

Mom's Obit

Betty Hengemuehler, 76 of Tucson, Arizona passed away on April 21, 2016 after a long illness.

Betty Jane Hengemuehler was born on October 27, 1939 in Kenosha, Wisconsin to Rose and Gerald Laughlin.

Betty adored her family. She was often caught telling stories of just how proud she was of all of her children's and grandchildren's accomplishments. She had a wonderful sense of humor, loved sports, was incredibly well-read, and cherished her friendships.

A committed volunteer and lover of books, Betty's passion for reading was underscored by her service as a two-term Treasurer for the Sioux City, Iowa Library Board of Trustees. During her service, the board paved the way for a successful \$6 million dollar capital campaign which led to the construction of a new public library.

Her volunteer contributions included work for the Tucson United Way where she established the organization's first automotive division.

At the time of her passing she was working on securing a posthumous promotion to Brigadier General for the late Colonel George "Bud" Day, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam and is one of the nation's most decorated military personnel.

During her early professional career in Sioux City, she held positions at St. Luke's Medical Center and Western Contracting. She served as a congressional aide to four term Iowa congressman Wiley Mayne. And, she began a long career with GMAC, which ultimately took her to St. Louis where she was a manager and corporate officer before retiring. Her professional work in St. Louis earned her an induction into The Coro Foundation's Women in Leadership program.

Hengemuehler was salutatorian at Aurora East High School in Aurora, Illinois. She also attended College of St. Scholastica, Morningside College, Briar Cliff College and the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

She is preceded in death by her mother and father.

She is survived by her brother Robert and his wife Lynn, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, her three children, Ed, who lives in Omaha, Nebraska, Joe and his husband Tim who live in Tucson and Julie and her wife Cheri and their three children, Joey, Jorja and Natalie, also of Tucson.

Betty's family is thankful for the numerous friends and relatives who have provided support through thoughts and prayers, including Father Harry from Tucson's St. Pius X who offered a welcomed spiritual presence during Betty's last days.

In lieu of flowers the family invites donations in Betty's memory to The Sioux City Public Library or Peppi's House, the hospice on the campus of Tucson Medical Center where Betty was cared for before her passing.

Betty's family is planning a small, private memorial at a later date.