



## Betty J. Wise

August 10, 1927 - December 27, 2022

### BETTY JEAN (HARRISON) WISE

August 10, 1927 – December 27, 2022

Betty Wise was born the first of four children to Lucille and Virgil Harrison in Little Rock, Arkansas. She and her family moved to Chicago, Illinois when she was approximately 6 years old. When Betty was a teenager, the family moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan.

While working at Gaudy's Tea Shop in Ypsilanti, Mrs. Gaudy introduced Betty to Dick Wise who worked at the bus station. Betty and Dick would marry in 1949, honeymooning in Charlevoix, Michigan where Dick's dream of living in northern Michigan began! That dream was realized in 1972 when the family bought a home on Crooked Lake in Petoskey.

Betty earned her real estate broker's license and had a very successful career in residential real estate throughout much of Emmet County. There are many people living in homes today that were brokered by Betty! Betty served on the Petoskey Planning Commission, working tirelessly to maintain the small, downtown charm of Petoskey so that everyone could enjoy the beauty of Lake Michigan!

Dick and Betty were very active in their parish, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, and made great friends when they became part of a Teams of Our Lady spirituality group within the parish. She was also a member of the Zonta Club of Petoskey and the Northern Toastmasters Club. Betty loved music, and she'd dance with anyone (friends, family, strangers alike!) to BB King, Glenn

Miller, Ray Charles, Pearl Bailey, Louis Armstrong, Dixieland music or anything with a good beat! She also enjoyed traveling with Dick, making new friends along the way, and learning about other cultures in Ireland, Portugal, France and throughout the U.S.

Betty was a devout Catholic, welcoming and genuinely open to those of other faiths, appreciating the similarities and differences among people. Betty loved learning – gathering knowledge about her faith, other spiritual practices, people of every background, nature, art, gardening, film. It was not uncommon for friends and family members to receive mailed articles Betty had cut out of magazines or newspapers written about topics she knew would interest them! Betty and Dick enjoyed many years on the lake, especially going out on the pontoon boat. In 1979 they moved into town until 2001 at which point, they moved downstate to Plymouth where they could be closer to their now-grown children, numerous grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Betty began tutoring immigrant adults in learning English, as one of the many volunteer positions she held, and she also was involved in city politics. Visits were regularly made to northern Michigan where Betty would soak in the beauty of Little Traverse Bay and enjoy reconnecting with her Petoskey friends. Betty left a legacy for her family that is celebrated every day. Her faith, her spirit, her positive tenacity, her acting for the greater good, her love of people young and old, her belief in people, and her unending curiosity are some of the traits handed down and kept alive.

Betty is predeceased by her parents, Lucille and Virgil Harrison, husband Richard (Dick) Wise of 62 years, her brother, Jimmy Harrison, granddaughters Hope Benedetto, Brooke Wise, and Faith Wise. She is survived by brother Clarence (Janet) Harrison, sister Martha (George) Theros, children John (Annie) Wise, Kevin (Carol) Wise, Chris (Lynn) Wise, Gayle (Bruce) Campbell, Ric (Beverly) Wise, Dana (Hank) Benedetto, Patrick (Margie Marks) Wise, Polly Wise, and Tim (Trish) Wise. Also surviving are 22 grandchildren plus spouses, and 40 great grandchildren with two on the way.

In lieu of flowers, Betty and the family would appreciate donations made to

Alzheimer's Association of Michigan, Zonta Club of Petoskey, or the charity of your choice.

Family will gather with friends in vestibule Tuesday, January 3rd 1 PM until the 2 PM Funeral Mass at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170.

To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

JAN 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Kenneth Catholic Church  
14951 North Haggerty Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
vermeulenh@comcast.net

## Funeral Mass

JAN 3. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Kenneth Catholic Church  
14951 North Haggerty Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
vermeulenh@comcast.net

# Tribute Wall



“ *Betty J. Wise*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Patrick , my deepest condolences on the passing of your mother. Betty was always nothing but kind to me. She was such a gracious host whenever we stayed with her and your father. May she rest in peace. Dayna*

**dayna mattis** - March 12, 2023 at 10:09 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty J. Wise.*



January 02, 2023 at 09:50 PM



“ *Your Mom will forever hold a very special place in my heart. I enjoyed every minute I got to be with her when she moved in back in 2018 ❤️ I will never forget our lunch date/birthday celebration at Senate. You and your amazing family are in my thoughts and Prayers. God Bless ~ Barb Crawford*

**Barb Crawford** - January 02, 2023 at 01:56 PM

GC

*Barb, Thank you for your sweet words. You were a wonderful friend to my mom❤️.  
Love, Gayle*

Gayle Campbell - January 13, 2023 at 11:15 PM

SF

*“ My heartfelt condolences to you Dana and all your siblings. Betty was a wonderful gracious and joyful woman. You all are blessed to have had her for your Mom.  
Sue Foltz*

Susan Foltz - January 01, 2023 at 01:50 PM

SF

*“ Susan Foltz lit a candle in memory of Betty J. Wise*



Susan Foltz - January 01, 2023 at 01:47 PM

SV

*“ A kinder, sweeter, caring, generous, and thoughtful person has never lived. She was an angel here on earth. She's an angel in heaven now. A Lovely Lady.*

susan vargo - December 31, 2022 at 11:59 PM

GC

*Thank you Sue for your kind words.  
God Bless❤️*

Gayle Campbell - January 13, 2023 at 11:20 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Betty J. Wise.*



December 31, 2022 at 01:51 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Betty J. Wise.*



December 30, 2022 at 04:46 PM



“ *My condolences to all of you on the loss of your Mother. Her and your dad shared a very special life together. I really enjoyed all the holidays and and gatherings. She is dancing in heaven with your dad now. Your Cuz Mike McCamey*

**Mike McCamey** - December 30, 2022 at 10:08 AM



*I'm so sorry for your loss and Betty was the best. God bless y'all*

**James watt** - December 31, 2022 at 02:21 PM



*Our heartfelt condolences to Gayle, Bruce and the entire Wise clan in the loss of your amazing Mother. Betty was the kindest, sweetest, most genuine person, and we truly feel blessed to have known her. She will forever hold a special place in our hearts. Janice and Tom Sutcliffe*

**Janice** - January 02, 2023 at 05:41 PM

GC

*Jan, Thank you for your sweet words. Love you ❤️*

**Gayle Campbell** - January 13, 2023 at 11:22 PM

GC

*Mike, Thank you for your kind words. Love You & God Bless❤️*

**Gayle Campbell** - January 13, 2023 at 11:24 PM

PD

“*My memories of Betty Wise could fill a book and I would title it "Distilled Wisdom." Betty's life is a testimony to her generosity, strong faith and her ability to be "in the world but not of the world." She loved with a tough and tender heart and an intelligence that inspired everyone who knew her. Betty had a great sense of humor and also a great sense of right and wrong. As well as I knew her from working with her for years, I don't recall her ever talking about other people in a derogatory way. Betty, like my mother, knew when to keep her mouth shut and to always keep her eyes and ears open. I send lots of love and gratitude to Betty's family for sharing her so generously with me and so many others. As long as I live, Betty will always be with me in Spirit, as she will with everyone who loved her, too.*

**Pamela Harman Daugavietis** - December 30, 2022 at 10:01 AM

GC

*Pam, Thank you for your sweet words. I know my mom & dad sure did love you too❤�.*

*God Bless, Gayle Campbell*

**Gayle Campbell** - January 13, 2023 at 11:31 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Betty J. Wise.*



December 29, 2022 at 03:24 PM



“ *Betty was a gem! She loved to dance and had sensible shoes. Much love to the whole family.*

**Gil Clark** - December 29, 2022 at 11:20 AM

GC

*Thank you Gil, and I love your comment about mom's shoes. Love, Gayle*

**Gayle Campbell** - January 13, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Your ALLY Racing Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Betty J. Wise.*



**Your ALLY Racing Family** - December 29, 2022 at 10:38 AM



“ *To my Wise cousins I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. I cherish the many times I spent with her and all of you! Your mom was a beautiful amazing lady and will be missed by all. Dance your way to heaven Aunt Betty. Love Cindy Lomba*

**Cindy Lomba** - December 28, 2022 at 06:12 PM



*Cindy, thank you for your sweet words❤️. Love, Gayle*

---

**Gayle Campbell** - January 13, 2023 at 11:36 PM