



## Elizabeth Updike

May 11, 1942 - January 22, 2026

Elizabeth “Betty” Updike was born on May 11, 1942, in Washington D.C. to Stephen Brunauer, a Commander in the U.S. Navy, and Esther Caulkin Brunauer, who worked at the U.S. State Department. She moved to Evanston, Illinois, with her father, mother, and Kathy Brunauer Horvat, her older sister, when her father took a job as a Chemist with the Portland Cement Company in 1952. She attended Evanston High School through her graduation in 1960.

In the fall of 1960, Betty entered Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana, where she met her husband, Graham D. Updike. She was President of Delta Zeta Sorority and majored in Civil Work (BA). She graduated in May 1964. She was also involved in Delta Zeta as an Alumni supporter for several years after college. She moved to Terre Haute, Indiana in 1965, where she moved with her husband, who finished his BA in Education at Indiana University and began his coaching and teaching career. They had a son, Bradford Updike, in July 1966. During her time in Terre Haute (1965-1968), she worked as a District Advisor for the Girls Scouts of America.

In Summer of 1968, Betty moved to Flora, Illinois, with her husband and son, where her husband got the job as Head Football Coach at Flora High School. During her time in Flora, she received her elementary education teaching degree from Eastern Illinois University, and she worked as a Sixth-Grade teacher. During her time in Flora, she had a daughter, Theresa (born

September 30, 1968). During her time in Flora, she was also an avid supporter of Flora High School sports teams (especially football and track), and she made many friends. She was also a focused gardener and won some awards for her flowers and arrangements in Flower and Garden local club events.

In 1973, Betty moved with her family to Centralia, Illinois, which would be her longtime and final home. She worked as a teacher at Willow Grove Grade School for 20 years, and she was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, the Lady Elks Auxiliary, and she was a strong supporter of the Marion County Democrat Party. She was also a supporter of Centralia High School sports, where her husband was a longstanding and well-respected high school coach in football, track, basketball, wrestling, cross country, and girls basketball.

During the first decade of her time in Centralia, she played tennis. Betty and Graham were also longstanding members of Meadow Woods Country Club, where her husband was a past Board Member and President. In her extra time, she continued her gardening and was a highly competitive card player. As her children moved into their work, Betty and Graham enjoyed taking trips to Indiana, South Dakota and Nebraska for birthdays and fun visits. She also routinely followed college sports and current events, and Betty could take all comers on discussions involving current issues (as her dearly departed sister Kathy, and Niece Esther, can attest to).

Betty remained in her home in Centralia until August 2024. She spent her final time well cared for by her surviving daughter and was visited by her son and grandchildren. Betty passed peacefully on Friday, January 22, 2026 in Noblesville, Indiana.

Betty is survived by her children: Bradford Updike and Theresa Thompson, her son in law: Joe Thompson, her Nephew and Niece, Stephen Horvat and Esther Blaskovich, and her grandchildren: Adam Updike, Hannah Thompson,

and Grace Updike.

Funeral Services will be held Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 2:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia, Illinois. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia, Illinois. Friends and Family may gather Sunday from 1:00 PM until the time of service at the Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Feeding America and/or World Vision and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to Betty's Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Funeral Home Facebook page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Funeral Service

FEB 8. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Elizabeth Updike



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - February 07 at 12:33 PM



“ Favorite memory of mom and dad 70th birthday celebration. We got a suite at Cards game and of course the girls were more interested in the BuildaBear.



Theresa Thompson - February 04 at 07:54 PM



“ Mom was an avid reader so love this photo of her reading 📖 to our Hannah



Theresa Thompson - February 04 at 07:52 PM

SC

“ Sue & Tony Shaw and family and Cristina purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Elizabeth Updike.



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**Sue & Tony Shaw and family and Cristina** - February 04 at 05:22 PM

SD

“ Susan D. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Elizabeth Updike.



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**Susan D.** - February 03 at 04:33 PM

PD

“ I am so sorry to hear about Betty. We were roommates at Franklin College my senior year of college and her junior year. We were in each others' weddings and kept in touch for many years. I saw her at FC when I went to homecoming a few years ago. Unfortunately, I never lived near her and Graham so did not get to see her as much as I would have liked. We were both Delta Zeta's. Again, I am so sorry. Patty Hendricks DeLawter

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**Patty Hendricks DeLawter** - January 30 at 06:51 PM

RB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ruth Barczewski - January 30 at 02:31 PM

RB

*Sending sincere sympathy to Betty's family...here's a fond memory I am sharing...RIP Betty...you and Graham were great people*

Ruth Barczewski - January 30 at 02:37 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Updike.*



January 29 at 08:16 PM

JD

“ *Jay & Grace Davis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elizabeth Updike.*

Jay & Grace Davis - January 29 at 08:16 PM

AS

“ *I'm going to miss you bestie It was a blessing to have met you and it was a pleasure taking care of you I'll never forget you*



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**April Sarver** - January 29 at 05:39 PM

DF

“ *Deb and Chris Huber and family purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Elizabeth Updike.*



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**Deb and Chris Huber and family** - January 29 at 05:38 PM