



Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane

April 5, 1937 - November 25, 2021

The world lost the warm, comforting presence that was Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane on Thursday, November 25 at the grand age of 84. In some ways, it was fitting that she left this world on Thanksgiving Day because she was always in her prime on holidays, holding court in her big kitchen preparing a delicious meal for her adoring family.

In her life she had many nicknames: she was “Bette” and “Liz” to her loving husband of 64 years and “Betty” to almost everyone else. But the names she liked to hear the most were “Mom” and “Grandma.” She was a homemaker in the truest sense of the word: she dedicated her life to making her home a cozy, welcoming place where her children and grandchildren knew they could always drop by for a delicious meal or just a big hug.

Born on the south side of Chicago, Betty discovered her passion for cooking when she was helping out in her family’s event hall as a child. As a young teen, she met her soulmate James William Surane and the two eventually held their wedding reception in that very same hall. Jim’s career ultimately moved the family all over the country: from the mountains of Colorado to sunny California to the swamps of Louisiana to the banks of the Ohio River in Louisville before they retired alongside the beautiful lakes of North Carolina. It was a lot of change for their seven children, and Elizabeth was their constant through it all.

While Jim was often on the sidelines as a coach at every baseball game or football match, Betty was never far from his side. She was usually running the snack stand or coordinating the many pick-ups and drop-offs required for their family of nine. Her children still like to joke that she was the best Uber driver before Uber was even a thing.

Grandma was an artist with a sewing machine or a crochet needle. She mastered the art of making hats and scarves and could turn them out in one hour flat. When her children were small, she made most of their clothing and dressed her girls in matching outfits almost every day - much to her daughters’ chagrin. Her family will forever cherish the homemade Easter baskets and warm blankets Mom left behind.

But Mom was never more at home than she was in her kitchen. She loved to experiment and try new cuisines - from hosting enormous New Orleans-style crawfish boils to extravagant Japanese dinners complete with kimonos. Her family will dearly miss her creativity in the kitchen, even if it did mean sometimes raisins found their way into the tacos.

A devout Catholic, Elizabeth rarely missed mass and instilled a strong sense of faith in all her children. She truly loved all of God's creatures, especially dogs, and there was always a furry friend skittering around the floors of her many homes.

Bette and her husband Jim were the life of every party. As soon as music would play, you couldn't keep those two away from the dance floor. It gives her family great comfort to know Mom has been reunited with her dancing bear. If you listen hard enough, you can probably hear them waltzing around the pearly floors of Heaven right about now.

Elizabeth was predeceased by her husband, James William Surane Sr. She is survived by her seven children and their spouses: Debra and Louis, James and Kimberly, Bobby and Liz, Johnny and Tania, Mary and Bob, Susie and Ben and Michael and Melissa as well as her sister Mary and her brother Bill. She will be forever missed by her 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren: Matthew, Kristen, Danielle, James, Jennifer, Jessica, Meagan, Caroline, Courtney, Catherine, Julianne, Bobby, Jake, Julia, Sean, Ryan, Lauren, Michael, Madison, Ava, Beau, Josie, Ellie, Madison, Jacob, James, TJ, Destiny and Elizabeth.

The funeral mass will be held on Thursday, December 2, 11:00 AM at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Denver with the interment following at Northlake Memorial Gardens. The visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 1, from 4:00-6:00 PM at James Funeral Home in Huntersville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Elizabeth's name. <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>

James Funeral Home, of Huntersville, is serving the family and obituary lovingly written by the family.

Cemetery

Events

NorthLake Memorial Gardens

11001 Alexanderana Road

Huntersville, NC, 28078

DEC

1

Visitation

04:00PM - 06:00PM

James Funeral Home

10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville, NC, US, 28078

DEC

2

Funeral Mass

11:00AM

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

537 N. Highway 16, Denver, NC, US, 28037

Comments



“ She was a special friend! So sorry for your loss. Beautiful memories we shared. Love to all the family. Lela Nixon

Lela Nixon - December 01, 2021 at 01:38 PM



“ I am very sorry for the Surane family loss. Betty was the strength and support behind such a loving, caring and successful in life family! May she Rest In Peace and be rejoined with her lifelong partner and husband Jim! The Carroll Family prays for peace.

Frank Carroll - December 01, 2021 at 07:33 AM



“ Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 30, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 30, 2021 at 04:03 PM



“ Sean, Matt, Maria Stanley Black & Decker purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



Sean, Matt, Maria Stanley Black & Decker - November 30, 2021 at 12:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 30, 2021 at 12:20 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 30, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 30, 2021 at 09:55 AM



“ My Mom was my best friend. She raised me to be strong and never ask for anything. Always give, not get. She taught me strength and the ability to see life as an opportunity. Sometimes it is hard, but you have to earn the good in life. Nothing is easy.

I am very sad. There are no words to express this loss and how hard this is but we will pick our self up and move forward.

I miss you Mama! Take care of Dad up there and make sure he stays out of trouble!



Mike Surane - November 29, 2021 at 11:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 29, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 29, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ruth Steffes Surane.



November 29, 2021 at 12:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Surane.



November 29, 2021 at 08:10 AM



“ You really did not like me at first. But I understood that you wanted the best for your daughter. So I worked so hard to give her what she needed. You Elizabeth and your husband and family showed me what family is all about. You took me in and loved me as your own. I will never forget the love you gave me. Thank you for believing in me and my love for your daughter. I will never forget you and thank you for all that you have done for my family. I will see you again ,Thy kingdom comes. I love you.
your son in law Louis Taffi

louis taffi - November 28, 2021 at 05:10 PM



“ Will miss you dearly, sister, but I know you are in a better place now and that's comforting.

Love always,

Your brother, Bill

WILLIAM EDWARD STEFFES - November 28, 2021 at 03:34 PM