



## Elizabeth Ann Shupe

January 18, 1942 - February 15, 2025

In the end, it is love that binds us together and gives us strength.  
Robin Oliviera, "My Name Is Mary Sutter"

We are deeply saddened by the death of Elizabeth A. deZeeuw Shupe, 83, who died Saturday the 15th at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Betsy was born in Lansing, MI. Her father, Dr. Carl deZeeuw, was a world-renowned tree expert, and the family traveled with him to South East Asia and the Philippines for his study. Traveling and living abroad as a teenager shaped Betsy's life and interests, from her lifelong love of literature and history to a passion for travel and culture.

Betsy graduated from Fayetteville-Manlius HS and earned a BS in Nursing from Syracuse University, where she met her husband of 55 years, Palmer M. Shupe of Syracuse, NY. After graduating, she lived in Syracuse, Jamesville and Bridgeport before moving to Tallahassee in 2020.

Betsy worked as a school nurse in the Syracuse City School District for more than 20 years, earning the love of hundreds of children as well as her peers. The Syracuse Post Standard had even published an article about her service. After her retirement, Betsy — an avid reader and genealogy enthusiast — worked at the Sullivan Free Library in Bridgeport until 2019. She was also a member of the Fayetteville-Owahgena chapter of the Daughters of the

American Revolution.

In addition to intellectual pursuits, Betsy was equally at home working with her hands: she and Palmer purchased an 1820 farmhouse in Jamesville, NY, and renovated it from the ground up, keeping true to its original nineteenth-century charm while modernizing it for their growing family's needs. This skill in renovation would extend to helping her grown children with their own home projects, from decorating to construction projects! Perhaps one of the most important things instilled in them was her example of a strong work ethic.

Betsy also always welcomed the opportunity to make handcrafts for friends and family, knitting and crocheting exquisite blankets, sweaters and baby items as well as making Christmas ornaments, stockings and home decor. During the spring and summer, she could be found in her expansive vegetable garden or tending to the wide variety of flowers in her yard. Another passion was baking, especially at holiday time, when she made both traditional cookies passed down from Dutch ancestors as well as modern favorites. Betsy also loved photography, and took beautiful images while traveling on cruises or just making road-trips to visit family.

Betsy's grandchildren remember her as a patient and caring grandmother-on-the-go. Whether it was fishing, camping, cooking, art projects, games or simply reading together, she was always at the ready to play with her grandkids, and they loved and cherished their moments together. Her enthusiasm for many of life's activities rubbed off on her grandchildren, who also now love crafting, art, and outdoor activities like hiking, snowboarding, bird watching, skateboarding and exploring nature.

Betsy is survived by her children, David C. Shupe of Armonk, NY and Elizabeth L. Shupe Wootan of Tallahassee, FL; three siblings; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She will be laid to rest in a private burial at a later date in Fayetteville Cemetery, NY. Contributions in her name may be made to the Sullivan Free Library, Bridgeport NY. Contributions may be made to Sullivan Free Library, Bridgeport NY. Todd Wahlquist is assisting the family with her arrangements (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)).

# Tribute Wall



“ We will always remember the fun we had on camping trips and the coffee she made. I have some of her flower that she shared with me that are still part of my garden. David, Lisa and families we send our sincere sympathy.

*Ed and Elaine Haffenden*

---

**Ed an Elaine Haffenden** - February 27, 2025 at 08:37 AM



*Thank you. I remember visiting your house and wood shop as a kid and also attending your daughters' wedding. Mom shared stories about you and the deer hunting on the honeymoon :)*

---

**Lisa Wootan** - March 17, 2025 at 12:58 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to her family. I knew Betsy since kindergarten and was in the Girl Scouts with her and have many fond memories of times spent with her. So sorry to hear of her passing.*

---

**Marjorie Westerfield** - February 26, 2025 at 12:59 PM



*Thank you. She had fond memories of girl scouts and working at the camps in the summer.*

---

**Lisa Wootan** - March 17, 2025 at 01:00 AM

CG

“ *The Central New York Syracuse Nurses Honor Guard Coalition wishes to acknowledge the nursing career of Elizabeth Shupe RN BSN. We honor Betsy for the difference that she made in the lives of so many patients, students and colleagues. Our sincere condolences to you, her family. May the love of family and friends give you comfort. May the love of God give you peace. Sincerely, CNY SYR Nurses Honor Guard  
No Nurse is Forgotten*

---

**Central New York Syr Nurses Honor Guard** - February 26, 2025 at 06:23 AM

LW

*Thanks you for the kind thoughts and honors. She would have appreciated it.*

---

**Lisa Wootan** - March 17, 2025 at 01:01 AM

WS

“ *I grew up with Betsy from kindergarten until my family moved away from Fayetteville in 1958 (our junior year in high school). As kids we played a lot at her big red house on Genesee Street. Cardboard boxes made great toys to play and build with. I guess that started her craftiness. She was a good friend and will surely be missed by her family and friends. Rest in peace Betsy.*

---

**William Stillman** - February 25, 2025 at 09:03 PM

LW

*Thank you. That house was the best :)*

---

**Lisa Wootan** - March 17, 2025 at 01:02 AM

MF

“ *Betsy was always a bright and happy Sprit in the middle of a home crafts project of some sort. I remember visiting the Bridgeport and Jamesville homes on 2 separate trips and being brought right into the kitchen for tea or coffee and conversation with some homemade confection! The northern version of Southern Hospitality!! And the fall apples in Jamesville were the best in the world..... The 3 deZeeuw sister cousins have always been so wonderful and fun to spend time with over the years. All cut from the same cloth that their Mother, Aunt Elizabeth, and Grandmother, Myra Johnson wove with so much care and love. I am proud to have kept the tradition of nursing alive from Grandmother Johnson and Courin Betsy.*

*I know the next 3 generations have inherited something very special and I send them all peace and blessings during the time of loss and remembrance. Cousin Mary Johnson Frost*

---

**Mary Frost** - February 25, 2025 at 07:11 PM

LW

*Thank you for sharing you memories and love. So many times sitting around the table after a big family gathering just talking for hours. Even as a kid I wanted to stay and listen to the stories and memories.*

---

**Lisa Wootan** - March 17, 2025 at 01:05 AM

SG

*Betsy will be missed as she was akways positive and a good friend. Early on with her family attending the F'ville Methodist Church, Brownies and Girl Scouts, to all those years at FM....a GOOD fun friend. RIP, Bets,*

---

**Sally Gladden** - April 06, 2025 at 07:33 AM