



Elizabeth Ann Jeffrey Bagley

September 15, 1937 - April 21, 2021

Elizabeth Ann Jeffrey Bagley

1937–2021

Rexburg, Idaho

Elizabeth “Betty” Bagley, 83, was welcomed into the heavenly choir on April 21, 2021, surrounded by loved ones after a life filled with music, family, and service.

Betty was born in Brisbane, Australia, in 1937 to Grace Amelia Emma Rutherford and Douglas Dalrymple Jeffrey. She grew up enjoying the beauty of Australia with her brother, John, playing cricket in the street and frolicking in the surf near Rockhampton and later Townsville. Betty was an avid student of music, and excelled particularly with the piano. As a precocious five-year old, she was admitted to the Hall State Girls’ School. Over the next few years, as the Second World War raged on in Europe and in the Pacific, she learned to live with frequent air raid drills and the sound of sirens. In Townsville, she and her brother attended West End State school where she participated in many ballet recitals and concerts. She left home by train near the age of 14 to attend boarding school over 800 miles away at Moreton Bay Girls High School in Wynnum, Queensland. She enjoyed her friendships and teachers there, but did not care for the liver or tripe dinner that was served weekly. Upon finishing her schooling, she was asked to teach music at Rockhampton Grammar School. Around this time, Betty met missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was baptized a member, along with her mother and later her brother. She made the bold and courageous decision to leave Australia to attend college at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Within a few months, she met and fell in love with Terrence “Terry” Bagley, a cowboy from Wyoming and student of business and finance. They were married in 1958 in Logan, Utah. Betty did not travel back to her Australian home for almost 10 years.

Betty and Terry raised seven children in San Diego, California; Bellevue, Washington; Edmond, Oklahoma; and finally Rexburg, Idaho. Throughout all the locations of her life, she taught piano lessons and influenced hundreds of students with her love and

appreciation of the instrument, and there was never a day the piano or organ didn't get played in her home. She instilled a love for the outdoors in her children with many family walks and hikes, sometimes beginning at an uncomfortable hour in the morning. Her commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ was unwavering and she shared her testimony through her example of love, kindness, selfless service, and humble prayers.

Betty loved her family and particularly her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She regularly traveled to experience important events in their lives, and was happy to play with toys on the floor, board games and Yahtzee at the table, or Wiffle ball outside. She treasured each moment — story time with the toddlers, comforting a baby with a quiet lullaby, and the meaningful conversations with her growing and insightful teenagers. She shared the love of her homeland with her descendants with many family trips to Australia. Her accent was a daily reminder to all of her heritage, as well as her command of grammar rules, British Royal history, and her delight in eating buttered toast with vegemite.

Her church service was extensive and included directing many choirs as well as piano and organ accompaniment in various organizations. She held a myriad of callings in the Relief Society, Primary, and Young Women organizations, but cherished her time in the nursery most. Betty and Terry served a mission together in the Rochester, New York area from 2001 to 2002.

She is survived by her brother, John Jeffrey of Australia, her husband, Terry Bagley, and her seven children, Terry Jr., (Robyn), Jeffrey (Mary), Lisa Wheatley (Robert), Kelly Russell (Dave), David (Debbie), Julia Rummens (Mike), Melissa Buecher (Dave), 29 grandchildren and nearly 20 great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her mother and father, Grace and Doug, her sister Diane, and three grandchildren. We are so grateful to the many caretakers who helped Betty in her final year, particularly the staff at the Ashford Assisted Living and Memory Care in Draper, Utah.

Services will be held on Friday, April 30 at 11 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, East Stake Center in Rexburg, Idaho, at 387 S 4th East and video streamed at the following link: <https://youtu.be/zJJcr05FSvs>

Visitors may come to pay their respects prior to the funeral service from 9:00 to 10:30. Covid precautions will be followed with masks and social distancing required. Internment will be at Afton Cemetery in Wyoming.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Idaho

at <http://Alz.org/idaho> in memory of Betty Bagley.

Please share memories and condolences at <http://www.serenityfhs.com>

Events

APR 30 **Viewing** 09:00AM - 10:30AM
East Stake Center - Rexburg ID
387 South 4th East,, Rexburg, ID, US

APR 30 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM
East Stake Center - Rexburg ID
387 South 4th East,, Rexburg, ID, US

APR 30 **Graveside Service** 02:30PM - 03:00PM
Afton Cemetery
Afton, WY, US

Comments



“ Is there anyone more gracious and sharing than Betty. Moments and memories with her are treasures. I think of times in the 6th ward choir, serving together in Young Women's, invitations to spend time with her in her beautiful home, which also included her hosting our wedding reception. Upon moving from Rexburg one of my greatest delights was moving into a Ward in Vacaville, CA where one of Terry's cousins lived. It was wonderful to get updates and even see them during a visit. There are beautiful angels that bless our lives and add to and enrich them. Betty was one of those heavenly angels. Sending my love to Terry and family. With love
Margene (Webster) Rich

Margene Rich - May 02 at 03:30 PM



“ We will always remember Betty, as a close neighbor and friend. Our shared love of music brought us together in 6th ward choir with special Christmas and Easter programs she painstakingly created and with organ and piano duets. What a thrill to play her beautiful organ in her home and she allowed me to hold a Baroque piano recital in her home using her harpsichord! She and Terry were always so generous in sharing their beautiful home with others for New Year's Eve parties, choir practices and parties, wedding receptions, etc. Betty had a remarkable ability of combining the youth with the average and professional musicians in our choir, always calling them by name and making them feel needed. I will never forget how hard she studied to take the citizenship exam in Boise and how proud she was to receive her American citizenship. I think she knew our history more than most of us! A favorite memory was accompanying Betty and Terry to the Targhee ski lift and though she was hesitant to ride the lift, with Terry's urging, Betty and I sat on the lift to ride to the top and she was so glad she had the courage to do it. We were refreshed to take in all the beauty of the surrounding countryside! I personally miss the days when Betty and Scarlet Holman (another music lover) were my visiting teachers. We will miss Betty and heartfelt sympathy to Terry and the Bagley family! Terry will surely keep up his activities with his adventuresome spirit and love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. JoAnn and Jim Greene



Jim and JoAnn Greene - April 30 at 07:24 PM



“ Rosa Lavelle lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Ann Jeffrey Bagley



Rosa Lavelle - April 30 at 12:28 PM



“ Our Condolence to Elizabeth Ann and Jeffrey Bagley and family. Thanks for all your help and care for others. From the Lavelle family.

Rosa Lavelle - April 30 at 12:31 PM



“ Aunt Betty always had an infectious laugh and wonderful accent. I had the privilege to take piano lessons from her when I was in high school, and particularly while I was practicing for an important performance. Every week I would drive to Rexburg and spend an hour or so in her home, being tutored in more topics than piano. Much love to your family as you mourn her loss and celebrate her life. - Chad and Tiffany McKellar Coleman

Tiffany Coleman - April 30 at 11:25 AM



“ I first met Betty Bagley on one of her many trips to visit her daughter, Melissa Buecher and family, in Colorado. Between the scout trips, park days, school events, baseball, kids playdates, car pools, to name a few, Betty came. I had already come to love the Buecher family and then came Betty, which instantly sealed for me a forever bond with this family. I was excited to hear when she'd be coming in town, missing my own mom, Betty easily took over. Those that knew Betty remember her sparkling eyes and flash of a smile, this combination with her expressions of interest in everyone she encountered, would draw you in. I could see instantly where Melissa got her quick wit, organization skills, kindness and of course the ability to come up with a song for any occasion.

While visiting my own college kids in Idaho, Betty and Terry invited me into their home on more than one occasion. She took the time to sit at the piano with one of my younger children to teach and share her love of music. I cherish the memory of discussing the many pictures on her walls and listening to the pride and love Betty shared of her family. I remember kneeling in prayer with both of them at the end of the day and feeling completely comfortable and loved in their home. Your life has been a gift to so many, Betty, including mine. You will be missed. I look forward to the time when we will meet again and I can sing in your choir.

With love, Eileen M. Larsen and crew!

Eileen MacCabe Larsen - April 29 at 08:32 PM



“ I was lucky enough to be seated next to Betty at a Relief Society luncheon a few years ago. It was wonderful! I got to ask her about how she joined the church and how she met Terry. She told me about her wonderful growing up years in Australia and her love & study of music; being taught by the missionaries, and her adventures traveling to the US & meeting Terry at the BYU bookstore. She told me about her young family & their time in California, & Oklahoma & Washington- all places I had connections with. I've always cherished that time I spent with Betty. Her shared life experiences from that afternoon are an enduring & cherished gift. I'm so grateful to have been in her ward. I love her & am grateful for her.

Kerri Andersen - April 29 at 10:17 AM



“ What a loss for us all! I always looked forward to seeing, talking with, and singing for Sister Betty Bagley in the choir! She was always a great example of service and joy, faith and faithfulness, kindness and caring. She brought beauty to us all, thru her music, her home, and her gospel light. May you feel God's comfort as you celebrate her wonderful life. (Eda Ashby)

Eda Ashby - April 28 at 09:22 PM



“ We too are saddened at Aunt Betty’s passing I have a beautiful picture etched in my mind when our youngest daughter came to us, She would have been about 8 months old, Aunty Betty was visiting Australia at the time and in our home. She picked up our daughter and put her on her knee and began singing ‘Incy Wincy spider ‘ with all the accompanying actions ...our daughter laughed with delight and wanted this repeated over and over ..such a lovely memory for us, one of many we cherish with visits here to Australia.
With love to all Elizabeth Brent Family

Elizabeth and Brent family - April 28 at 02:55 AM



“ We remember Aunty Betty with great fondness. Every week our grandmother, Aunty Betty’s mother would read us her letters via an aerogram. We listened to Gran reading to us each week for many years and marvelled at the love and devotion of a daughter to take the time and effort to do this weekly. We enjoyed hearing about your lives. We will miss Aunty Betty .She was a great example through all the years. It will not be quite the same without her. Love to Uncle Terry and our cousins as you say goodbye for a time to your special companion and mother. Love to all, Carl, Karen Maurer and family.

Karen Maurer - April 28 at 09:20 AM



“ Sending our love to you all at this time. She is a noble lady and is a wonderful example of motherhood and devotion. One of my favourite memories of her is sitting at the table with her as she chose Christmas gifts from the catalogues for you all - she was so careful and loving about it. And of course music, music, music! She has left a wonderful legacy. I loved visiting her home in Rexburg and sharing wonderful memories with you all through the years. Much Love, Carl, Larissa and kids

Larissa Dunlop - April 30 at 05:53 PM



“ Betty has been a friend and example for many years. She is a perfect example of a consecrated life. Everything she did was an act of love for her faith, her family, and her community. She shared her great musical talents willingly and unselfishly. She opened her home often to others. Her home illustrated her love for and dedication to her family. Every room was decorated with their pictures, and she loved telling visitors about every one individually sharing her pride and love for each. Her ready smile was a lovely expression of her light within. I love Betty and will miss her . All my love, sympathy, and empathy are with Terry, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.
Eileen Whitaker-Hancey

Eileen Whitaker=Hancey - April 28 at 12:27 AM



“ My precious,, precious friend,
I miss her already. She lived a life of service. She was such an example to me of hospitality, welcoming, dedicating talents to service in the Lord's Kingdom. Every interaction with her was up[lifting. We made beautiful music together. I will always treasure the times we shared,
Love,
Sherry Weyland

Jack Weyland - April 27 at 04:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Martha@41 - April 27 at 01:47 PM



“ Your love for our family was so obvious. I love you Grandma.

Mike Rummens - April 26 at 10:08 PM