



## Elizabeth "Betsy" Germain Cary

October 29, 1958 - December 5, 2018

Elizabeth "Betsy" Germain Cary, age 60 of Manassas, VA died at her residence on December 5, 2018 surrounded by her loving family.

Betsy was born in Washington, DC on October 29, 1958 with her twin brother Kevin. On the same day her future husband, John Cary, was born in Baltimore, MD.

Betsy was raised with her 5 siblings in Falls Church, VA. Her family was always active in the community, especially the Annandale Boys and Girls Club, which her father founded in the early 1960's. Betsy was a talented artist and singer and played competitive soccer for decades.

In the summer of 1979 she met her future husband, John, in Ocean City, MD. They married in 1981 and in the next 6 years had 4 daughters. Betsy stayed at home with the girls until the youngest was in middle school, when Betsy began teaching Art at Brentsville District High School. She retired in June 2014 to assist in the care of their grandson who was born 15 weeks prematurely. About a year later Betsy was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease.

Betsy touched many lives as a soccer player, coach and teacher. She had a beautiful singing voice and performed in various public and private venues.

She sang with various groups, including Sweet Adeline's, Gentle PersUasion, and Colors of the Flame. Most recently she sang with The Forgetful Friends Chorus a local group composed of persons with memory disorders and their caregivers, family and friends.

She was lucky to travel extensively and enjoyed many international friendships. During high school she spent parts of two summers in Colombia. With her husband and children, she made over a dozen trips to Europe. She and her family frequently opened their house to others for long term stays. Over the years they had 3 exchange students: Martin Daamen from Germany, Marion Delaunay from France, and Sven Prause from Germany. Other extended-stay guests include Renaud Lievin and Natacha Gustin, both from Belgium. On one occasion an entire Belgian soccer team and several spouses stayed at the Cary house for an extraordinary week. Other visitors are too numerous to list here. Betsy and her family maintain close contact with many of them.

Betsy was loved wherever she went. She was an exceptionally talented soccer player (playing for several national championship teams), singer, and artist. She had an intense but quiet and hidden desire to be the best at whatever she did, yet she was always engaging and humble, and was genuinely happy for the success of others, no matter at what level.

From the beginning, she dealt with her dementia with grace and quiet courage, with much help and kindness from her family, extended family, and numerous friends.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, please make a donation to The Alzheimer's Association at [alz.org](http://alz.org), or to the charity of your choice.

She was preceded in death by her twin brother Kevin Germain and is survived

by her husband John; daughters Megan McGrath, Melissa Cary, Bonnie Bell and her husband Danny Bell and Brenda Cary and her boyfriend Nick Slonka; two grandsons John Lawrence Cary and Grant Bell; brothers Kip Germain, Greg Germain and Rusty Germain; sister Julie Thompson and sister-in-law Jan Germain (widow of brother Kevin). Also survived by other in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews who are too numerous to list.

The family will receive friends at Pierce Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA on Sunday, December 16, 2018 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM at which time a Celebration of Life Service will take place. Interment will be private.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **16**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Celebration of Life

DEC **16**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

# Tribute Wall

K(

“ For you, Betsy's family~

*My name is Karen Reid (maiden name Mikovits). I was a member of JEB Stuart High School's 1977 graduating class along with Betsy. I want you to know that my heart is so sad to learn of her passing, and I want you to know that, although I was much of a shadow student during those high school days, not wanting to stand out too much because I didn't want to be hurt by anyone as I had long understood how cruel peers can be... it's important to me that you know that Betsy never made me feel that way. She was always kind to me... such a lovely person... funny, happy, and nonjudgmental to everyone around her. These are indeed very special traits to have especially as a teen in high school. Every time I shall think of Betsy it will be with a smile. ~Karen*

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**Karen Reid (Mikovits)** - May 08, 2025 at 05:02 PM

M.

“ *Mrs. Cary was my art teacher. She was always kind and sweet, even when she had troublesome students. She was by and far the best and my most memorable teacher. I'll always remember being able to visit her classroom in the mornings before class started, when I didn't know where else to go. She really cared. I am very sad finding these news today, but I am glad having read that she lived a very full and wholesome life. Thank you Mrs. Cary. You are missed, you are loved.*

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**M.D** - June 26, 2020 at 05:06 PM



Kwadwo  
Opoku

“ I first met her at the Annandale soccer camp in DE in 2003/04. She was so lively and exciting. I remember on one of our drives in the van she began driving zig-zag and swerving...I said to myself this lady knows how to have fun! Whenever I think of Betsy, I always remember a smiling face.

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**Kwadwo Opoku** - December 16, 2018 at 09:11 AM

MA

“ She was the best! I remember when I had just arrive from Peru to the US, it was my first they at Brentsville and she was just so kind with me. She was something else ❤️

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**mariafe** - December 15, 2018 at 05:23 PM

CL

“ Mrs Cary was the kindest person. She played Dust In The Wind for our class one day and I will always think of that when I hear that song. One day I was helping her clean out her closet in the classroom and she gave me this pretty journal that was laying around and I used it to write songs in. She will be missed. She was such a great teacher ❤️

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**Claudia** - December 14, 2018 at 07:21 AM

NI

“ Mrs Cary was one of the best art teachers I ever had. My favorite memory of her is when she got on the table during class to play guitar for us. Mrs Cary was the nicest teacher. She let me paint in her class after school some days.

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**Nicole** - December 14, 2018 at 06:34 AM

RO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Robyn** - December 14, 2018 at 06:08 AM

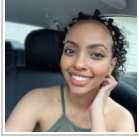
 Charly  
Bzt

“ Cary Family is my second family... Millions memories come to my mind when i think to Betsy !! One of my best song is Country road of John Denver since i heard Betsy playing guitar and singing under this tree with all her daughter singing too.... When i hear that song on radio, my mind just go back to that perfect moment in my life !!!  
Love you Cary family



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**Charly Bzt** - December 14, 2018 at 05:46 AM



“ Mrs. Carey's art class was one of my favorite classes in highschool if not my favorite. She had such a free happy spirit about her that made the classroom feel like home. One of my favorite memories of her was when she was talking to me and another teacher and she mentioned that she spilled coffee on her laptop. She said she ran it under the sink to wash it off and had asked the other teacher if she could fix it for her ❤️❤️❤️ you couldn't help but smile when you were with her. She was loved and will be missed



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**Aida Gherghis** - December 14, 2018 at 12:13 AM

FG

“ Susan and I were honored to be invited to Betsy and John's country home as friends. I will always remember how much love she had for every living thing, including her goat and dogs. I swear that goat had the run of her house if it wanted to. She simply inspired us to love life that little bit more. We will miss her.

*Frank and Susan Gregorio*

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**Frank Gregorio** - December 13, 2018 at 11:20 PM

MK

“ I had the honor of working with Betsy at BDHS. Her love of life, passion for helping others and teaching students a subject she loves was refreshing to be around. We had countless conversations and I'm thankful she was a part of my life. I know she will be missed by so many people, but her impact on others moving forward will be truly great.

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**Matt Kitchen** - December 13, 2018 at 06:40 PM

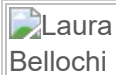


“ 1 file added to the album *A Story of a Lifetime*



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**Pierce Funeral Home** - December 13, 2018 at 02:50 PM



Laura Bellochi

“ *We had the best neighborhood growing up! Lifelong friendships were formed. Betsy was instrumental in our girls soccer traveling team and our high school team. I remember working at the bingo hall with her at the Annadale Boys Club. Betsy lived a full life and was an inspiration to many. I will always remember her smile and contagious laugh. She will be missed by many.*

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**Laura Bellochi** - December 12, 2018 at 09:14 PM

BV

“ *we have known betsy and john since the days on shannon lane we have many fond memories of betsy on the soccer field our thoughts and prayers are with you bill , leslie ,brittany and danielle vanwickler*

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**bill vanwickler** - December 12, 2018 at 09:10 PM

CR

“ *Betsy could talk me into anything. She could get me excited for a root canal like it would be fun! What wonderful memories we shared with the a great friendship, soccer, beach trips and horses. Her enthusiasm, humor and happiness was infectious. Much love.*

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**Carla Rollins** - December 12, 2018 at 08:13 PM

JN

“ I was so thrilled to sing with Betsy. Our BRUU band was fairly new, and we had put together a service. Betsy sang excellent harmony with her beautiful soprano voice. We did some services at other UU churches in the area. It really meant a lot to me that she was able to give of her time and talent.

When Betsy's illness had taken hold, I would occasionally see her at the Manassas Farmer's Market with John. I could witness their love as he continued to take care of her, even though she was mentally slipping away. I will always treasure the time we spent together. I'm thrilled to have videos of us that have been shared with John. She is such a beautiful soul.

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**Jill Nelson** - December 11, 2018 at 12:08 PM

 Mary  
Bates

“ I met Betsy shortly after we moved to Bristow from Chapel Hill, NC. She was my daughter's art teacher at Brentsville District High School, and Betsy's daughter Brenda was one of my son Steven's first friends at the same high school. I started work as a "lunch lady" at Brentsville, and quickly became friends with Betsy. She came through "my" line frequently, and her effervescent personality lit up my day!

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**Mary Bates** - December 10, 2018 at 08:33 PM

TF

“ We were blessed to have had a valuable friendship, colleague and to have shared the pitch with Betsy. Her energy for life and the arts were hard to keep up with. She led by example and pushed us all to be better people.

*Thank you Betsy you for having inspired each of us!*

*Our deepest condolences to the wonderful Carey Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*The Kagles*

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**The Kagle Family** - December 10, 2018 at 08:25 PM

RJ

“ I met the Cary's at CrossFit Manassas several years ago. Betsy was a fellow "Master athlete" and so she and I would often pair up when the classes were full. Her sense of humor was infectious. But one particular evening, as I was stretching, I heard an angelic sound - it was Betsy and Brenda singing a Christmas carol. I had NO IDEA they had such pretty voices - it warmed my heart. I will also add that the Cary Family is THE most inclusive, giving, open family I have ever met. Hebrews 13:2 instructs us not to forget to show hospitality to strangers as we might be entertaining angels. I am convinced they have entertained many an angel over the years.

*Robyn M. Johnson*

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**Robyn M Johnson** - December 10, 2018 at 09:26 AM



“ I remember going with my parents to dinner at Betsy's parents house for what turned out to be an announcement of John and Betsy's engagement. I don't remember the exact date but it was winter and the lake in their neighborhood was frozen. Betsy and I and others went ice skating and she told me about the announcement and how nervous she was about how my parents would react. It all went well in the end and Betsy was an absolute wonderful addition to our family - bringing music and art and so much more.

When Betsy and John were first married they lived in the Baltimore area for a few years while John finished school. I was away at college most of their first year there but remember her teaching me how to drive a clutch during the couple weeks I was home following graduation and before heading west for a summer job with the Forest Service. We were in her VW bug and Betsy was 7 1/2 months pregnant! I really enjoyed the following two years when we lived just a few houses away from each other, before she and John, and by then Megan and Melissa, moved back to VA.

When my kids caught the travel soccer bug years later, we knew their house was always open to just spend a few hours between games or even a night when we had tournaments nearby. For me, at least, this was one of the highlights of doing travel soccer! She was a unique person that words can't fully capture.

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**Maria Warburton** - December 10, 2018 at 05:28 AM

 Steven  
Bates

“ *Many years ago I made a tough mid high school move from North Carolina to Virginia and the Carys were very welcoming in inviting me into their home, to bonfires and vacations. She taught art to my sister whom still enjoys creating artwork to this day . I have had fond memories of Mrs. Cary as a warm and loving person and I am sure her memory will live long in all of those lives whom she has touched with her time here. My sincerest condolences to the entire Cary family.*

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**Steven Bates** - December 09, 2018 at 06:58 PM

LM

“ *We had the privilege of being neighbors of the Cary family and enjoyed neighborhood get-togethers with food and music. He had so many good memories. Betsy will be missed by so many. Our thoughts and prayers are with John, the girls, and the rest of the family. Rest In Peace, Betsy.*

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**Linda and Henry Mycko** - December 09, 2018 at 05:56 PM

MA

“ *Thank you Betsy- for all the years of soccer together! Memories growing up and spending time at the Germain household. You were always such a happy spirit.*

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**Marit Andrrson** - December 09, 2018 at 02:49 PM



Debi  
Jenks

“ *Betsy was truly one of a kind...so warm and loving and funny! We both started Brentsville together and from the start she took me under her wing...being on my own and far away from family and friends, she made sure I was doing ok.*

*I remember the bonfire parties, the mardi gras party (I still have the beads!), watching 'Its a wonderful life' at Christmas and she introduced me to spinach! (I think of her delicious spinach salad every time I have it.)We had fun together planning the prom and other events as class sponsor..but the funniest was when we took the students to Hershey Park...one of the students arrived late to the meeting point...Betsy said 'drop and give me ten' ...and he did! We laughed so much about it...*

*I love you Betsy Cary and I will miss you dearly...until we meet again xxxx*

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**Debi Jenks** - December 09, 2018 at 12:04 PM



Shannon  
Elizabeth

“ *I think I met Betsy back at Bonnie's bridal shower. I remember how sweet and welcoming she was. She had so much character, and she always had a lighthearted comment or joke to spare. While I didn't get to spend a ton of time with her, I was always happy to see her and talk to her whenever the Cary house had a bonfire or a party going on. I even have friends that only met her briefly on nights like that, who have reached out to me to express their condolences and comment on her kindness. She will be missed dearly.*

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**Shannon Elizabeth** - December 09, 2018 at 11:06 AM



LU

“ *Buon viaggio Betsy. La palla di natale che mi hai decorato, quest'anno brillera' di più.*

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**Luciana** - December 09, 2018 at 09:42 AM

JP

“ Three of my fondest memories of Betsy were when we were all newlyweds, just starting out on that journey of love and discovery.. John and Betsy’s wedding was so much fun. I remember being tickled that they had already decided they were going to have 6 children because they had both come from families of six children. I remember being so impressed with their love and conviction. The second one was of her bright smile and energy when we saw her in Ocean City, working in the Breakfast (Waffle House) .... Her personality was infectious.... But the very best and most lasting memory was when we were at my Moms condo and Betsy was at least eight months pregnant. She went outside with all the kids and played soccer..... Her smile will always be with us. A bright light has gone out.

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**Jan Pundzak** - December 08, 2018 at 08:23 PM

LP

“ I had the pleasure of coaching Betsy at ABC and Virginia Tech. She was a character among characters. Among so many memories one stands out that captures her spirit. We were at our first Robbie Tournament in Toronto warming up when she noticed our opponents in a circle doing stretches to a cadence. She got a couple of like minded hooligans, went into the center circle and, with arm over shoulders began to do the Can-Can while singing Hey Good Looking. The game was over before it had started. What an inspirational, spontaneous genius.

On a more serious note, her grassroots work to get girls and womens soccer off the ground in the 70's and 80's cannot be underestimated. Without her strength of personality, dedication, work ethic and her spirit as a bricoleur the womens game would be less today.

*(She made great tuna fish sandwiches also.)*



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Larry Paul - December 08, 2018 at 12:42 PM

MK

“ We met Betsy and John when we moved to Shannon Lane in early 1990. Our neighborhood was tight then as we were all raising our young families. Some of my favorite memories are Betsy and John serving hot dogs and cider on Halloween, having sing-a-longs, Christmas Eve visits from Santa, New Year's Eve parties (toga!), and much more. Betsy was also my son Matt's soccer coach when he was 5. She was so giving, friendly and welcoming. She always had extra people at her house and flourished amid the chaos of raising those 4 beautiful girls. We will always cherish those years we had as neighbors.

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**Mike & Debbie Krawczyk** - December 07, 2018 at 10:14 PM

 Jamie  
Thompson  
Renzi

“ Betsy Cary was my aunt and, although I was sort of the "black sheep" of our very large family, she always spoke to me and treated me like I wasn't. I have very fond memories of my Aunt Betsy. We had a few heart to hearts over the years and she gave me encouragement that I have carried and always will carry with me. She was a wonderful person. I will miss her dearly.

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**Jamie Thompson Renzi** - December 07, 2018 at 08:28 PM

MP  
Myrna

“ *Betsy and I met through Annandale Boys/Girls club when my brother started playing soccer. Through the club we worked many BINGO games and other fundraisers together. In High school we spent more time together as she loved my big fat Cuban family! She was always at the family parties and learned to dance salsa, rumba, mambo etc like the rest of us cousins. She loved all the Cuban food too! She just fit right in and so did Kip. Once in awhile her twin brother might show up. Her and Lori Jagoda tried their best to convince me to join Drill Team. I enjoyed being around the team but never committed. After graduation, one summer I went to visit her as she was working in Ocean City, MD. That's when she wanted me to meet John. I spent the weekend with them and she was so funny about going out with him. She kept saying "I like him but I don't know! Do you like him? He is cute, right? I think he's cute!" My response of course, "Betsy! He is cute, he obviously likes you. But the important thing is he treats you soo nice!... Yes, Betsy, you need to go out with this guy!" She always reminded me when I saw her that I was the one that matched them up...no they found each other on their own. I just gave her a nudge or two to go for it. So glad she did. John has stayed faithful to my dear friend. He proves to be a noble and wonderful man who loves my friend with all he's got. Thank you John for not making me regret those nudges! We were all lucky to have this lady in our lives for the time we had her. Everyone who knew her before her illness knew the glory and wonder that was Betsy Germain Cary! RIP.*

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**MP Myrna** - December 07, 2018 at 06:44 PM

John  
Cary

*Myrna, it was not until the age of 50 that I learned about the importance of the "girlfriend test". It's nice to hear all these years later that I passed. Those were magical times./ John Cary*

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**John Cary** - December 07, 2018 at 08:41 PM

DG

“ Betsy was my Secret Santa when I was in a particularly shy phase in high school. She was one of the cool Seniors and decorated my locker, showered me with attention, and made me cool by association. It’s amazing what a positive effect that had then, and what a profoundly happy memory that is now, more than 40 years later. She and her family are such a great part of my memories growing up.

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**Dan Garfinkel** - December 07, 2018 at 06:36 PM

JB

“ Betsy was a very caring loving woman. She was always running around with the girls. The girls and soccer were her life . She loved her family dearly.

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**Judy Barrett** - December 07, 2018 at 04:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Susan Goewey** - December 07, 2018 at 02:01 PM

KA

“ Ms Cary was one of my most memorable teachers at Brentsville and I will never forget having her. I loved how supportive and accepting she was as an art teacher and I loved that she would bring her guitar in some days and play us Dust In The Wind and tell us stories. Thanks for making this awkward insecure teenager with very little drawing ability feel good about her art.

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**Karly** - December 07, 2018 at 11:50 AM

SR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Stephanie Ruth** - December 07, 2018 at 07:26 AM

BJ

“ Went to elementary through high school with her. There wasn't a person that knew her they didn't like her. She was always so positive so encouraging. We had that big beautiful smile. And she genuinely cared about people. Even though I have not seen her in years. I'm going to miss her. Of the real special people in my life time God bless you

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**Brian jackson** - December 06, 2018 at 09:23 PM

CY

*The members of the Forgetful Friends Chorus are heartbroken about the loss of Betsy. We always brightened up when she came to our rehearsals and performances. John and Betsy's love was so very apparent. At performances, we often heard comments about how touched people in the audience were when they saw them together. We will miss her terribly, but we will be comforted by many precious memories.*

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**Connie Young** - December 07, 2018 at 10:31 AM



*Betsy and I met through Annandale Boys/Girls club when my brother started playing soccer. Through the club we worked many BINGO games and other fundraisers together. In High school we spent more time together as she loved my big fat Cuban family! She was always at the family parties and learned to dance salsa, rumba, mambo etc like the rest of us cousins. She loved all the Cuban food too! She just fit right in and so did Kip. Once in awhile her twin brother might show up. Her and Lori Jagoda tried their best to convince me to join Drill Team. I enjoyed being around the team but never committed. After graduation, one summer I went to visit her as she was working in Ocean City, MD. That's when she wanted me to meet John. I spent the weekend with them and she was so funny about going out with him. She kept saying "I like him but I don't know! Do you like him? He is cute, right? I think he's cute!" My response of course, "Betsy! He is cute, he obviously likes you. But the important thing is he treats you soo nice!... Yes, Betsy, you need to go out with this guy!" She always reminded me when I saw her that I was the one that matched them up...no they found each other on their own. I just gave her a nudge or two to go for it.*

*So glad she did. John has stayed faithful to my dear friend. He proves to be a noble and wonderful man who loves my friend with all he's got. Thank you John for not making me regret those nudges! We were all lucky to have this lady in our lives for the time we had her. Everyone who knew her before her illness knew the glory and wonder that was Betsy Germain Cary! RIP.*

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**MP Myrna** - December 07, 2018 at 11:12 AM



*Thanks for sharing that, Myrna. I can just hear Betsy asking that ... SHE was so cute and accomplished but so humble too.*

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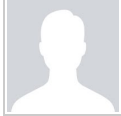
**Susan Goewey** - December 07, 2018 at 01:58 PM



*I really appreciate all the positive energy she brought to Brentsville. If you were having a bad day, one conversation would make you forget the crappy day you were having. I will always cherish the moments with her at Brentsville.*

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**Glen Stietzel** - December 08, 2018 at 11:19 AM



*Betsy was the happiest, most adorable person you could ever meet! I have wonderful memories of singing with her in chorus and Three Art Singers at Glasgow Intermediate.*

**Barbara Beebe** - December 08, 2018 at 03:04 PM



*We share so many happy memories over 30 years. We raised our children in the village that was our neighborhood: going camping, skiing, sledding, Christmas parties, Halloween, game nights, movie nights, the beach! We all had so much fun. She will be in my heart always...*

**Micki Turner** - December 09, 2018 at 11:28 AM



*I will always remember Betsy's smile and vivaciousness. John and Betsy were members of Bull Run Unitarian Universalist church and were an inspiration to us all. She sang beautifully and was a member of our choir. She always volunteered to work with children and they all loved her. She was a guiding light to everyone she met. Her love for John and his for her were an example for all.*

**Gwendolyn Edith Talbot** - December 09, 2018 at 04:54 PM



*Many happy soccer memories at BDHS! Love and hugs! The Harris family*

**Candace G Harris** - December 14, 2018 at 08:06 PM