



Betty May Hansen

November 23, 1928 - April 1, 2017

Betty May Hansen

RACINE - Betty May (nee: Knudsen) Hansen, 88, passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Ridgewood Care Center. She was born in Algona, Iowa on November 23, 1928, the daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (nee: Sorensen) Knudsen. Betty was a graduate of Washington Park High School. She was united in marriage to William Dean Hansen on March 8, 1947 in Racine. Betty served in the USO from 1945 to 1946. She was a piano teacher for more than fifty years. Betty had been a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church. In addition she was a member of Danish Sister Society, Dania Ladies and the Racine Piano Teachers Association.

Surviving is her, son-in-law, Cary May; grandchildren, Eric May, Kristen (Greg) Krebs, Cheryl (Will) Dodson, Reva May, Dean May and Hannah May. She is further survived by five great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, William Dean Hansen on May 8, 1965; daughters, Lavonne Larson and Rhonda May; brothers, William and Clarence; sisters, Sonja and Mary Jane.

Funeral services will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 11 a.m. There will be a time for family and friends to meet before services on Saturday from 10 a.m. until service time at 11 a.m. Private burial will take place at Mound Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Mound Cemetery

Racine, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, WI 53404
(262) 632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Betty was such a special person in so many ways. She moved through the world with exceptional dedication to her art, spreading love and her infectious laugh and positive support for all who crossed her path.

Betty was a truly outstanding piano teacher. She played even the most simple pieces with great feeling and care, as if she loved each individual note. She was rightfully proud of the fact that she had once played for the Queen of Denmark, as well as of her days playing bass in the USO with her husband Dean, himself an accomplished trumpet player. You knew she really loved and missed Dean.

Most Saturdays, Betty would spend the entire day of painstaking care to hand write arrangements of top-40 hits, songs from popular films, jazz standards and classical literature for her students, usually with at least two levels of difficulty, signing them as "Bb7-5". Most piano teachers just tell their students to buy a method book, but when Betty handed you her arrangements, you could feel that she had just given you a present of something very personal(I still have them all). You never bothered Betty on a Saturday. She was special.

Over the years, we came to be very dear friends. Early on, when I moved out on my own, she left a basket of food at my door to make sure I wouldn't go hungry. We would often go out for dinner after my lesson, but she would never let me pay. Thanks Betty... Other times, she would line up gigs for me when they came her way. She was so very kind and thoughtful, she took the time to care. My circle of friends included four of her students, each of whom always spoke of her with great affection.

Betty deserves so much more than a few notes on a computer web page to honor her. She was a brilliant musician, a dedicated teacher, and an outstanding human being, dearly loved and now missed. She was special.

Marc Silverman

Bill Fleming - February 15, 2024 at 01:47 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Betty May Hansen.*



April 07, 2017 at 04:29 PM



“ *Hello- My name is Sandra Kozich,nee Erickson. I just wanted to tell you of how wonderful Mrs. Hansen was to me and my daughter who is now 42 years old. This lady had the patience of Job. She taught both of us piano and gave us a lovely experience in music. I still play her music. My daughter Robbyn and I have always had a love for her. It was a pleasure to have known her in our earlier years. A lovely lady and sadly missed. Her music will be sung by the angels. Sincerely, Sandra and Robbyn Erickson.*

Sandra Kozich and Robbyn Erickson - April 07, 2017 at 03:36 PM

SH

“ I have loved Mrs. Hansen since I first got to start taking piano lessons from her. 19 years worth all total. My daughter, Krista, also took piano lessons from her. Mrs. Hansen sat at our table, the parents' and grandparents' table, at Krista's wedding. My mother was at Walnut Grove assisted living. I went Monday thru Friday all the years she was there. When Mrs. Hansen arrived, I was thrilled. That explained why I didn't get my Christmas card and call from her that Christmas. I got to enjoy her five days a week. We laughed and talked, and she always made sure that I was still playing my piano every day. We had a lot of fun together, along with all the other people there. We just couldn't get her to play the piano there. I kept my promise and continued to go and visit even after my mom passed away. I cried when I told her that my house sold, and I was moving up north. It was incredibly hard to say good-bye. Mrs. Hansen always has a warm, special place in my heart. I truly miss her.

Sharon (Grathen) Klimowicz

Sharon - April 06, 2017 at 05:35 PM

PZ

“ Betty was one of the most influential women in my life. She taught life and music. I will be forever a better person for having known her. She taught me and my growing family that music is a part of the fabric of all of us. We will miss you.

Paul, Mary, Brian, David, and Rebecca Zens

Paul Zens - April 06, 2017 at 02:00 PM