



## Bettye J. Sheppard

October 9, 2022

Bettye June Sheppard (nee Watson), age 76, of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, passed away on October 9, 2022, at Hospice of the Valley in Surprise, AZ. Bettye was born in Evansville, Indiana, on June 18, 1946, to Robert Lee and Mary Lou Watson (nee Stokes). She graduated from F. J. Reitz High School in 1964 and attended Indiana State University. After university, Bettye taught elementary school and ultimately became a master and teacher of quilting. She taught quilting classes and held workshops in many countries, including the USA, Canada, Japan, and the Philippines.

Bettye married her high school sweetheart, David Murray, in 1966. Following divorce, she married Navy sailor, Victor Sheppard. As a civilian, Bettye was elected President of the Navy Wives Club at Subic Bay, Philippines, and served as the US Navy Ombudsman for Rear Admiral Lee E. Levenson. Bettye and Victor had two daughters, Jennifer and Rebekah. After Victor's retirement from the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer and Master at Arms, Bettye and Victor lived in Evansville, Indiana, where Bettye owned and operated The Quilters Barn. The family then moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, where Victor and Rebekah's unexpected deaths in 2007 and 2009 were difficult events for Bettye. She later met Edward (Ted) Parry of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For many years, Bettye and Ted lived together in Lake Havasu during the winter months and in Victoria, Canada during the summer

months. Ted passed away in Canada only a few months before Bettye passed away in Lake Havasu, and his passing brought great sorrow to Bettye in her final months.

Bettye is survived by a daughter, Jenifer Sheppard; a son-in-law, Justin Sutton; and three grandchildren: Taylor Sutton, Justin Hyde, and Mary Elizabeth Gunderman. Justin and Taylor Sutton were caregivers to Bettye in Lake Havasu during the months preceding her passing. Bettye is also survived by her sister, Nancy Lee Montgomery; her brother, Dr. Robert Stephen Watson, and many nieces and nephews. Bettye is also survived by many friends and co-quilters in Lake Havasu, Victoria, and Evansville, as well as in other countries where she lived and taught quilting classes.

Remembrances may be posted online at <https://www.simplycremationaz.com/obituary/bettye-j-sheppard/>. Memorial contributions may be made to the Navy Wives Association at Donate – Navy Wives Clubs of America – Doing Business As Military Families Worldwide, to St. Jude's Children's Hospital at Make a donation to cure childhood cancer – St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([stjude.org](http://stjude.org)), or to your favorite charity or church.

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ Aunt Bettye was married to my Uncle Vic Sheppard. I had no idea she was so ill.I am so sorry to learn just today, January 1st, that she had passed. I was posting a remembrance to my Uncle Vic when I saw the post that her brother placed on her wall. I am shocked!RIP Aunt Bettye. Leilani Sheppard-Millet

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**Leilani Sheppard-Miller** - January 01, 2023 at 10:27 PM

AK

“ Thank you for entrusting us to handle the arrangements for Bettye.Wishing her family and friends both peace and comfort during this time.

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**Ashley Keesee** - October 25, 2022 at 06:05 PM

AY

“ Anita Yarrow.c/o The Fabulous Friday QuiltersCowichan Valley , Duncan British Columbia CanadaWe met our dear friend , Bettye at the quilt shop where we met at every Friday. It has to be about eleven years ago.Bettye introduced herself as a visitor to our island and a quilting teacher. We agreed to have her come in on Friday to teach us one of her classes. The rest is history! We all loved her American accent and her funny little stories. She was indeed a very talented quilter and she taught us all so much. Every Friday they would come to join our group , Ted with a funny joke and Bettye with her so wonderful stories and her orange fabric. Over the years we've lost and gained new members to our group ,and they all had the same love and admiration for our friend Bettye.At this time we want to send our sincere condolences to Bettye' s family and friends.

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**Anita Yarrow** - October 21, 2022 at 09:01 PM

DH

“ *The Sheppard family has shown so much love to me and Gary. Bettye taking our friendship group to the Paducah quilt show to Rebekah house sitting for us while we're on vacation. She was a true friend and an amazing quilter. She will be missed. She is now with the people that she has loved and I'm so happy for her.*

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**Dottie & Gary Holman** - October 18, 2022 at 08:54 PM