



Mrs. Gertrude B. Treat

April 17, 1919 - January 4, 2023

We celebrate the life of Gertrude B. Treat of Pittsfield, then Dalton, who passed away peacefully in Boston on January 4, 2023. Born on her family's dairy farm in Charlestown, OH to Clarence and Louise Beal Burkey on April 17, 1919, Gert described herself as "an old farm girl at heart." She had a lifelong love for music; her mother taught her piano at home. When in high school, she discovered a passion for orchestral percussion and learned the marimba, kettle drums, and later a church organ. During the Depression Gertie attended Kent State and then studied Business Administration which resulted in her first employment at the Goodyear Bank of Akron as a bookkeeper.

Gert met her beloved husband, Charles "Dutch" Treat of Schenectady, then Pittsfield, at the wedding of her best friend, Janet, to his brother, Robert II. They corresponded by letter and then married less than a year later in 1942. She and Charles settled in Pittsfield, and raised two children, then built a house in Dalton. Gertie worked at: a bank, the credit bureau, a church, and GE Ordinance, all in Pittsfield. Thereafter, for almost 30 years she volunteered as the receptionist for the American Red Cross. Gert enjoyed cooking pies with her Grandmother Beal's old farm recipes (still available on grammygertie.com), gardening, and the antics of her family's cats and dogs throughout her life.

During her lifetime, Gertie visited 44 states and 28 countries. She regaled friends with stories of traveling: around China for 3 weeks with an art scholar (Charles' cousin), exploring underground cave cities in Turkey, finding her paternal ancestral home in Switzerland and the maternal side in England, petting sled dog puppies in Alaska, and many other adventures. Gert enjoyed world cuisines and in her later years could often be found at her favorite Chinese restaurant, sipping a Tsingtao beer. Until her late 90s, she embroidered tablecloths for a fee and donated the proceeds to the local hospice.

Gertie is survived by her daughter Karen R. Hoag and son James D. Treat, her grandchildren Michael Hoag, Craig Hoag, Amanda Treat, Emily Treat, Ethan Treat, and Lydia Treat, and 9 great grandchildren.

Funeral services for Gertrude B. Treat will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the American Red Cross.

Cemetery Details

Ashuelot Cemetery

Ashuelot St.
Dalton, MA 01226

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

CS

“ I have never forgotten my wonderful friend Gert. I worked the front desk at Melbourne for a few years, long ago now. She and I shared so many laughs and creative ideas. It is silly but I particularly remember us sharing a project of trying to recreate the flavor of the vanilla creamer from natural ingredients after reading all of the chemical contents. Each morning we would try a new recipe and laugh about our consistent failures. Gert had a mischievous giggle. I am, by no means, the only staff member who adored Gert. She had a way of making us feel special. What a lucky family you are to have been related to such a gem!

Casey Southard

casey a southard - October 22, 2023 at 09:46 PM

MV

“ I knew Gert from Melbourne Assisted Living in Pittsfield, Ma. where I worked as an activity aide. What an absolutely delightful lady. I remember sampling her delicious concord grape pie. I will forever remember her wonderful zest for life and her great sense of humor. She made a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

Mary K. Verzi - March 22, 2023 at 03:34 PM

AT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Amanda Treat - January 14, 2023 at 02:02 PM

AT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Amanda K Treat - January 14, 2023 at 01:59 PM

JM

“ Gert was the most beloved resident at Melbourne. She gravitated us all with her stories, kindness and love. She can now join her beloved husband. Those of us who loved her were lucky to be her friend.

Judith Miner - January 12, 2023 at 08:14 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album Michael's



michael hoag - January 12, 2023 at 06:17 PM

KC

“ Gert was my favorite! She was a friend . We enjoyed each other’s company weekly as I did her hair at Melbourne assisted-living in Pittsfield where she resided for 18 years! Our times together were precious and we had a lot of laughs. I could always count on Gerts good humor and willing to laugh at all my silliness and jokes and scenarios. I missed her deeply when she moved away to Boston so much. Well thankfully I was in contact with her through her son Jim by phone or video. What a wonderful human being she touched so many peoples lives with positivity good humor& grace. I love that Gert Treat and I will miss you forever till we meet again. Your friend and hairdresser Kathy Chapman.

Kathy M. Chapman - January 12, 2023 at 04:26 PM