



## Petra Anderson Beatty

August 19, 1928 - November 13, 2012

It is with much love and appreciation that we say good bye to our wonderful mother, Petra Anderson Beatty. Petra was born August 19, 1928 in LaCrosse, WI to Dr. Nels Philip and Evelyn Drake Anderson. She graduated from Marquette University and started her master's degree at Loyola University in Chicago. Plans changed when she met the love of her life, John Joseph Beatty, Jr. - a salesman from Woburn, MA. They were married in LaCrosse on December 28, 1955 and moved to Hartford where she worked for the Social Security Administration. The first 3 of their children were born there. In 1961, they were transferred to Fremont, CA. On the way, Petra stopped in LaCrosse in order to give birth to her 4th girl, Suzanne. Two more children arrived during their 8 years in California, and then they were transferred back to West Hartford, CT. While a stay-at-home mom, she devoted much time to volunteering. She co-founded the Golden Age Club at St. Thomas the Apostle and was an enthusiastic leader of a Project Concern brownie troop. When she returned to work at the Hotel Sonesta (which became the Summit Hotel), she made many dear friends as an assistant dining room manager and later, a concierge. Petra loved watching football and playing bridge, rummy, and the slots in Vegas. Her biggest loves were her 6 children and their spouses, and 9 grandchildren who survive her. These are: her special caregiver and daughter with whom she made her home, Suzanne Beatty; Kathleen and Jim Palma of West Hartford; Maureen and Tom Foote of New Britain; Patricia Beatty and George Dagon of Glastonbury; John and Susan Beatty of East Granby; Sheila

and Larry Fitzsimmons of Colchester. The adoring grandchildren are; Tim and Becky Palma; Katie and Meg Dagon; Shannon, Jack, and Morgan Beatty; Riley and Ian Fitzsimmons. Also left to mourn her loss; her wonderful sister, Priscilla Dvorak, sisters-in law, brothers-in-laws, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She leaves a host of friends on both coasts and in the Midwest. She was predeceased by her husband, Jack; parents Evie and Phil; in-laws Bessie and Johnny Beatty; her 5 brothers- Philip, Paul, Peter, Patrick, and Perry. Arrangements are being handled by Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Friends may call on Sunday, November 18 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Molloy's. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford at 10:00 am on Monday, November 19. Burial will be private at Fairview Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity, 780 Windsor St.. Hartford, CT. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **18.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Funeral Service

NOV **19.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church  
47 Pleasant St.  
West Hartford, CT 06107

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ I am really sad to hear about the loss of your mother, Petra. I have many fond memories of your mother during the many years that I was friends with Sheila (& rest of family). I was happy to have reconnected with her a few years ago, but I am sorry that I didn't get to visit within the last year. She really was a great woman and will be missed.  
Fondly,  
Susan Crossley



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Susa Crossley - November 19, 2012 at 01:59 PM

EA

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Aunt Petra's passing. I remember her first as "Wewa", because, as a toddler, I couldn't pronounce Petra. When Petra and her friend Gwen ran ballet classes, Suzy and I were least talented sugar plum fairies in the group, but she made us feel special anyway. I was in awe of how beautiful Pris and she looked on Pris's wedding day, when I sneaked into their bedroom to watch them get dressed - and I tried to get up into the sanctuary with them when I was the flower girl, instead of getting into the pew with Mom and Dad. Who can forget the Thanksgivings at Grandma and Grandpa's house, with the card games after dinner? There was also a wonderful Thanksgiving at your house in Hartford when I was in grad school, and Grandma and Grandpa Beatty had their golden wedding anniversary. There are so many memories - and thoughts of the great family reunion that must be going on in heaven! My prayers are with all of you. Love, Ellen

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Ellen Anderson - November 18, 2012 at 09:53 PM

AT

“ I have thought of Petra over the years. We worked together one summer at the American Studios photo shop in Lacrosse. She came to Hokah to stay one night at our house and we had such a good time, I was always intrigued by her middle name being her mother's maiden name and each of her siblings having 'Drake' as their middle name also. And all her siblings name's starting with a 'P'. She had beautiful blonde hair and was such a fun person to be around. I think I have her graduation picture in my high school scrap book. I often wondered where life took her. I married in 1947 and moved to Dubuque, Ia for a few years, but I am back in Hokah again. My best wishes for her loved ones. She sounds like she had a wonderful family and good life.

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**Aggie Tippery** - November 17, 2012 at 12:03 PM

“ We are so sad to hear the news of our dear Aunt Petra's passing. I remember being 3 or 4 years old and living at Grandpa and Grandma Anderson's house on Cass street in La Crosse, WI. I overheard some ladies talking about me and mentioning that I didn't look like the rest of my family. They all had dark brown hair and eyes, while my hair was blonde and my eyes green. I used to stare at my Aunt Petra's hair, so shiny and blonde. Just her being there at the house made me feel good because I DID look like my family. Isn't it silly, the things we think about at a time like this?

*I remember her visiting us at our apartment in Chicago while she was attending school. I was only 6 or 7 years old at the time, but I can still see myself standing in awe as she came to see us, dressed so beautifully. I thought she was so pretty.*

*One Christmas season she took my sister Judi and me downtown to see the Christmas lights and decorated windows. We were dressed in our very best clothes and tried our very best to be good young ladies. We sat at a table in a fancy department store and from our vantage point were able to see the huge Christmas tree, all decorated with more lights and tinsel than I had ever seen. I was worried because as I sat in that chair, my feet wouldn't touch the floor and I kept swinging them in time to the Christmas music. I was pretty sure ladies didn't swing their feet but I was powerless to stop them!*

*When Aunt Petra and Uncle Jack were married in La Crosse, I was terribly insulted because children weren't invited to the ceremony or the reception. I wasn't a child! I was 9 years old! My mother, Marge was in the wedding and looked so beautiful in her dark burgundy velvet dress. But I really, really wanted to see Aunt Petra because I knew she would look just like a princess.*

*The final memory I want to share with you happened more recently and made me laugh! My husband Bill and I are involved in La Crosse's annual fall festival, Oktoberfest. As Oktoberfest grenadiers, our job was to escort our past "Festmasters" to events*

*all over the area. That day in September we escorted Steve and Marion Pavela to La Crescent, MN's Apple Festival President's reception. The presidents that year were my brother Nels Philip Anderson and his wife Sue. The room was packed with well wishers. At one point, Steve Pavela came and found us and told us he wanted us to meet 2 ladies who were his childhood friends. He was so excited as he told us he had a terrible crush on one of them when they were all in school together. We wound our way to the back of the room. When I finally had a clearing I was so surprised to see Aunts Petra and Priscilla. I think I kind of shrieked out their names and the next thing I knew we were in a group hug. Suddenly I remembered Steve was waiting. I turned to see him laughing and shaking his head. "I guess I don't need to introduce you to my two dear friends!" he laughed!*

*Karen (Anderson) Schirm  
daughter of Perry*

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**Karen Marie (Anderson) Schirm** - November 17, 2012 at 09:43 AM

PH

“ *So sad to hear the news. Will always remember her trips to La Crosse, while we were there. Jenn and I especially remember our trips to the casino once Jenn was 18...we had two very special trips that ended up in a bar with beers when we ran out of cash at the Casino. Always a special lady who definitely knew how to march to her own drummer and got everyone else to as well. I find myself thinking of her often when in troubled times...WWPD and I know the first thing was laugh have a beer and move on. Rest is peace and have fun at the card table if the boys will let you play. Beat their pants off girl.*

*Peg Haldorson  
Peg Haldorson - 1 second ago*

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**Peg Haldorson** - November 16, 2012 at 08:24 PM

JK

“ Mom, Karen, Connie and I were so sad to hear about your mom's passing. We spent some time yesterday talking about our memories of Aunt Petra, including when she was living at the Allerton Hotel, Chicago, IL while she was working on her Master's Degree. She spent quite a bit of time at our apartment then and, as little kids, we always thought she looking so impressive in her dress suits and couldn't believe someone could possibly live at a hotel. She was going to take Karen for dinner one evening and then to a play and Karen got sick so I got to go along and I felt so grown up. I also remember the first time I saw your home out in CT. Ralph and I stopped in when we were out there for our honeymoon. I loved Aunt Petra's resolve not to get any furniture for the formal living room that wasn't purchased especially for that room. So when we were there she had one lovely chair. I always loved her sense of humor and laugh. We are sad for your loss and hope you can find solace in wonderful memories. We wish we could be there with you but are there in spirit. Judi King, daughter of Petra's brother, Perry

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Judi king - November 16, 2012 at 06:00 PM

MF

“ With much sadness we have read of Petra's passing (La Crosse Tribune) and I must tell you that she was a treasure. She & I met in high school (Aquinas) and remained friends throughout our lives. In the beginning I really was surprised to be a part of her circle of friends--feeling that we came from opposite social levels. But Petra was true and common to the core and welcomed me. We had many fun times together, trips to games, etc. and sleeping at her home, maybe four in the bed crosswise. Her "little" mother fed us and Doc put up with our nonsense. She helped me prepare a speech for the next day---she was so smart !!!! She teased me incessantly when dating my future husband and calling him "honey" she began to imitate me by calling everyone "honey". Too many memories to count---we stayed friends through the distances with annual Christmas cards and letters. We still hang the angel card that she sent us some 30 years ago. We were fortunate to get together occasionally here in La Crosse, for lunch and gab fest, thanks to Priscilla also, for her hospitality. I am only sorry that we never met each other's children. I know she was blessed with a large family. Our sympathy to all of you. May she rest in peace. Love, Marilyn (Mutz) Finn and "honey" Don (Porky).

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**Marilyn & Don Finn** - November 16, 2012 at 11:09 AM

PB

*Dear Kathy, I am so very sorry for the loss of your mother. My heart goes out to you and your family. May the many fond memories you shared give you peace. My thoughts and prayers are with you. With my deepest sympathy, Paula Bacolini*

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**Paula Bacolini** - November 19, 2012 at 10:56 AM