



Charlotte Bess

May 5, 1940 - January 7, 2022

Charlotte Arlene Frueh Bess died at the Lutheran Home after an extended illness on January 7, 2022. Charlotte was born in Rolla, MO at the home of her grandparents on May 5, 1940, to Muriel Hankey and Murrell Jacob Frueh. After graduating a year early from high school Charlotte moved to Jefferson City in 1957 to study at the Central Missouri School of Radiology and Technology. Charlotte's first job as an X Ray technician was in the radiology department of Doctor's Hospital in Poplar Bluff, MO when she was just nineteen.

In the fall of 1959, Charlotte stood by her car at the gas station. Her future husband, Joda Lee Bess, pulled into the gas station and remarked to himself, "I have to meet that beautiful young woman." Joda arranged for an introduction to Charlotte. In the early spring of 1960, Charlotte was offered a position at a hospital in Columbia, MO. A heavy snow fell on the day of the interview, so Joda drove Charlotte from Poplar Bluff to Columbia for the job interview. After the interview Charlotte told Joda that she had taken the position in Columbia as it was closer to her family in Rolla. Joda had four hours to contemplate his future on the drive back to Poplar Bluff. When they arrived in Poplar Bluff, Joda asked Charlotte to become his wife and she accepted. Joda and Charlotte were married on a beautiful autumn day at Holy Cross Church in Poplar Bluff, Missouri on October 1, 1960.

Joda gave Charlotte an engagement ring set with a diamond that he won in a beer sales incentive and sealed her fate as a member of the unsung heroes of

the beer industry: the beer spouse. On their wedding anniversary each year, Joda would remark that October 1 was the luckiest day of his life. His family and friends knew that to be a vast understatement. Charlotte personified the adage that behind every good man there was a good woman.

Charlotte was not to be underestimated. In the pre-feminist sixties, Charlotte navigated raising a family and making a home. Charlotte's family bloomed under her lavish love and care. Charlotte's talents were showcased in the love that she showered on her grandchildren. Joda and James spent each Wednesday night at Nana's house until they went to college. Late in life, Charlotte was blessed with a cherished granddaughter, Joda Grace, who shares Charlotte's sparkling blue eyes. Her grandchildren will carry Charlotte's love and wisdom throughout eternity.

Charlotte was baptized and confirmed at Christ Episcopal Church in Rolla, MO. As a young newlywed, Charlotte was recruited to be a member of the altar guild at All Saints Episcopal Church in West Plains, MO. Charlotte continued that service to her God and church until her health required her to retire. For 56 years Charlotte served on the altar guilds at All Saints, West Plains; Holy Cross, Poplar Bluff and Christ Episcopal in Cape Girardeau. Charlotte was a merry and faithful friend who excelled in nurturing friendships over miles and years. She was an original member of the Flex and Tone ladies exercise class that was established in 1976. She attended class faithfully, five days a week for 42 years until her health no longer allowed. Charlotte was a member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority for 48 years, building friendships with amazing ladies in both Poplar Bluff and Cape Girardeau. Charlotte survived cancer in 1989 and was treated for Fuch's dystrophy in 2008. In 2016, Charlotte was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. On the ride home from the consultation, Charlotte turned to her family and said, "God's will be done." Alzheimer's robbed Charlotte of many things, but she retained her faith, bright smile and gentle spirit throughout her long illness.

Charlotte's family wishes to thank Katie, Deb, Angie, Jenifer and Tina at Chateau Girardeau who cared for Charlotte when she was separated from her

family during the 2020 Covid lockdown. Additional thanks go to the staff of the Lutheran Home Unit 400 who cared for Charlotte in the last year of her life. Crown Hospice attended tenderly to Charlotte's final days. Jenifer and Wendy, you gave grace and dignity to Charlotte's last year and she loved you as her own daughters. Nurses are the backbone of our health care and we are thankful for the many kindnesses shown to Charlotte during her illness. Charlotte is survived by her two children, Kathy (Keith) Holloway and David (Laura) Bess of Cape Girardeau; a brother, Robert (Martha) Frueh of Rolla, MO and three grandchildren, Joda Keith Holloway of St. Louis, MO; James (Jessica) Holloway of Ballwin, MO; and Joda Grace Bess of Cape Girardeau, MO.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Joda Lee Bess, and by her parents, Muriel and Murrell Frueh.

Friends may call at Ford and Sons on Mt. Auburn in Cape Girardeau from 4 to 6 PM on Friday, January 14, 2022.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church at 10 AM on Saturday, January 15, 2022 with the Rev. Annette Joseph officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you support Christ Episcopal Church, Trinity Lutheran School and Notre Dame Regional High School or the Alzheimer's Association.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **14**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

JAN **15**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ Episcopal Church
101 N. Fountain
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear about Charlotte! She was one sweet lady!

Kathy Crider - January 15, 2022 at 03:05 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Charlotte Bess.



January 12, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charlotte Bess.



January 12, 2022 at 09:36 AM

SN

“Charlotte and I were close friends when she lived in West Plains. Without a doubt she was a lovely and devoted wife, mother and friend. Our daughters grew up together and celebrated many occasions with each other. Both of us were active in All Saints' Episcopal Church, attending many services and helping where needed. I could write many stories of our ventures together. Joda and Charlotte moved to Cape and our seeing each other became less frequent. I feel so blessed to have known Charlotte and send my prayers and sympathy to her family. RIP dear friend, you will be missed.

Sharon Neathery - January 12, 2022 at 08:52 AM

CC

“To the family of Charlotte Bess:
I met Charlotte when I joined the Flex and Tone exercise group at Fitness Plus. She was a person whose infectious smile and personality caused you to immediately like her. On one occasion I needed to pick something up from her at her house at Chateau Girardeau and she was gracious enough to ask if I would like to be taken on a tour of the house. She seemed to be so excited to show me around and see how she had remodeled by changing a room off of the kitchen into her office space. When she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease she spoke of the diagnosis and what was in her future. It broke my heart to see her health deteriorate and I felt so sorry for what she was going through. I will remember Charlotte in my prayers and I think often of how blessed I am to have known her and to have had her for a friend.

Carolyn Clayton - January 11, 2022 at 06:09 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Charlotte Bess.



January 11, 2022 at 05:37 PM



“ Dear Kathy and David, It is with sadness that I learn the news of your beautiful, beloved Mother. I cherish the years that we were neighbors. As I look at her photo on this page, I see the same smile that was always lighting up her face. I know the loss of parents is difficult. However, during an illness we wish them to find peace. The two of you will carry on with proud parents smiling down on you and guiding you along your path. I very much enjoyed reading of how your parents came to meet and to marry. Delightful! God Bless!
Susan Smith

Susan Smith - January 09, 2022 at 09:43 AM



“ This lady was one of my best friends. My goodness the fun times we had. My heart is saddened, but she is in her heavenly home, visiting with her bestfriends from her past, (which are too many to mention. . you will be missed Charlotte, you left a wonderful family that will miss you. Remembering you with much love. Emma Wright

emma Wright - January 08, 2022 at 08:53 AM

JH

“ There are so many beautiful memories of Charlotte that it would be impossible to list them. She was gracious and beautiful inside and out. Beta Sigma Phi would not have been the same without Charlotte. Charlotte and Joda provided us with a lot of smiles over the last 50 years. I am so sorry she had to have that dreadful disease.
Loved her a lot.

Judie Herbst

JUDIE M HERBST - January 08, 2022 at 04:05 AM

RF

“ I will never forget the first time I met Charlotte I mistakenly called her by another relative's name. She politely corrected me and continued our conversation as if nothing had happened. She always made me feel like a welcomed and loved member of her family. Simply put, she was one of the most kindhearted people I have ever known. Charlotte will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. RF

Richard Fohey - January 07, 2022 at 05:54 PM