



## Elizabeth Ann Wheaton

February 25, 1928 - October 1, 2018

Elizabeth Ann Wheaton, known as Betty by the many who loved her, was born in Melrose, Massachusetts on February 25, 1928. After 25 moves and over 90 years of making others smile, Betty finally moved to a permanent, heavenly address on October 1, 2018.

Betty was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Robert James ("Bob") Wheaton, Jr., and her parents, Amelia Florence Martin Baker, and Oscar Baker (born Oskar Bakke in Oslo, Norway).

Betty graduated from Fryeburg Academy, in Fryeburg, Maine, in 1947. She had planned on attending nursing school. However, soon after graduation, Betty met Bob, and immediately lost all interest in nursing school.

Bob and Betty eloped on Labor Day Weekend, 1949. They decided to keep the marriage a secret from their families until Bob was able to graduate from college and secure a decent-paying job. Therefore, they lived at their respective parents' homes, and stole away whenever possible on the weekends - donning their wedding rings so that they could present themselves to the public as husband and wife. At the end of the weekend, they would remove their rings and revert to their undercover state.

This ruse lasted for several months until Betty inadvertently revealed the secret to her parents. Betty's mother immediately insisted on a "proper" church wedding, so a follow-up ceremony was arranged for February 25, 1950, in Malden, Massachusetts. Then, the two-time newly-weds began a happy 63-year journey together as Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton.

Over the intervening decades, Bob advanced rapidly through the ranks of the corporate world, and Betty managed their happy home, which was blessed by the birth of two children. Her greatest loves were family, friends, laughter, numerous pets, cooking, gardening, and dancing.

The family moved several times during Bob's career, including to Haddonfield and then

Summit, NJ, and to New Canaan and then Avon, CT. Bob retired as a senior executive in 1988 so that he and Betty could spend their remaining years in happy retirement. They moved to Chapel Hill, NC in 2004.

Betty is survived and missed by children Robert James ("Jim") Wheaton III (Cynthia) of Pittsboro, NC, and Beth Holly Wheaton Wolff (Peter) of Mebane, NC; grandchildren Laura Elizabeth Wolff Rosinski (Rick), Holly Ann Wolff, Marilyn Margaret Wheaton, and David James Wheaton; great-grandchildren Noah Robert Swann and Nash Stephen Swann; brother-in-law Neal Allen of Marietta, GA; and nieces Tracy Allen and Elena Allen Cass.

The family is deeply grateful for the loving care extended by the staff at Carol Woods' Health Center, and Brookdale Meadowmont, both in Chapel Hill, NC, during the final 3 months of Betty's life.

A memorial service was held at Christ United Methodist Church, 800 Market Street, Chapel Hill, NC, at 2:30 PM, Sunday, October 7.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Montgomery County Animal Care & Adoption Center in Christianburg, VA, or Animal Protection Society of Person County, NC.

Online condolences can be made at [www.walkersfuneralservice.com](http://www.walkersfuneralservice.com)

Walkers Funeral Home and Crematory of Mebane, is in charge of the arrangements.

# Comments

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“ Beth, I am so deeply sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family as you deal with the pain.

**Janice Krawiec** - October 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM