



Elizabeth Arnold

November 3, 2023

Elizabeth K. (Kowalski) Arnold, age 77, of West Hartford, beloved wife of Richard S. Arnold, died on Friday, November 3, 2023.

Born in Meriden, daughter of the late Edward and Cecile (Opalacz) Kowalski, Bette graduated with B.S. and M.S. degrees from Central Connecticut State University and spent her career with the West Hartford Public School System, as a classroom teacher and later as a curriculum specialist. She was most proud of her work at the University of Saint Joseph, where she helped develop a graduate internship partnership with the West Hartford Schools.

Bette enjoyed traveling, especially with family and friends. She always valued the companionship and said it was more important than any location or food. She was a devoted, longtime communicant at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. In addition to her husband, Richard, Bette leaves behind stepsons Rick (Judith) and Woody (Cynthia) Arnold of Los Altos, CA, grandchildren Ricky, Jack, Rebekah, and Pete, her brother David (Eileen) of Middlefield, sisters Barbara (Allan) Peck of North Haven and Mary Peck of Cromwell. Additionally, she leaves her nieces Mary DeVault, Kim Kowalski, Patty Higgins, and Sara McLaughlin.

Bette was proud of her extended family which included Margaret Arnold and Sally Jean (Bill) Sullivan of North and South Carolina, wonderful cousins, dear friends, and neighbors, especially Judy, Gail, and Dolores. Your encouragement and faith inspired me! And thank you to Dr. Joel Silver and his army of nurses – Sabrina, Susan, Kaylee, Lisa – goodbye my angels.

“Her teaching accolades, organization skills, generosity and dignity were only exceeded by her humility and my love for her” – Richard Arnold.

Funeral services will be Friday, November 17th beginning with visitation from 10:00 am – 10:55 am in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 www.stjude.org. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

NOV 17. 10:00 AM - 10:55 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle
872 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT
(860) 233-8269

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

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872 Farmington Ave.
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(860) 233-8269

Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Bette and I volunteered at the church food pantry together. As we packed food we had lots of time for conversing. Bette always had valuable insight and advice to the many questions of life. She was a kind, generous, and admirable person. She knew what mattered most in this world...people helping people. Bette also had a great sense of humor to help lighten the load of any situation or a heavy food pantry bag.*

A graceful beautiful angel now soars in heaven.

Caroline Buckley - November 28, 2023 at 09:11 AM

CM

“ *Bette was such a priceless gift to this world! If you had the pleasure of knowing her personally or professionally, you were definitely blessed. Even though Bette was incredibly humble, I hope she knows how truly priceless she was to so so many teachers and students. Her passion for teaching was contagious. Her natural ability to coach teachers was a perfect blend of tenderness and high expectations. Bette always had an unwavering positive mindset with her genuine smile. I will forever be incredibly thankful to Bette for giving me the opportunity/training to have the best teaching job - as an Early Intervention Literacy Teacher. I still hear her today whispering over my shoulder “Who is working harder? You or your students?”, “Always know the purpose”, as well as hearing her sweetest giggle. Thank you for everything, Bette! Forever grateful!*

- Cathy Martin

Cathy Martin - November 13, 2023 at 08:02 PM

BB

“ Sincere condolences to Bette's family & friends.
I was extremely fortunate to have been a part of Bette's West Hartford/St. Joseph 's program. I truly admired and respected her genuine professionalism and the exceptional quality of her teaching. She was one of my "role model" heroes. Loving, kind, encouraging and a friend. RIP Bette.

Bonny A Butkiewicz - November 12, 2023 at 09:57 PM

BD

“ Rich: So Sorry to hear about your wife. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Bob Distel

Bob Distel - November 12, 2023 at 12:40 PM

LB

“ So sad to hear of Bette's passing 😞 She taught an immeasurable number of children how to read by teaching so many of us to be teachers of reading ❤️ She gave many of us the opportunity to have the best job ever opening the world of reading books to young children!
Bette was a beautiful lady full of knowledge and grace.
Prayers to her family.
Thinking of you Barbara especially as you were also one of my educational mentors.
Linda Beyer

Linda Beyer - November 11, 2023 at 08:54 AM

JD

“ No words can express the grief Rich and the family must be feeling. All I can offer are my prayers and warm thoughts. May God give you strength.

Jag Dalal - November 08, 2023 at 11:36 AM

BM

“ *Bette, you will always be in my heart. Bette was my teacher, mentor and friend for the last 30 years. She was instrumental in helping me get back into teaching after being home with my children for 13 years. While being my teacher and mentor in the St Joseph intern Program, she became my friend. I would share stories of my kids escapades in high school and Bette would share her trips, Thanksgiving recipes, her advice and positive feedback. She was a legend in the West Hartford school system, always positive and fostering ones strengths. I will miss her laughter, her insights and our twice a year luncheons with Joanne. Rest in Peace my friend. You are truly missed.*

Barb Molyneaux

Barb Molyneaux - November 07, 2023 at 08:51 PM

MD

“ *Richard and Family,*

So sorry to hear of Bette's passing. She was always a joy to see at Saint Thomas, with her wonderful smile and pleasant nature. She was a faithful supporter of the Knights of Columbus over the years and we appreciated that.

Sincerely, Michael DeConti

Michael DeConti - November 07, 2023 at 09:30 AM

AP

“ I met Bette, as we knew her, in August 2005 at Saint Joseph (College) University. I had moved back to CT from NH where I taught for seven years to apply for the West Hartford Schools/Saint Joseph College Graduate Internship program. She told me that I had a resume from Heaven.

Bette was my education hero. My time in her graduate class was life and career changing. Her feedback was of the utmost importance to me. She told me I was a great writer, and that, coming from Bette Arnold, was a compliment that I wouldn't soon forget. She made all the difference in my career, also helping me decide which school district based on my job offers, would be my best bet. My heart goes out to the Peck and Arnold Family for their great loss. Bette walked on water as far as I am concerned. I think of her often with warm wishes. And now, I hope she can rest in peace. I pray that the Lord envelops her family (and all those affected by her loss) in His loving arms. Today the world shines a little less brightly. God bless her heart and all those who knew her.

*Sincerely,
Allison Pascucci*

Allison Pascucci - November 06, 2023 at 09:37 PM

JN

Richard and family,

Losing a loved one is one of the deepest sorrows. But remembering the beauty of Bette's life and the legacy of love she left behind can help comfort and sustain you through this difficult time. I pray as you share the happy memories that you are held close in God's love.

*Love to all the family,
Jackie Nichols*

Jackie Nichols - November 07, 2023 at 04:00 PM