



Bette Brackenridge Groat

November 14, 1946 - December 21, 2018

Bette Brackenridge Groat, loving wife and mother, died Friday December 21, 2018. Born in Douglas, Michigan, she graduated from Saugatuck High School as valedictorian in 1964 and initially attended Ferris State College where she majored in Industrial Chemistry. She subsequently attended Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas and graduated with a degree in occupational therapy. In 1977, thanks to a blind date setup by Tom and Betty Denton, she met her husband John Groat at an Auburn game and was smitten. With Auburn. She liked John too, enough to marry him in 1977 and a short time later gave birth to Sharon and Shawn. She began her occupational therapy career initially at Cleveland General Hospital, and then at Emory University in the occupational therapy department. She joined the occupational therapy faculty at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for several years, and in 1988, she accepted a position at the University of Mississippi Medical Center to start a new occupational therapy department. She spent the majority of her career there, teaching students and mentoring faculty, and had an enormous impact on occupational therapy for the state of Mississippi.

She loved to quilt and crochet, with many a friend and family member the recipient of blankets, quilts, sweaters, hats, and gloves. She was a fabulous cook, and her home was always open to all. Friends were family, and her house was filled with family. She loved to travel, loved pets, and loved life.

She is survived by her husband, John Groat; daughter, Sharon Pennington and son-in-law, Ronnie Pennington; son, Shawn Groat; grandchildren Morgan and Aidan Pennington; brother, Bill Brackenridge and sister-in-law, Beth Brackenridge; brother, Bob Brackenridge and sister-in-law Sue Brackenridge; numerous nieces and nephews, and her two cats Aubie and Bic. She would want us to sing and dance, even in the midst of grief.

Visitation will be Friday, December 28, 2018, from noon until 2:00 pm at Wilson Funeral Home in Fort Payne, Alabama. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM with graveside service for the family following. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to support a scholarship named in her honor for occupational therapy students at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and may be sent to 124 Ridgetop Circle, Flowood, MS 39232.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Cemetery

1002 Grand Avenue SW
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 28. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Funeral Home
3801 Gault Ave. N
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Funeral Service

DEC 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Funeral Home
3801 Gault Ave. N
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Tribute Wall



“ *Bette Brackenridge Groat*

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *I remember when Bette first came to UMC - what a blast she was! The OT world will certainly miss her as well as the rest of us.*

theresa bridges - December 29, 2018 at 11:55 AM



“ *Dear John, Sharon, and Shawn
Bette was a tremendous influence on my career and I made a habit of telling her frequently how much I loved my job. She was fun, funny, compassionate, principled, and loyal. I feel blessed to have known and worked for her, as well as count her as a friend. I'm so sorry for your loss (and ours) but I hope it is a comfort to know the positive impact her life made on so many others.
With love,
Carol Tubbs*

Carol Tubbs - December 27, 2018 at 03:08 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bette Brackenridge Groat.*



December 27, 2018 at 01:10 PM



“ *Shawn,
So sorry for your loss, my prayers are with you and your family.
Donna Hamilton*

Donna - December 27, 2018 at 10:06 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the
family of Bette Brackenridge Groat.*



December 26, 2018 at 07:29 PM