



Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley

August 13, 1952 - March 25, 2026

Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley, 73, of Versailles, Missouri, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2026, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born on August 13, 1952, in Kansas City, Missouri to Frank "Kermit" and Georgia Browning. Betty attended Raytown South High School, where she was a cheerleader and homecoming queen. She was president of her sorority Delta Zeta, collegiate cheerleader, and graduated summa cum laude from William Jewell College with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Later, she earned a Master of Library Science at Central Missouri State University. Betty lived a life centered around caring for others, including her family, friends, and school children.

Betty spent 35 years working as an elementary school teacher and librarian, where she was known for creativity, vibrance, and making learning fun and joyful for children of all abilities. She was beloved by her colleagues and students, and she loved them in return. She was awarded Elementary Teacher of Year in 2007 at the Morgan County R-2 School District. Betty stayed in touch with her fellow Kindergarten teachers, whom she loved dearly. She was president of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi and greatly cherished those friendships.

Betty was a woman of many talents and hobbies. She was an avid reader, loved completing crossword puzzles, and baking the best cookies in the world. She was always humble, kind, friendly, and never knew a stranger. Her family and friends will fondly remember her beautiful smile that would light up any room. Betty carried joy with her throughout her life; no matter the circumstances, she was always smiling and optimistic.

Betty could always be found on the sidelines of sporting events, proudly cheering on her husband's, children's, and eventually her grandchildren's sports teams. Her husband describes her as his biggest fan, never missing a game or event. She had an innate ability to see the potential in others, providing counsel and encouragement that changed countless lives for the better. Betty will be deeply missed by those who love her.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 52 years, John L. Hensley; her children, John W. (Armina) Hensley and grandson, Zian of Houston, Texas; Sarah (Trent) Miller and grandchildren, Zoe, Xander, Xaven, and Zeke of Centerton, Arkansas; and Laura (Andrew) Farmer and grandchildren, Chloe, Charlie, and Hannah of Rogersville, Missouri. She also leaves behind brothers, Frank Browning and David Browning, and cherished in-laws, Patty Hensley and Carl (Mary) Hensley, as well as several nieces, nephews, and close friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Kermit and Georgia Browning, and granddaughter, Kailani Hensley.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 30th, at the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home in Versailles with Reverend Jim Randall officiating. Graveside services and interment will follow in the Versailles Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Monday, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Morgan County Library.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Cemetery Details

Versailles Cemetery

550 Clay Road
Versailles, MO 65084

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Service

MAR 30. 11:30 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Tribute Wall

BK

“ *Barb Karigan lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley*



Barb Karigan - March 30 at 09:01 PM

BK

I used to ride with Betty to watch the Versailles Tigers basketball games. She was such a wonderful woman. My heart goes out to the family. 🙏

Barb Karigan - March 30 at 09:07 PM

MD

“ *Martie Dunn lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley*



Martie Dunn - March 30 at 11:31 AM

MD

Betty was such sweet soul and loved her family and students very much. She spoke of them often and told wonderful stories. Hugs and prayers to the family.

Martie Dunn - March 30 at 11:36 AM



“ 66 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes - March 28 at 02:30 PM

DW

“ Dorothy Welch sent a virtual gift in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley



Dorothy Welch - March 28 at 09:01 AM

DW

Betty was always one to seek you out at family reunions, always interested in the happenings of your immediate family, always concerned, loving, and caring. Her love of family was always present, always full of joy. She has always been a gentle, cherished, part of our family. May John and the rest of the family find peace in this life well lived.

Dorothy Welch - March 28 at 09:06 AM

P(

“ Mrs Hensley was the best. You were my oldest son’s kindergarten teacher and a fellow colleague to me. I remember running into you at Walmart and you always asked how Kris and Eric were doing. I saw you again after my dad passed away and you have me the biggest hug. You always thought of others before yourself. You were a great light in this community. Heaven gained another angel. You and my dad are up there having the time of your life. You will be greatly missed. I will miss your wonderful smile and our talks when we would see each other at Walmart. Until we meet again.

Pat Chapman Wasdyke (Campa) - March 27 at 03:59 PM

AW

“ Mrs. Hensley was one of the best, most patient teachers I ever had. Didn't matter how much time had passed, she always had a smile a warm hug to give. She will be greatly missed!

Angel Wilson - March 27 at 02:27 PM

DK

“ Debbie Klindworth lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley



Debbie Klindworth - March 27 at 12:31 PM

EN

“ *What an amazing woman and what a gift her life was to others. I don't think there is a single child who passed through her classroom or library that didn't leave changed for the better. Her kindness and passion was evident every day. I'll be reading a book in her honor; The Tale of Despereaux. She read it to my grade many years ago and I loved it so much that I own it. See you soon Mrs. Hensley*

Elizabeth Noble - March 27 at 10:50 AM

SF

“ *Sarah Fischer lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley*



Sarah Fischer - March 27 at 09:25 AM

SF

“ *Betty was always the most vibrant of people and would light up during conversations of sorority friendships and teaching school. Her soft-spoken words always held love, understanding, and a beautiful smile!*

“Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.” — Inuit Proverb

Sarah Fischer - March 27 at 09:25 AM

SL

“ We will all miss her dearly she was one of the best and we always had good conversations



ShaNay Long - March 27 at 09:07 AM

RW

“ Rich Williams lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley



Rich Williams - March 27 at 08:12 AM

OM

“ Mrs. Hensley always helped me find the Little House books and the new Magic Tree House books. She's the reason I want to become an elementary school librarian and working on my degree. She will be so missed ❤️

Olivia Manuel - March 27 at 07:47 AM

EH

“ Betty Hensley(known to my kids as Ms Hensley) was one of the most kindest and patient teachers to many kids. All kids loved her, and respected her. Thank you Betty for your caring heart. It breaks our hearts to hear of your passing. I will be praying for the family. May God comfort them and give them peace. Heaven gained a beautiful soul. 🙏😭💔

Elizabeth Hardy - March 27 at 07:25 AM

SM

“ Genuinely one of the nicest people I have ever known in my lifetime! I had her as a kindergarten teacher and she was always there to cheer on myself and the class of 1999. I am sad to hear the news however I was blessed enough to have known her and the impact she had!
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time!

Shawn Mccutcheon - March 26 at 09:50 PM

CB

“ Cristy Bauer lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Louise Hensley



Cristy Bauer - March 26 at 07:58 PM

PF

“ We are saddened to hear Betty's passing. Our sons played ball together. Our thoughts and prayers for her family 🙏 Ray & Patty Forrest

Patty Forrest - March 26 at 03:54 PM