



Betty Jean Olshefski

April 12, 1934 - April 7, 2009

Betty Jean "B.J." Olshefski, 74, of Kankakee, died Tuesday (April 7, 2009) at Riverside Medical Center. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Teresa Catholic Church, where she was a member. The Rev. Thomas Cargo will officiate. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, Manteno. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Teresa Catholic Church or to the family wishes. Mrs. Olshefski was a homemaker and a self-employed beautician. She was born April 12, 1934, in Owatonna, Minn., the daughter of Harold and Olive Yule Pobanz. She was a member of the CCW at her church. Surviving are her husband of 54 years, Richard B. Olshefski; six sons and four daughters-in-law, Richard and Cathy Olshefski of Manteno, Bob Olshefski of Kankakee, Tom and Cheryl Olshefski of Manteno, John and Laurie Olshefski of Panama City Beach, Fla., Jimmy Olshefski of Palm Springs, Calif., Matthew and Deb Olshefski of Mesa, Ariz.; two daughters and one son-in-law, Mary Cox, and Kathy and John Riberdy, all of Manteno; 14 grandchildren, Angela Cox, Adam (Shawna) Cox, C.J., Cali and Summer Olshefski, Andrew, Kaitlyn and Karen Olshefski, Landen and Alina Olshefski, Austin and Amber Olshefski, Samantha and Jacob Riberdy; and one sister, Kathy Schuster of Owatonna. Her parents are deceased. She was a wonderful wife, mother and an amazing grandmother. Family was always her No. 1 priority. All who knew her will miss her quick wit and compassion. Her devotion to her children and grandchildren will carry on for generations to

come.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 03:19 PM



“ Dearest Olshefski Family,

My family and I wanted to express our sincere condolences for the loss of B.J. Your family are in our prayers as you go through this difficult time. We got the pleasure to meet B.J. at Deb's graduation party, as well as Matt and Deb's wedding. i ½At the graduation party she was so energetic and so full of life,she had everyone cracking up all night long. It was not hard at all to fall in love with your family during Deb and Matt's wedding, you could tell there was so much love and closeness in the Olshefski family. We know she is in a better place now, and she is going to take care of all of you from heaven. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Andrea Marrujo & Family##imported-begin##Andrea Marrujo & Family##imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ My most sincere Condolences to you all.

Knowing Comadre BJ has been a true honor.

My prayers are with BJ . . . God Rest Her Soul!

Vaya Con Dios!

God Bless You All,

Isabelle Benavidez##imported-begin##Isabelle Benavidez##imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ My Dear Precious, Treasured Olshefski Family . . . Out prayers, condolences & blessings are with all of you. We are so very, very sorry for the passing of BJ, . . . without a doubt, the Olshefski family MATRIARCH! What a woman she was! Let me tell you what my memories are! There was a girl . . . my daughter . . . her name is Debra! She was an adventuress . . . & even though the Mother in me wanted to clip her wings and keep her close . . . I knew that I had to let her fly into her future . . . so off she went . . . to Arizona! There was a boy . . . his name is Matthew . . . Debra & Matthew . . . they came into each other's lives in Arizona! She said, "Mama, HE'S THE ONE! . . . LOVE HIM and HE LOVES ME!" And they came to NM so that we could meet her Matthew! We saw & learned what she loved in Him . . . and we fell in love with him too! He then also became "Our Matthew"! It came time for us to meet Matthew's Mom & Dad, . . . Mr. & Mrs. O! It was Debra's graduation & we were all to be in Arizona for the celebration! I remember Debra telling me that Matthew was so-o-o-o nervous! He thought that BJ might overwhelm us! . . . HA! We absolutely FELL IN LOVE WITH BJ! . . . and Richard too! BJ was EVERYTHING! She was a Spitfire . . . she was Colorful . . . she was Strong Willed . . . she was so Intelligent . . . she Spoke Her Mind . . . she would Tell It Like It Is . . . she was HILARIOUS . . . she was a Devoted Wife & Mother . . . she became a TRUE FRIEND . . . & ultimately she became my COMADRE!! BJ was all of this & more! She was BEAUTIFUL in every way. BJ possessed an inner strength that was incredibly amazing! She came into our lives and touched us in the most profound way! She lived & loved to the fullest! What I admire the very MOST about BJ is the FIERCE, PROTECTIVE, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE that she had for her FAMILY! That "BJ" Love is so evident in each & every one of you and you will carry this Legacy of her Love with you always! We have been "Honored" beyond words to have

*known her . . . we have been blessed to have had her in our lives . . . and it has been an indescribable gift to have joined her and all of you as "FAMILY"! ĩ½ĩ½

We pray for the Eternal Life that God has promised BJ. ĩ½We pray that He will give to ĩ½all of you the peace & comfort that only He can. ĩ½We pray that the Light of God surround you, ĩ½the Love of God enfold you, ĩ½the Power of God protect you & the Presence of God watch over you!

Our Love, our Hearts, our Thoughts are With You!

God Bless You All!

Comadre Stella and ĩ½Amanda ĩ½& Adam Baca

##imported-begin##Stella M. Baca##imported-end##*

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



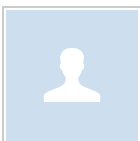
*“ Some of my best childhood memories are of the Olshefski clan's summer visits to Pennsylvania. ĩ½Aunt Betty Jean was always at the heart of those visits. ĩ½She had such a knack for making you feel so good and so happy. ĩ½What a blessing she was to all who knew her.

Our loss, heavens gain. ĩ½My thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this difficult time.

Love, Donna

##imported-begin##Donna Olshefski Wilder##imported-end##*

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



*“ To Mary and family:

My deepest sympathies to all of you at this difficult time. ĩ½My thoughts & prayers are with you, and Betty.##imported-begin##Julie Herscher##imported-end##*

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ I am very grateful that I was blessed to have a wonderful aunt like Betty Jean. Although we were separated by many miles, her open and welcoming nature evaporated the time and distance whenever we were together. From my earliest memories I recall a woman who laughed easily and brought that gift to others.

As the parent of two teenagers I am in awe of her strength and commitment as a mother raising eight wonderful adults. Last year I was honored to be invited to Matt and Debra’s wedding where this family’s love and devotion to each other was clearly evident. If one can measure a life in love Betty Jean’s was filled to the brim and overflowing. Betty Jean was a blessing to her family and to all who knew her and I as well many others will greatly miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Eileen Olshefski Mundena##imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ This is to give my deepest sorrow for losing such a good mother mom was a very good hearted person as I grew up with you guys. I am her in my prayers..

 Friend,

 Wilson##imported-begin##Rob Wilson##imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ I just wanted to take the time to say how sorry I am for your loss. I had the pleasure of knowing Mrs.Olshefski throughout my life, and becoming golf friends with her son Matt, and knowing her wonderful husband Richard, who I enjoy seeing often up at the Knights of Columbus, sharing great conversation on a regular basis. I remember Betty as a wonderful, beautiful woman from the times I had seen and spoken with her throughout the years. I am grateful to have known her, and I know that she is now an angel in Heaven, and in peace. $\frac{1}{2}$

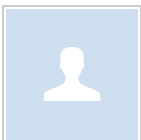
May all remember Mrs. Olshefski for who she was, and the happiness she gave each and every one that knew her.##imported-begin##Stephen C Ryan##imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ When we first moved into the area, Mrs.O as we affectionately called her, was one of the first people to make us feel welcomed. She inspired us as it was easy to see that family came first in her life. She brought many smiles as we witnessed her quick wit. It was always a pleasure to see her. $\frac{1}{2}$ She will be missed. $\frac{1}{2}$ Thank you for sharing her with us. $\frac{1}{2}$ The Smiths##imported-begin##Lorenzo Smith Family##imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ We are friends of Kathy's in Owatonna and had met Jeannie a couple of times when she was in town. My thoughts are with your family as you grieve the loss of your wife, mom, grandma and sister.I'm sure there will be many lonely days ahead.##imported-begin##LARRY & JULIE KRIESEL##imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ To The Olshefski Family, Our deepest condolences we just thank God for the pleasure of meeting BJ. She sure was and awesome lady that raise a great family and it's been a pleasure knowing all of you. We are so sorry for your loss, please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you strength during this difficult time.

Love,

Martin and Susie Barela

Deb's Godparents###imported-begin##Martin and Susie Barela###imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM



“ We love you, BJ and will miss you!

Sending our love and prayers to the family.###imported-begin##Wayne and Cheryl Segneri###imported-end##

April 08, 2009 at 08:50 AM