



Elizabeth J Merkel

April 20, 1940 - February 18, 2023

Betty Merkel, age 82, of Centralia, died February 18, 2023 at St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia.

She was born April 20, 1940 in Centralia, the daughter of John and Maurine Wheeler. She married David Featherling on February 6, 1963 in Centralia and later divorced. She married Finis Merkel Sr. on June 6, 1982 in Caseyville, IL and he preceded her in death.

Besides both of her husbands and her parents, she was preceded in death by a newborn son, Joseph and a granddaughter, Debbie Hamburg.

She is survived by one daughter, Becky (Featherling) Elliott and husband Duane of Centralia; and one sister, Mary Jo Featherling of Centralia; four grandchildren, James Elliott and Wife Cathy of Dalmatia, Pennsylvania; Michael Elliott and wife, Marah of Germantown, IL; Jennifer Melton and husband, Press; and John Elliott and wife Casie both of Centralia; one grandson-in-law, Jeff Hamburg of Centralia; two nephews, Mark Featherling and wife, Lynn of Centralia; and Michael Featherling of Springfield, IL; one niece Cathy Faulkner and husband Norman of Centralia; and 8 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild, all of which were the greatest joy of her life.

She work many years at Hollywood Candy Factory and retired from St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia where she worked in Dietary. She enjoyed traveling, quilting and painting, but nothing gave her more pleasure than spending time with her family.

Betty was a lifetime member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Centralia, but attended Cornerstone United Methodist Church with family the last few years of her life.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Cornerstone UMC on Thursday at 4pm. Instead of flowers, the family would appreciate memorials to Cornerstone UMC or Centralia Southtown Shalom Food Pantry . . . two things that were of great importance to Betty. The Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street 62801 (618) 532-3523, is honored to be of service to the Merkel family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB **23**. 4:00 PM.

Cornerstone Church of Centralia

Tribute Wall

BP

“ So sorry to hear of Betty's passing. My condolences go out to her family. I worked with her in Dietary at the Hospital and after her retirement we'd run into each other at various musical or entertainment events in the Centralia community. Always enjoyed visiting with Betty. She was a lovely lady.

Barb Paine - February 22, 2023 at 11:23 AM

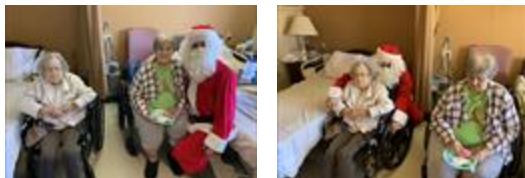

Pamela
Melton

“ Becky, I am so sorry for your loss, your Mom was a lovely lady. I will miss seeing you guys at down town lounge.

Pamela Melton - February 21, 2023 at 06:14 PM

MD

“ We are very sorry for your loss of Betty! We didn't know her very long but she was our mom, Linda's, last roommate at the nursing home. She was the last great friend our mom made before she passed away just three weeks ago. They watched old movies together, talked about politics and their faith in God. They even shared a love of ice cream on occasion from the Arctic Cow in Centralia. Betty was a bright spot for our mom and made being away from family tolerable. They really enjoyed the visit from “Santa” (Betty was proud that it was her grandson bringing some Christmas cheer!) betty and Linda are together again watching old movies again. 😊 Mark & Cliff



Mark Decker - February 20, 2023 at 11:06 PM