



Robin Harriett Gemerchak

February 21, 1931 - February 24, 2021

A conversation with her mother about their respective funerals reportedly went as follows: Robin said to her mother, "I don't want my funeral to be a sad affair. I want it to be a celebration, a party even." To which her elderly mother famously replied, "Well, if that's how it's going to be, I'm not coming."

Robin Harriett Gemerchak, née Nettles, would not wish us to weep for her soul that went into that gentle night on February 24 2021, following a blessed life of 90 years. Known and loved for her generous smile, easy laugh and lingering southern accent, Robin would want her myriad friends and loving family to celebrate her life ... preferably with their feet in the sand.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama on February 21, 1931, she grew up with her sister and three brothers. She graduated from the U. of Alabama, majoring in speech therapy and theatre, and served as president of her sorority (Alpha Chi Omega) and the women's student body. She began her working life as a teacher before heading north with her husband Ed to start a family.

Robin was truly a woman for others. First and foremost, she was the proud mother of three rambunctious boys, the stable center of their lives, the beating heart of the family. She was, and is, the bond that remains unbroken. Her passion for her children found a new vessel to fill with the arrival of her five grandchildren, on whom she showered her inexhaustible reserves of love and energy, forging new bonds with the family's next generation. They love her dearly, as she did them.

Her generosity flowed freely to friends, church and community. An extremely

dedicated volunteer, she gifted her time over the space of 35 years to Hospice of NW Ohio and the Mercy Hospital Guild, serving a term as president. She was also active at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church, where she served as a eucharistic minister and lector for several decades.

These are just a few of the highlights of her long volunteering career. Then, at the ripe old age of 60, she returned to school to obtain her Master's in Education, to resume her first calling: teaching.

A faithful member of a tightly knit prayer group, she loved to host the book club, the garden club, and anything that would give her an excuse to entertain guests, cook and bake. Cookies. Endless cookies. Never losing her girlish college spirit, she was a fierce and vocal supporter of the U. of Toledo women's basketball team, attending Every_Single_Game.

Above all, Robin was a dignified woman. Elegant. Lovely. Colorful and unforgettable.

She is survived by her husband Ed, brother Bill Nettles, and her children, Ed (wife Sally Wile, father of Carter and Chris), Rob (wife Eileen Boyle, father of Joey, Maren and Danny), and Chris Gemerchak (partner Ellen Deckers).

Robin's family deeply appreciates the loving care that she received from the many incredible caretakers at Parkcliffe Community whom she became dear friends with over the past two years.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. on Tuesday, March 2 from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by Mass at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns at 11:00 a.m. The funeral Mass will be live streamed at toledostpats.org. Masks and social distancing are required. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to the Alzheimer's association or a charity of donor's choice. Please leave a condolence for the family at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Funeral Ceremony

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick Of Heatherdowns
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd
Toledo, OH

Tribute Wall

KK

“ *Robin and I volunteered for Great Books with students at St. John's: we had such fun preparing our questions and discussing our own interpretations of the stories. Her southern charm did not interfere with being intellectually honest! Such a lovely and lively lady!!!!*
Karen E. Klein

Karen Klein - March 04, 2021 at 05:48 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robin Harriett Gemerchak.*



March 02, 2021 at 04:54 PM

FB

“ *Dear Ed and family,*

I was saddened to hear of Robin's passing. Marilyn Dubielak had kept me informed of her unfortunate condition. Robin was a dear friend during my many years at St. Pat's. She was by far our best lector not only by skill but by her deep abiding faith. We also shared February birthdays and often celebrated together. Through her generosity I have many reminders of her in my home. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Fran Benlein. (former Director of Liturgy and Music at St. Pat's)

Fran Benlein - March 02, 2021 at 10:48 AM

MC

“ I have very fond memories of Robin. She always smiled at me when we saw each other at St. Joe's. Robin was a very caring person and will live on in all the people she knew.
Love, Mary Ann Colturi

Mary Ann Colturi - March 02, 2021 at 08:22 AM

DA

“ I was always taught to remember Aunt Robin and Uncle Ed in my prayers. It was always a great joy to see her in Birmingham with her sister Betty and her mother growing up. A class act I will never forget, Love David and Sheila nettles.

David - March 01, 2021 at 03:59 PM

LA

“ Many fond memories over the years. A very nice Lady and a wonderful Family. May our Lord wrap his arms around you all.

The Arman Family

Louise & Jeff Arman - March 01, 2021 at 03:43 PM

CO

“ Robbin Was a most gracious lady who shared her time and talent generously. I don't know about her treasure, but my guess is. .
.YES. She deserves relaxing in the arms of a gracious
God. Fr. Bob Wilhelm

Coyle - March 01, 2021 at 01:04 PM

SD

“ Our sincere sympathy to Ed and sons and their families. I worked with Robin on fundraisers when our boys were at St. John’s. She was fun and a hard worker. We saw them at many UT basketball games. Sharon and Tony DiSalle

sharon Dizsalle - March 01, 2021 at 12:49 PM

EH

“ My sympathy to the family. She and Ed raised outstanding young men. While she lived a long life, saying good bye is still difficult. Wishing you the best in your grieving process. Ed Heintschel

Ed Heintschel - March 01, 2021 at 10:22 AM

GG

“ As a little boy growing up next door I always knew the Gemerchaks to be kind sweet and caring people. She was like a mother next door to me. I will always have warm fond memories of her. God bless.

George ‘Will’ Gusses - February 28, 2021 at 04:43 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Robin Harriett Gemerchak.



February 27, 2021 at 09:44 AM

GH

“ I remember Mr and Mrs Gemerchak coming to our house to watch Alabama play Notre Dame in football (1973 Sugar Bowl? An Irish victory). We were a Notre Dame family but that didn't stop Mrs G from yelling “ Roll Tide” at the top of her lungs. I remember thinking she was fun. As I got older I realized she was not only fun, but also sweet and kind. Enjoy your eternal rest Mrs Gemerchak!

Gretchen Kraus Hartlage

gretchen Kraus Hartlage - February 26, 2021 at 08:15 PM