Betty Darby

March 18, 1928 — June 17, 2014

Betty Darby, beloved wife, mother and friend to many, died at age 86 Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at Lake Winona Manor surrounded by her family.

Betty Jean Lowrance was born March 18, 1928, in Bisbee, Ariz., to Leon and Eunice (Taylor) Lowrance. She graduated from Brainerd High School where she was valedictorian of her class and from the University of Minnesota, where she received a BS in nursing. She worked as a public health nurse in Faribault for several years and later worked as a nurse in Winona County, where she also taught nursing to LPN students at the Winona Vocational/Technical College. She went on to obtain her Masters in educational psychology and began teaching nursing at Winona State University. She received a Masters in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and continued as a nursing professor at Winona State University for 25 years, leaving a lasting legacy through her thousands of students. Many of her students remember her fondly both as a rare instructor and as a friend.

On June 30, 1951, she married Richard H. (Bud) Darby at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Brainerd, Minn. Betty and Bud lived happily in Winona for their entire adult lives.

Betty was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Winona, for more than 50 years where for many years she sang in the choir. Betty was an avid reader and bird watcher. She loved art and music (especially Billie Holiday), and she enjoyed dancing and cooking. She was active with Portia Club, Red Cross, Chapter C.S.P.E.O., Hiawatha Valley Bird Club, Woman’s Art Class, and Ladies’ Book Club.

Betty is survived by her husband, Richard; four children, Mariane (Richard) Harding, Winona, William (Jennifer) Darby, Novato, Calif., Linda (Dennis Gerondale) Darby, Tucson, Ariz., and Debra Darby, Minneapolis; five grandchildren, Jesse Borden, David Borden, Katherine Harding, Jack Darby and Ben Darby.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Services to remember Betty will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 21, 2014, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Winona, with the Rev. Fr. Lawrence Green officiating. Interment will be in St. Paul’s Memorial Garden.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, June 20, at Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home, Winona, and beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Ala. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com. Services entrusted to Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Winona, and Fountain City, Wis.