



Betty S. Backer

August 17, 1929 - June 12, 2024

Betty Susan Backer, 94, of Grand Island, passed away on June 12, 2024 at Tiffany Square Care Center. A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, June 20th at 11:30 am at All Faiths Funeral Home, with Dan Naranjo officiating. Family will greet friends for visitation starting at 10:00 am until service time. Betty was born on August 17, 1929 in Stockham, NE to John and Kathryn (Penner) Janzen. Betty attended elementary school in rural Hamilton County and Aurora, and graduated from Aurora High School in 1946. She then went on to graduate with distinction from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970. She earned her Master's in Education also from the University of Nebraska.

On March 31, 1956, Betty was united in marriage to Gordon Backer in Aurora. One son was born into this union. Betty spent five years teaching in rural schools of Hamilton County, and 34 years of teaching in elementary schools in North Platte, Lincoln and Grand Island with the last 23 of those years at Newell School in Grand Island until her retirement in 1993.

Betty was a member of First Baptist Church of Grand Island since 1960. She served as a Sunday School teacher, Circle President, Christian Education Board, Church Council, American Baptist Women's Executive Board, and Stewardship Board. She had a life membership in the Newell PTA, a former member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher's Sorority, as well as holding memberships in the GI Education Association, NE State Education Association, Grand Island Saddle Club, and the Grand Island Area Retired

School Personnel Secretary and Program Chairman.

Betty enjoyed traveling. She visited 49 states, as well as Canada, Mexico, and Europe. She also enjoyed bowling, card playing, dancing, reading, attending her grandchildren's activities and Husker sports. She went to four Bowl games. She loved going to the cabin with her family, and doing volunteer work for St Francis, the Bloodmobile, and the Children's Groundwater Festival.

Those left to cherish her memory include her son, Thomas (Jody) Backer of Grand Island; grandchildren, Kayla (Dustin) Hasselmann, Dr. Nate Backer; great grandchildren, Lillian, Ashton, Bentyn, Hudstyn; and special friends that are like family, Joel and Dee Ferris, Andrew (Sheena) Ferris and their children, Caden, Clayton, Cash, and Stella, and Scott (Shaylon) Ferris and their children, Sterling, Tennyson, and Landric.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Alma Witkowski.

Memorials are suggested to the family for later designation.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Service

JUN **20**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *All Faiths Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Betty S. Backer*



All Faiths Funeral Home - June 20, 2024 at 09:24 AM

JM

“ *I was the librarian at Newell Elementary and worked with all of the teachers. Betty was fun to be around and a credit to the staff. She gave her students a solid foundation for learning. I hadn't seen her for several years but I know she loved living at Riverside. She was so proud of her family. I am so sorry for your loss.*
Jean McMindes

Jean McMindes - June 19, 2024 at 12:04 PM

BW

“ *My sincere sympathies to the family of Betty. I never had the pleasure of meeting Betty in person but I did hear many wonderful things about her from my Mother, Tillie Goertzen Braun.*

Bev Braun Worden - June 16, 2024 at 07:46 PM

LH

“ *I don't remember most of my teachers but I remember her. She was so very kind and such a wonderful teacher. Prayers to her family 🙏*

Lynn Hann-Ziola - June 15, 2024 at 10:36 PM

JO

“ My sincere condolences for Mrs. Backer’s Family
She was a ONE OF A KIND TEACHER.... And made ALL OF HER
STUDENTS FEEL LIKE HER FAVORITE. This WORLD NEEDS
MORE MRS. BACKER’S
THANK YOU FOR TEACHING US MRS. BACKER 🙏❤️
And... THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES

Julie Ossana - June 15, 2024 at 05:27 PM

ON

“ What an honor and pleasure it was to be one of Betty's nurses and
friends at Riverside Lodge. We had many fun conversations. She
loaned me many of her books to read and I shared some of my
favorites with her. So many pleasant memories of our discussions
during toenail clinic. Onna Callahan LPN

Onna - June 15, 2024 at 03:46 PM

JM

“ I taught fitness classes at Riverside and she was one of the
participants. She always had a smile on her face and such a
wonderful sense of humor. We would always share a laugh. What a
wonderful personality she had! Sorry for your loss. She will be
missed. Joan McKee

Joan McKee - June 15, 2024 at 10:59 AM

LG

“ Betty was such a joy! I enjoyed knowing her and hearing the stories
of her family. She loved showing me pictures and videos you sent to
her of the great grand kids. She would laugh and laugh as we
watched them. Enjoy all the great memories you have of her. Linda
Green from Five Points Bank.

Linda Green - June 14, 2024 at 02:25 PM



Betty was a gem. Loved teaching with her and visiting at her home and Tiffany. A special teacher and friend.

Yvette Engelhaupt - June 19, 2024 at 11:57 AM