



Betty Louise Hellige

April 24, 1949 - May 30, 2025

ST. LOUIS – Betty Louise Phelps Hellige, 76, of St. Louis died Friday, May 30, 2025, with her beloved daughter and family by her side.

She was born April 24, 1949, in Cape Girardeau to Henry and Gerda Johnsen Phelps.

A graduate of Notre Dame High School, she later worked faithfully for 22 years as a legal assistant at the esteemed St. Louis law firm Lewis Rice. She married Charles Hellige in 1976.

Though she spent most of her life in St. Louis, Betty cherished memories of summer days at her grandparents' farm in Bonne Terre. For her, the good life was an uncomplicated one, filled with loving family and the familiar comforts of home. She was an adoring mother and sister and a wonderful human. Known for her signature spunk, warmth and stubbornness, Betty was one of a kind. Her vibrant spirit lives on affectionately in all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister Julie Glastetter; brothers, Pete and David Phelps; granddog, Sputnik; and dear friends, F. William McCalpin and Connie Wells.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Chelsie Hellige, and husband Ekkachai

Danwanichakul; former husband, Charles Hellige; brother, Dan Phelps; and sisters, Donna Johnstone and Nancy Underwood.

Friends may call from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau. A memorial service will follow at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, Betty wished for contributions made in her memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 21. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Memorial Service

JUN 21. 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

NU

“ *ahh memories I Love You Betty Nancy*

Nancy Underwood - June 21, 2025 at 12:53 PM

DJ

“ *Betty was my big sister and close to me in age so we did things together. Sometimes our clothes were the same, only a different color, or not. I regarded her as the pretty one between the two of us. As a teenager she volunteered as a candy striper at the hospital. She also found employment and paid her way, letting me wear her clothes sometimes. Soon she was out on her own in the big city of St. Louis, where she continued going forward in success - an inspiration to me.*

One cute story is how she put voices to our baby dolls. She would talk for them and even well into adulthood we couldn't help but be sucked into conversations with them because she made it sound so darn cute. Sometimes she wrote notes to us in that way, knowing it would make us smile.

She was meticulous in how she dressed and she made her house into a beautiful home - always perfectly maintained and landscape groomed.

She liked crafts and used a scroll saw to cut out Christmas ornaments and painted them to give out. She was creative. One year she won a needlepoint contest in St. Louis of a really sweet cityscape; always meticulous.

After her daughter was born, Betty shared with me that she was so in love in her. She was so proud of her daughter.

Betty was always there for me. Always. I will miss her terribly. And those cute little doll voices will still be there in the echoes of my mind.

Donna Johnstone - June 21, 2025 at 10:42 AM

CH

“ Charles H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Louise Hellige.

Charles H. - June 14, 2025 at 11:26 PM

MS

“ Dear Chelsie and family,
Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved mom, I had the honor of being with her during her final days, and in that sacred space, we developed a bond that I will carry with me always.
Our friendship was honest, and at times hard, because I cared deeply about her well-being. I would lovingly challenge her about the toll alcohol and cigarettes were taking on her body — not to judge, but because I wanted her to live and to heal. In response, she would often ask me to pray, sincerely asking God to help her overcome her struggles. I sometimes sensed she wrestled with my words, and perhaps even resented the truth being spoken. But I never doubted her heart or the courage it took for her to keep asking for prayer and to keep seeking something better.
She was more than just a neighbor — she became a dear friend. Her vulnerability, her sense of humor, stubbornness 😊 and her deep longing for peace left a lasting impression on me. I believe with all my heart that God heard her prayers and held her close, even in her struggles.
I am praying for you and your family — for comfort, for healing, and for strength as you walk through this time of grief. May her memory be a blessing and a reminder of God’s grace that meets us right where we are.

With love and sympathy,
Yvette Scales

Ms Scales - June 13, 2025 at 04:56 PM

BC

“ Betty was always a beautiful, smiling, laughing lady. I knew Betty way back in school. She was always a nice person. The last time I saw Betty she was still beautiful, smiling and laughing. Chelsie, your mom loved you and was so proud of you. Never forget how much your mom loved you. She definitely will be missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Belinda Carter Cooper - June 13, 2025 at 03:50 PM