



## Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Warner

July 26, 1925 - April 7, 2018

Elizabeth Ann Kovanda Warner passed away peacefully on April 7, 2018, at St. Simeon's Episcopal Home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Betsy, as she was fondly known, was born July 26, 1925, in Peru, Nebraska. She grew up in Ord, Nebraska, where she graduated from Ord High School in 1943. She enjoyed serving on the school newspaper and yearbook staffs, National Thespians, and participated in eight school musical productions. Betsy's lifelong love of women's fashion began with her part-time job at Ord's dress shop on the town square.

Betsy was a member of Alpha Chi Omega and a 1947 alumna of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. There she met Don Warner, and they were married at her sorority house in April 1947. They settled in Central City, Nebraska, and welcomed their children, Janis, Donn and Wendy. Later, after brief residencies in Missouri and Kansas, they returned to Nebraska where they enjoyed their home on Grand Island's Kuester Lake. They were active members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, where Betsy enjoyed being a lay reader. Betsy loved working at the iconic Hovland-Swanson Department Store, and later at Seiferts Store for Women.

Don and Betsy retired to Green Valley, Arizona, where they enjoyed golfing and Nebraska Cornhusker watch parties. In 2006 they moved to be near their family in Owasso, Oklahoma, where they enjoyed many family reunions and

celebrations. Betsy's wish was for her family and friends to "remember the good times." She was a sociable and fun-loving woman who loved music, dancing and her small-town roots.

Betsy was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Warner; parents, Dorothy Pettit Kovanda and Jess Kovanda; brother, Keith Kovanda; and daughter, Janis Ruth. She is survived by her son, Donn and Diane Warner; daughter, Wendy and David Buss; four grandchildren, Josie Warner, Erin Warner, Sara Jones and James Hobbs; and four great-grandchildren, Oscar Warnersmith, Brianna Jones, Nathan Jones and Addison Jones.

A Memorial service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Grand Island, Nebraska. Final resting place will be at Central City Cemetery in Central City Nebraska. Memorials are suggested to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Grand Island, Nebraska. Arrangements and services have been entrusted to Mowery Funeral Service of Owasso. [www.moweryfs.com](http://www.moweryfs.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Central City Cemetery

1915 Highway 14  
Central City, NE 68826

# Previous Events

## Service

APR 21. 3:30 PM (CT)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
422 West 2nd Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801

# Tribute Wall

LT

“ *In the early 1980's, I was hired as a high school student to work part time at Hovland- Swanson. We watched, listened and learned from the "regular full time Older ladies". Betsy, Peg and Dorothy were wonderful! I consider those work hours some of the best times of my life. When Hovlands closed we all went to work at Seiferts. The age difference didn't seem to matter - Besty & company were gracious, classy & FUN! We had so many wonderful laughs together. She was beyond welcoming. I know you all will miss her.*

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**Lisa Toner** - April 18, 2018 at 06:20 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Warner.*



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April 18, 2018 at 11:21 AM

SB

“ *Betsy was always a TRUE delight to be around. She greeted everyone with her beautiful smile. I would always look for her when I was at the Grand Island mall, and she would be so happy to see you. Wendy, I'm so sorry for your loss. Know you're going to miss her tremendously. Love & prayers, Sara Hord*

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**Sara M Beck** - April 16, 2018 at 03:02 PM

SK

“ I remember my aunt Betsy, it was always exciting to be in her presence. She had this energy that made everything around her sparkle. When I was young, my go-to look of choice was black hair, pale skin and red lips. My mother used to say, “you and that red lipstick, you’re going to look just like your aunt Betsy!!” And I felt it was the best thing ever, because I always thought she was beautiful.

Sara Kovanda

sara kovanda - April 14, 2018 at 06:26 PM

SJ

I love hearing this memory! Thank you for sharing!

Sara Jones - April 15, 2018 at 09:31 PM

CP

“ I got to know Betsy Warner after she moved to Tulsa because my last name was the same as her mother’s maiden name. It didn’t matter that it was my husband’s family name rather than mine—it was a connection that made me special to Betsy. Over the years, I knew her as a gracious, warm woman. I will miss her. I am sure that she will be missed by all who knew her. My deepest sympathies to all of her survivors. I know my loss. I can only imagine yours.

Carol Pettit - April 13, 2018 at 06:42 PM

WB

Thank you, Carol, for such a kind tribute. You were equally as special to Mom.

Wendy Buss - April 13, 2018 at 09:38 PM

VR

*Wendy,*

*I'm so sorry to hear this. I know you and your mom were close. I always loved to see the pics of you and her and your daughter enjoying a concert or event together. I'm sure you have many happy memories to sustain you.*

*Virginia Richard*

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**Virginia Richard** - April 13, 2018 at 11:57 PM