



Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela

April 30, 1944 - April 21, 2023

Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela, 78 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Friday, April 21, 2023 at her home in Little Falls, MN after a battle with cancer. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN with Father Ben Kociemba officiating. Burial will take place in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls, MN. A visitation will take place from 4-7 P.M. on Wednesday at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN and from 10-11 A.M. on Thursday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN. Caring for Betty and her family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Garage sales around the area will suffer following her death. Her children may be hosting one soon after looking at the contents of her basement. If you enjoy Christmas décor and napkins in over 50 different patterns, please watch for the advertisement in the local Record.

Although she lived a slightly less than average life span, she did not live an average life.

Not long after being born in Little Falls, Minnesota on April 30, 1944, she knew she wanted to be a nurse. There is an unprovable story of her taking the neighbor kids rectal temperatures with a play wooden thermometer in her

early youth. She graduated from Little Falls High School and St. Cloud School of Nursing. What made the daughter of a carpenter and a homemaker decide to join the Peace Corps and zip off to West Africa? We will never know but thank God she did. She met a devilishly handsome fellow volunteer, Jerome Pasela, and they were married within a year in Togo. With such a quick engagement and marriage, it is surprising that Sarah was born 7 years later and Chris following on her heels three years after that, rounding out the infamous “Pasela kids”, some of the best-behaved children ever.

Betty was a nurse in many capacities and in many countries including Benin, Guinea, Burkina Faso, the US, South Africa, and Togo. She baked giant cookies for the neighbor kids on their birthdays. She had a cobra fall in the roof of the outhouse she was about to use. She danced a dance and it slithered out between her legs. She spent time with John Denver in Ouagadougou and he wrote a letter calling her and Jerry “heroes” as they did development work. She kissed scraped knees and helped her kids navigate the world. Betty earned the Department of State Meritorious Honor Award for her time treating Marines in Ouagadougou. After her precious Jerry died, she joined the Peace Corps again and spent time in South Africa helping patients with HIV as well as running away from hippos that crashed her wine sipping porch time. Her life has not been boring.

Nana adored her three grand kids, Ben, Lilly and Lucy, and let them get away with crimes her own children would have been punished mightily for.

Betty was a very good cook and a practical joker. She would never be described as shy. She spoke her mind. If you ever stood next to her during a parade and a politician she didn't agree with walked by, you know what we mean.

She loved God and was a devout Catholic with a deep faith. She said the best

job she ever had was serving as Eucharistic minister for Our Lady of Lourdes.

She will be deeply missed by her family and friends, her daughter; Sarah (Chad Spahn) Pasela; son, Christopher Pasela; sister, Mary (James) Skoog; Peter (Dianne) Ring; sister-in-law Pat Ring; grandkids, Benjamin Spahn, Lilly Pasela and Lucy Pasela as well as her many beloved friends.

She will be welcomed by her mama, Helen Ring; her daddy, Leonard Ring; brother, Jim Ring; and husband, Jerry Pasela. They are sitting around a table discussing news or politics with a pot of coffee brewing and telling off color jokes.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 26. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls
214 2nd Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Visitation

APR 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Church
208 West Broadway
Little Falls, MN

Funeral Mass

APR 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Church
208 West Broadway
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - April 25, 2023 at 03:42 PM

TS

I love the video tribute to Betty Pasela, my friend. Terri Shrode

Terri Shrode - April 25, 2023 at 06:22 PM

DS

Family, service, hospitality, and faith will forever be hallmarks of Betty's life. May these memories and so many others be sources of comfort for each of you who will miss Betty each and every day.

Dianne Schlichting, classmate and friend

Dianne Schlichting - April 26, 2023 at 03:57 PM

TM

“ *Just heard of Betty's passing, and wanted to send condolences to her family. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Benin. Jerry was country director and Betty was our medical officer - and I was a beneficiary of her skills. They were a great support to us, and are remembered with respect and affection. Sorry to be so late in learning the news.*

Terry McWhinney - September 27, 2023 at 03:36 PM

CD

“ I'm thankful to God for the blessing of a faithful, fun-loving friend like Betty. God bless you all, Sarah, Chris and all of Betty's family.
Chris Dadzie in Accra

Chris Dadzie - June 03, 2023 at 11:39 AM

PL

“ Sarah and Chris, we send our deepest sympathies to you for the loss of your mother. She was a kind woman and will always be remembered.



Pat Lutzwick - April 28, 2023 at 04:09 PM

DP

“ So Sorry for your loss. Sending heartfelt condolences for your loss. I met your mom when Jerry and Betty were in Cleveland for Lillian's funeral.
Wishing you all the best going forward.

From the entire Uncle Walt Family - Jim & Tammy Pasela Family and Dave Pasela

Dave Pasela - Uncle Walt's son (Uncle Walt passed in June 2022)

Dave Pasela - April 27, 2023 at 12:15 PM

MM

“ Sweet Sarah and Chris... I am so heartbroken for your kids. Your mom was so in love with you and with them. My favorite memories of Betty always contain her smile and wonderful laugh. She will be missed and forever remembered.

miss marge - April 26, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela.*



April 25, 2023 at 08:32 PM



“ *54 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - April 25, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ *While most of us put off giving our time to a cause thinking "When I get some time I will do it" Betty just did it! She and her husband Jerry saw the need and gave their time and talent. And they did it with humor. I feel lucky that our paths crossed every few years and sorry they won't again.*
Camille Warzecha



Camille - April 25, 2023 at 12:06 PM

LD

“ Lynn Duerr-Karasch lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela



Lynn Duerr-Karasch - April 24, 2023 at 07:10 PM

DJ

“ Deepest Sympathy so Sorry for your Loss , She was the kindest , nicest, friendly person.



Dawn Janson - April 24, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela.



April 24, 2023 at 10:12 AM

CB

“ Cheryl Barnes lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela



Cheryl Barnes - April 24, 2023 at 10:08 AM

PD

“ I worked with Betty at St Gabriel's Hospital. She was always kind & caring & helpful to her co-workers. She always had something good to say about everyone. I always enjoyed seeing her at OLOL church. She showed her happiness by her big smile. She will be greatly missed. Sending sympathy & blessings.



Phyllis Dobis - April 23, 2023 at 06:57 PM

MB

Dearest Betty— the BEST nurse EVER - the BEST friend EVER—the BEST entertainer EVER—one of the BEST people I have known! Memories of Betty are precious gifts ...

Marilyn Bertsch - April 24, 2023 at 12:20 PM

CM

“ Claudette Moran lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela



Claudette Moran - April 23, 2023 at 06:14 PM

CM

Gentle hugs, prayers, and condolences go out to Sarah and family, Chris and family, along with the entire Ring and Pasela families as well. Betty was an awesome nurse when she worked at St Gabe's, and an awesome LF School Board member as well. Betty is missed. She always greeted me warmly every time we saw each other during family gatherings. Blessed be her memory. May she rest in the peace of Christ, and may God hold all of you in the palm of his hand.

Claudette Moran - April 23, 2023 at 06:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela.*



April 23, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela.*



April 23, 2023 at 11:35 AM



“ *Oh what a beautiful soul. She made you a friend from the first time you said hello.....she will be missed dearly by those she shared the spirit with.*

Paulette Yorek - April 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Dianne And Charlie Ledbetter lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela*



Dianne and Charlie Ledbetter - April 23, 2023 at 07:57 AM

KG

“ Kathryn Gessell lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela



Kathryn Gessell - April 23, 2023 at 01:07 AM

SW

“ Shelly Williams-Stang lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela



Shelly Williams-Stang - April 22, 2023 at 11:16 PM

MO

“ Michelle Olson lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela



Michelle Olson - April 22, 2023 at 08:07 PM

LJ

“ Lorraine Janski lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela



Lorraine Janski - April 22, 2023 at 07:17 PM

AK

“ *Annika Klosowski lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Pasela*



Annika Klosowski - April 22, 2023 at 05:40 PM

DM

“ *Betty was an incredible Lady and I remember her fondly as a H.S. classmate. After I left Little Falls and she traveled in Africa, we see did not see each other for many years. I connected first on the phone from my sister's connection with Betty. When I finally made my first H.S. reunion, 55th, Betty welcomed me back very positively like we were back in H.S.*

I enjoyed talking to her about her learning from living abroad, especially about challenges in South Africa where my limited understanding was mostly from Michener's "Covenant" which Betty had also read.

We had several phone conversations where she gave me her perspective about Charles Lindberg, about whom I had reservations. From Betty's nursing perspective, I better understand Pro-life and my view on Women's right to choose. I had only lived in the Little Falls area for less than five years mostly as a H.S. student, so I learned from Betty to better appreciate Morrison County including its politics. I will really miss what she called our intelligent conversation.

God Bless You, Betty

Don Marnach, class of '62

Don Marnach - April 22, 2023 at 05:26 PM

AB

“Where do I start ... Betty was beyond amazing, there's a huge hole where she's supposed to be. From meeting the Pasela family in Ouaga ... she was far more than the school nurse when I started in kindergarten - sleepovers, birthday parties, field trips ... Betty was one of the core set of parents who made Ouaga and ISO so special for us kids. Fast forward to university when I visited the Pselas again in Little Falls after working at a summer camp, almost 15 years later, it was like just a couple weeks had gone by. A week catching up with everyone, being totally spoiled by Betty, visiting the lakes with Jerry, turning the \$5 Sarah and I each got into winnings at the casino. Betty introduced me to Alexander McCall Smith and the lady detective, I've still the book from the yard sale on my bookshelf, and I gobbled up the whole series at the library when I got back home. I've the puzzle globe Betty got me when she found I loved jigsaws, and remember her joking I put the world together in 2 days while there. It sits on my shelf and is one of the first things I build again when I move home. No surprise I was back to visit again, I've cherished memories enough to fill a volume. More recently it was too infrequent e-mails and phone calls reminiscing about Ouaga, catching up, just chatting about random things like Chris's new cat "Black Betty", laughing about Betty becoming a "squatter" in her home. Come christmas I'll be rereading all Betty's newsletters from years past.

To an amazing, strong woman and an inspiration to probably far more people than she realised - here's to you, Betty.



Much love to Sarah and Chris and the rest of your family
Aba-Sah

Aba-Sah - April 22, 2023 at 03:10 PM