



Beatrice Dunham

August 25, 1923 - May 21, 2013

Beatrice Dunham, 89, of Tallahassee, FL passed away peacefully in Westminster Oaks Health Center on May 21, 2013.

Beatrice was born on August 25, 1923 to Charles Strauss Fretz and Helen McMullen Fretz in Chicago Illinois. Independent by nature, Bea lived a full and interesting life. She enjoyed working in the legal and public relations fields in Chicago, Manhattan, Miami, Grand Bahama Islands, and Houston. She moved to Tallahassee FL with her older sister Betty in 1993, and worked as Office Manager at the FSU micro-computer lab, until her late 70's. Betty and Bea, both divorced, lived together as roommates for over 16 years. After Betty passed in 1998, Bea was a 10+year resident of Georgia Belle (now Westminster Gardens) retirement community and moved into Westminster Oaks Health Center last year.

She leaves her nieces, Pamela Krohn of Tallahassee, FL, Carol McAteer of Rockville Centre, NY, Judith Love, of Greensboro, NC, Marian Braun of Zephyr Hills, FL, RuthEllen Boerman of Hendersonville, NC, Gail Ecosta of Silsbee, TX, her nephews, Richard Connell of Massachusetts , Raymond Fretz of Colorado, and their families, as well as a close, extended family of dear friends throughout the U.S., with whom she kept in contact until her death, including: Rhonda Creel, Sharon Egan, Mickey Dutey, and Louise Rill of Tallahassee, Priscilla Black of Orlando, FL, Joann DeMarco of Branson, Mo, Emma Hinman of Hollywood, FL, Hildegard Sandhusen of Franklin, NC, Mary Shannon of Houston, TX, and Russell McKitterick of Miami, FL, to name

only a few.

Bea was an authentic and straightforward individual, well known for her quick and often salty wit. She was an avid reader and an animal lover (especially cats) and could make short work of a daily New York Times crossword puzzle, through her late 80's. She enjoyed a good steak dinner, playing solitaire and occasionally, a splash of brandy in a flute of champagne. She was dearly loved and left her mark on many hearts. Bea will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

A private memorial will be held in the home of Pamela Krohn at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make any donations to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308-5428 (www.bigbendhospice.org).

Assurance (a poem by R. H. Grenville)

The body, with its mortal fears,
seeing how sunlight disappears,
the falling leaves, feeling the breath of early frost,
asked: "What is death?"

And Spirit, with its keener sight,
Its knowledge of the Infinite, replied:
"A radiance that is emerging from its chrysalis.
A bridge across a quiet stream.
An open door beyond a dream."

Tribute Wall

KD

“ *Kitty Dorris lit a candle in memory of Beatrice Dunham*



Kitty Dorris - June 29, 2013 at 04:33 PM

PK

“ *1 file added to the album Beatrice Dunham - Photo Album*



Pamela Krohn - June 11, 2013 at 12:59 PM

PK

To my friend Pam and our beloved Bea.

*A rose once grew
where all could see,
sheltered beside
a garden wall,
And as the days passed
swiftly by,
it spread its branches, straight and tall...*

*One day, a beam of light
shone through
a crevice that had
opened wide ~
The rose bent gently
toward its warmth
then passed beyond
to the other side*

*Now, you who deeply
feel its loss,
be comforted ~ the rose blooms there ~
its beauty even greater now,
nurtured by
God's own loving care.
Love, Rhonda*

Pamela Krohn - June 11, 2013 at 01:54 PM

PK

“ A Tribute from Rhonda Creel:

To my friend Pam and our beloved Bea.

*A rose once grew
where all could see,
sheltered beside
a garden wall,
And as the days passed
swiftly by,
it spread its branches, straight and tall...*

*One day, a beam of light
shone through
a crevice that had
opened wide ~
The rose bent gently
toward its warmth
then passed beyond
to the other side*

*Now, you who deeply
feel its loss,
be comforted ~ the rose blooms there ~
its beauty even greater now,
nurtured by
God's own loving care.*

Love Rhonda

Pamela Krohn - June 11, 2013 at 11:50 AM

PK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pamela Krohn - June 11, 2013 at 11:47 AM

PK

This framed memorial statement was placed in the Lobby Memorial table near the guestbook at Westminster Oaks. Bea received excellent care by the wonderful staff there, and met many interesting and delightful residents also. Thank you to everyone at Westminster for helping Bea to feel at home and comfortable during the year she lived there.

Pamela Krohn - June 20, 2013 at 02:48 PM

PK

“ 17 files added to the album Beatrice Dunham - Photo Album



Pamela Krohn - June 10, 2013 at 12:09 PM

PK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pamela Krohn - June 10, 2013 at 09:50 AM

PK

This was taken on Bea's 86th Birthday. Louise Rill is a dear friend who often invited Aunt Bea to dinner at her home in Betton Hills, with her husband, and his mother Lucille, who was born on the same year as Bea! Lucille recently passed away also, and sadly, we lost Randy Rill a few years ago to lung cancer. Louise continued to visit Bea and be an incredible support system for me. Louise visited Bea shortly before her death on May 21. Bea loved Louise...and Louise always made her laugh with her zany antics and feel welcomed and cared for with her generous, loving spirit. Thank you dear friend.

Pamela Krohn - June 20, 2013 at 02:43 PM

PK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pamela Krohn - June 10, 2013 at 09:47 AM

PK

This is Aunt Bea's friend Bessie. Bessie lived directly below Bea on the 10th floor of Georgia Belle apts. (now called Westminster Gardens) They were great friends and Bessie attended Bea's 86th Birthday Party at my home and amazed us with the stories of her life and interesting work in the legal field. Bessie was over 100 in this photo. She later moved into Westminster Oaks. Unfortunately, by the time Bea moved to Westminster Oaks, Bessie was no longer there. It warmed my heart to see the great friendship of these two very tiny...and very special ladies.

Pamela Krohn - June 20, 2013 at 02:54 PM

PK

“ 3 files added to the album *Beatrice Dunham - Photo Album*



Pamela Krohn - June 10, 2013 at 09:36 AM

PK

“ 1 file added to the album *Beatrice Dunham - Photo Album*



Pamela Krohn - June 08, 2013 at 09:53 PM

PK

Mickey was introduced to Aunt Bea in the early 90's and they became fast friends. This friendship remained over years of good times. On Mothers Day 2013, Mickey, Aunt Bea and I (all childless) celebrated the occasion in Bea's room at Westminster Oaks Health Center in Tallahassee with a dozen red roses, a bit of bubbly and a splash of brandy (Bea's old favorite - she called "French 75s") Even the Dr. approved!

We reminisced, reminding Bea of the "good 'ol days"...of high adventure, exceptional companions, and all the dreams we shared...and realized. A phrase of a song by Guy Clark comes to mind:

"Old friends, shine like diamonds, Old friends, you can always call....Old friends...Lord, you can't buy 'em... You know it's Old friends....after all.

We love you Bea. We miss you. We celebrate your long and full life. Fly free!

Pamela Krohn - June 08, 2013 at 10:16 PM

PK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pamela Krohn - June 08, 2013 at 09:50 PM

PK

“ 13 files added to the album *Beatrice Dunham - Photo Album*



Pamela Krohn - June 08, 2013 at 06:02 PM

PK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pamela Krohn - June 08, 2013 at 05:58 PM

PK

“ 1 file added to the album *Beatrice Dunham - Photo Album*



Pamela Krohn - June 07, 2013 at 06:05 PM

PK

These are two of Santa's best helpers! OK...yes, It's Bea and I, celebrating Christmas at the home of our close friends Jerry Armstrong and Sharon Egan. Bea and I (and my Mom when she was alive) spent countless holidays and shared so many delicious dinners and happy celebrations with these dear friends in their beautiful Tallahassee home.

Pamela Krohn - June 08, 2013 at 09:32 PM