



Elizabeth L. "Betsy" Nichols

November 3, 1943 - February 11, 2026

A Graveside Service for Betsy will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at Geneva Public Cemetery in Geneva, Nebraska. Pastor Karissa Miller will preside over the Graveside Service.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, February 20, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Maple Ridge Retirement Community at 3525 N 167th Circle in Omaha, Nebraska. The service will be held in the theater room, followed by a time of fellowship in the Maple Room. The family invites you to honor Betsy by wearing blue or butterflies for the service.

Memorials in lieu of flowers are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association.

Elizabeth Lucille "Betsy" Nichols was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on November 3, 1943, to John Jefferson Hewitt and Clarice Marguerite (White) Hewitt. She completed her earthly journey on February 11, 2026, at the age of 82, leaving behind a lifetime of cherished memories. Betsy was the oldest of three children born to John and Clarice.

Betsy spent her childhood in Gatun, Panama. She graduated from Cristobal High School with the Class of 1961. She later moved to the United States, attending Hastings College, where she earned her bachelor's degree in education in 1965. She went on to receive her master's degree in Spanish from the University of Northern Iowa in 1971, and in 1979 became certified to teach English as a Second Language through the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Betsy was thrilled to secure her first teaching position in Bloomfield, Nebraska. One of her fondest memories from those early years was using her earnings to purchase her very first car—a brand new light-blue Mustang which she nicknamed "blue bird."

After leaving Bloomfield, Betsy moved to Fremont. While between teaching positions, she applied for a secretarial role at ADM. During her interview, a grain broker, Larry Nichols, noticed her and told his supervisor, "Hire her!" That moment led to a marriage proposal

and wedding in May of 1973!

In 1980 Larry and Betsy settled in Omaha, where Betsy began teaching at Northwest High School. She taught all levels of Spanish there for 21 years. After “retiring” in 2002, she continued doing what she loved by substitute teaching in private schools throughout the Omaha area.

Betsy lived a life full of energy, curiosity, and adventure. She loved swimming, taking daily walks, and staying involved in organizations such as AAUW and various book clubs. She was an enthusiastic traveler, visiting nearly all 50 states and many different countries. When at home, Betsy remained active in her neighborhood association and devoted herself to her church family at First United Methodist, where she faithfully served by singing in the choir. Her church community dearly loved her.

Betsy and Larry shared nearly 53 years of marriage. They especially enjoyed traveling together, and when they were home, they loved treating themselves to a good steak dinner at Anthony’s Steak House followed by an evening of dancing at the Ozone.

Betsy is preceded in death by her husband, Larry; her parents, John and Clarice Hewitt; and her sister, Rosalie Boehmer (Larry).

She is survived by her sister, Harriett Dokken; her sisters-in-law, Rose Felix, Margaret Nichols (Ray), Wendee Nichols (Dan), and Carol Rath (Bart); her two stepdaughters, Sheri Martin (Mike) and Deb Nichols (Mick Peacock); seven grandchildren—Derek Nichols (Kelli Schaeffer), Brad Martin (Hallee), Addison, Jeremiah, Alliyah, Aiden, and Carter Martin; and two great-grandchildren, Colby and Levi Martin.

Cemetery Details

Geneva Public Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB 19. 11:30 AM (CT)

Geneva Public Cemetery
Geneva, NE 68361

Celebration of Life

FEB 20. 1:00 PM (CT)

Maple Ridge Retirement Community
3525 N 167th Circle
Omaha, NE 68116
<https://rlcommunities.com/communities/nebraska/maple-ridge-retirement/>

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *Senora Nichols was my high school Spanish teacher. I have great memories from her classroom. She was such a sweet and kind teacher. Sending condolences to her family.*

Mary Shay

Mary - April 26 at 08:46 PM

LC

“ *Lyn Collins lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Nichols*



Lyn Collins - February 13 at 08:02 PM

LC

“ *Betsy was my dear friend from our schoolgirl days in Gatun, Panama, 70 years ago. Although we both traveled extensively, we managed to stay in touch and to visit back and forth. We and our husbands attended some of the Panama Canal Society reunions, meeting up with school friends. Betsy taught high school Spanish in Omaha for some 30 years, and was very active in the American Association of University Women, her church choir, and other associations. It was always fun hearing about her activities. Her husband Larry passed only two weeks before Betsy; he was her rock. They were so active and shared so many good times, it gives me peace to know they're together. I miss my friend and cherish our many shared memories.*



Lyn Collins - February 13 at 08:01 PM

SC

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to Betsy's family. Betsy and I played in a bridge group many years ago and had much fun. I also remember Betsy coming to First United Methodist Church in Omaha and singing in the choir. I always enjoyed being in her presence. Shirley Carpenter*

Shirley Carpenter - February 12 at 09:19 PM