real treat to be able to reconnect with all of you at the reunion in Utah a few years back. I admired Betty for her ability to do it all with such grace. Our prayers are with you.*

Julie Shaffer - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Uncle Roy, Joanie, David and families,

Jim and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all of you. What a blessing your Mom was to so many of us, but to you she was so much more. A life partner for you, Uncle Roy, for more than 50 years--an excellent and beautiful wife. And a wonderful mother to Joanie and David--you are both a reflection of the goodness of her heart. May the Lord comfort you at this time of deep sorrow and carry you through this difficult time. I am so glad we were able to get back there this summer to celebrate life with you all. What a wonderful time we all had. Betty has left a legacy that I know she was very proud of and I know all of you were her greatest joy. Her suffering has ended and she is in the presence of her Lord whom she served all her life. Love to you all, from my heart, Mary

Mary McBride - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Our deepest sympathies to the Koechel family during this time of sorrow. Betty was a very special woman who will be missed. Our love to you all.*

Dennis & Donna Holmes - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Uncle Roy, David, Joanie and families,
I was so sad to hear that Betty had passed away so suddenly. I was glad to hear that David, Kristy, and Kathleen were all there. I know it is very difficult, but I hope you will be blessed with peace and comfort through your faith and prayers.

I will always cherish the wonderful time we all had together this summer. I am so thankful that so many of us were able to come. Aunt Betty was always so positive and had such a fun personality. I know she will be greatly missed by family and friends.

May God bless each of you at this difficult time is my prayer.

Love,

Joanne Hansen

Joanne Hansen - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JH

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I was so sad to hear that Betty had passed away so suddenly. I was glad to hear that David, Kristy, and Kathleen were all there. I know it is very difficult, but I hope you will be blessed with peace and comfort through your faith and prayers.

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Joanne Hansen - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Koechels in this time of loss.
God bless,*

Chris & Amy Miller

Chris & Amy Miller - September 12, 2004 at 12:00 AM