



Betty Kuhn

October 13, 1935 - January 8, 2021

Elizabeth Ann Kuhn "Betty," of Traverse City, passed away peacefully on January 8, 2021. Betty was born in Detroit on October 13, 1935, to parents, Matthew and Mary Adelhart. In 1959, she married George Kuhn, who led the way to heaven 5 days earlier.

Betty and George moved to Traverse City in 1961 where George began teaching at Northwestern Michigan College. Betty began teaching ballet and tap in her basement in 1966. She met Ede Meyer while performing for Old Town Playhouse, and they co-founded the Dance Center, from which she retired in 2004. Betty continued tap dancing well into her 80s with the Happy Tappers from the Senior Center. No one has yet to surpass her skills with tap shoes! Betty was also a nurse, working part time at a local nursing home for 20 years. After retiring from dancing and nursing, Betty volunteered at the Father Fred Foundation, St. Francis Church, Munson Hospital and the Traverse City Visitors Center. Betty loved children, and although stopping at 4 of her own, she took in 27 foster babies over a 10-year period.

Surviving are Betty and George's four children, Mary Kuhn (John Ingwerson), Diane (Steve) Huff, Michael Kuhn, Matthew Kuhn; their six grandchildren Jeffrey Trombley, Nicole Trombley, Karlene Kuhn, Katheryn Huff, Stephanie Huff, and Theodore Huff; and four great grandchildren, Brayden, Elijah, Jaelynn and Brody.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Matthew and Mary; sister Mary Margaret; step-mother Francis Adelhart, and closest cousins, Nadine, Jimmy and Bob.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, January 15, 11:00 AM, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Traverse City. Visitation will take place Thursday, January 14, from 4-6 PM at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Father Fred Foundation or a charity of your choice.

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home is caring for Betty and her Family, www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 14. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St

Traverse City, MI 49684

info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com

<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis Catholic Church

1025 S. Union

Traverse City, MI 49684

Tribute Wall

PN

“ Betty was my ballet teacher in the early years of here career at Micelli Dance School on Gratiot in East Detroit. I was a young aspiring ballerina, and "Betty Ann" as I knew her, guided me from ballet slippers to Toe Shoes. Eventually I was moved to private lessons by. and with Mary Lou Micell, dancing solo and Adagio with a young man partner. From time to time Betty and wiould fill in for Mary Lou, when she was having babies, so I was always great to work with Betty Ann again. Mary Lou eventually closed her studiio and moved classes into her home, and I remained her student until I was about 13. My family moving from East Detroit in to the East Side of Detroit made for a long journey for me by bus to get to class.

In 1963 my Mother and I moved to Kingsley, where my mother was born and raised, and I had been a "summer kid" for several years, and I graduated from KHS in 1964. I have stayed in the area the rest of my life.

Throughout the years as an adult I have heard and read about Betty Kuhn, and her involvement in the Dance Center and TCCP, but never dreamed that the Betty I had been hearing of was the Betty Ann that was my ballet teacher in my younger years. Had I ever heard Betty's maiden name throughout the years I would have put the story together, and made contact with her. I am just sorry it wasn't to be.

I have been married 55 years, I am 74 years old and live in Cedar. I am writing this to you, her family to let you know of a wonderful old memory one of her students had of her.

Pam (Gollehur) Novak

Pam Novak - January 18, 2021 at 02:00 PM

MK

Pam, love your story made me cry, because I know my mom would of loved to reconnect. Dancing was her second language. Days before she died and couldn't walk she would sit in a chair and her little feet (size 4) would tap her tap dances and Do time steps which made my dad smile. My dad passed 5 days before my mom. Thanks for your story would love to meet you. Her daughter, Mary Kuhn

Mary Kuhn - January 18, 2021 at 05:31 PM



“ I remember Betty always being a permanent fixture at the Dance Center. She was always so friendly and I loved the beginners tap lessons that I took from her one summer in the old building. I had been learning ballet for years but always wanted to try tapping and she was such a generous, wonderful teacher. I really wish I could have continued but it wasn't to be. Someday perhaps I'll go back it (it's easier to go back to than ballet 😊). I so wish I could have been there at her visitation and funeral but these days, it's difficult. My heart is with you. Rest In Peace, Mrs. Kuhn. You will be remembered.



Jenelle Thomas - January 15, 2021 at 11:03 AM

RN

“ I love the photos of her in full dance mode! Lots of warm memories of your Mom and wonderful pictures of her with the grandchildren. We are so sorry for loss but know that Betty is in a better place. She'll be part of us all forever. Lots of love, Mike and Ronni

Ronni Nivala - January 14, 2021 at 04:00 PM

KK

Betty taught both my children dance at the Dance Center. She was a lovely person.
Kris Koertgen

kris koertgen - January 26, 2021 at 09:03 AM

BW

“ Your mother certainly had style. I took a beginners' adult tap class from her 25 years ago and she also displayed great patience with those of us who were less than talented.

Bonnie Willings - January 13, 2021 at 09:05 PM

GK

“ Dear Cousins Mary Lynn, Diane, Michael, and Matthew,
I extend my most heartfelt sorrows and condolences to all of you on the loss of your mom Betty and your dad George. Uncle George was the "Athlete Uncle" who inspired me as a young boy toward exercise and physical fitness. He was my fitness role model and his inspiration continues to fuel my daily workouts today. Aunt Betty was the "Fun Aunt" who enjoyed children. I will remember her as a caring lady who loved and taught dance and nurtured countless foster children.
They were special people. You were blessed to have them as parents.
May God bless all of you as you experience the loss of your wonderful parents.
Greg Kuhn
Franklin, Tennessee

Gregory Kuhn - January 12, 2021 at 05:08 PM

JB

“ To Family: your Mom/grandma was the sweetest neighbor anyone could have. Memories of her working in the yard year around will forever be remembered. As well as her teaching my daughter how to do proper cartwheels will never be unlearned.

If the world was filled with Goerges and Bettys..the world would be a better place.

James Brumfield - January 12, 2021 at 11:21 AM

EI

“ Mary Lynn
I am so sorry for your loss of your Mom. Like I said in your Dad's obituary that your Mom was so kind in letting me stay at your house overnight when we had a major snowstorm. She made sure I was comfortable and had blankets and said this is Mary Lynn's bedroom you can sleep here. Your Mom was very kind to me and others that came into her life. I remember when your Dad was in the hospital back in 2005-2006 and my husband was in the same room as your Dad's or right across the hall. I remember meeting you in the elevator with my daughter Olivia. May you always feel the comfort of parents and our Lord wrapping his arms around you.
I won't be able to make it to the viewing or the funeral bc of my boys. But know that I will be praying for you and your siblings.
Eileen

Eileen - January 12, 2021 at 10:10 AM

MW

“ My deepest condolences to the whole family. Betty was such a wonderful friend to my mom, for over 50 years! So many great memories of them together. I especially enjoyed having Betty as a guest at many of my annual Christmas Tea parties, where my mom would always make her wear a fancy hat. Betty always humored my mom, but would complain about it when mom wasn't listening. 😊 I'm fortunate to have been one of her dance students for many years, and learned so much from her. She and George will surely be missed by all who were blessed to know them.



Molly Williams - January 11, 2021 at 06:55 PM