



Betsy A. Bender Johnson

April 14, 1966 - August 8, 2018

Betsy Anne “Bets” Bender Johnson of Annapolis, MD, died peacefully at her home on August 8, 2018, surrounded by family and her beloved dogs. Bets, 52, had been battling metastatic breast cancer for nearly a year.

Born April 14, 1966, Bets was the daughter of Paul D. and Anne T. Bender of State College, PA. She is survived by her father, Paul D. Bender, two sisters, Meg Bender, Bethesda, MD and Jennifer Bender Kaminski (Michael) of Mt. Laurel, NJ, three nieces, Jessica Kaminski and Ericka Kaminski of Mt. Laurel, NJ and Sarah Miller of Bethesda, MD. She was predeceased by her mother, Anne T. Bender in May 2017.

Bets was a creative free spirit who loved life and lived it on her own terms. She was a talented artist, a loving daughter, sister, sister-in-law, cousin, niece, and a devoted aunt. She graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Elementary Education. During the summers of 1986-1989, Bets worked at the Silver Bay YMCA on Lake George in New York. This experience strengthened her love of both God and nature and she established friendships there that lasted her a lifetime. She also met her former husband, Christopher B. Johnson, of New York there.

In addition to teaching various grade levels of elementary school, Bets designed jewelry and had her own greeting card line. The cards were made from her original watercolors, many of which had an Americana/folk art style. She loved to draw, paint, work in her garden, kayak, walk the beach, and spend time with family, friends and her dogs. Bets’ life was greatly enriched by the support she received from the caring women and close friends in her Tuesday Morning Bible Study in Annapolis.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to The Central PA Festival of the Arts; PO Box 1023 State College, PA 16804 or The Silver Bay YMCA, 87 Silver Bay Rd. Silver Bay, NY 12874 or Please write “Betsy Bender Johnson” in the memo line of the check.

A memorial service will be held to celebrate Bets' life on Saturday, November 17th, 2018 at 11:00 am at the State College Presbyterian Church, State College, PA. Visitation with the family will be held from 9:30-10:45 am at the church that morning.

Tribute Wall

BA

“ I knew Bets for a couple of years whilst I was living in Virginia Beach back in the 90s. No matter what life threw at her, she didn't seem to have a mean bone in her body. She came and stayed at my house a couple of times and my dogs adored her. My GSD in particular used to guard her when she was asleep at night. Through thick and thin, she had a naturally upbeat, positive character. I've often thought of her over the last 20 years. I'm so sad to hear of her passing. What an elegant, beautiful, talented and kind-hearted woman we've lost, valiant in the face of the battles she had to fight.

Barbara

Barbara - December 12, 2020 at 11:53 AM

DL

“ We feel Betsy's free spirit around us every day!
Now, as throughout her life, she is a force to be reckoned with...
Much love to the Bender family,
Judy, Deb and Dian Llewellyn



deb llewellyn - November 14, 2018 at 11:58 AM

RT

“ I will never forget Betsy's contagious energy and smile. She was a beautiful woman whose time came much too soon. My condolences go out to her wonderful family - Paul, Meg and Jennifer.

Rich Thompson - November 04, 2018 at 11:35 AM

JH

“ It was with great sadness to read of Bets' passing in the Annapolis newspaper recently... I was unaware of her long struggle, which is a testament to her brave and humble spirit. She was a lovely, kind and gentle person who had a keen eye for beauty and a real appreciation for the craftsmanship involved in creating beautiful things. I never knew her artistic talents and would have loved to have seen her cards.... It was a true pleasure to have known her. May she rest in peace and continue to feel the love of her family and friends.

Jackie Handley - October 31, 2018 at 12:00 PM

JH

“ It was with great sadness to read of Bets' passing in the Annapolis newspaper recently... I had no idea of her year-long struggle, which is testament to her humble and strong spirit. She was a lovely, kind person who had a keen eye for beauty and a real appreciation for the craftsmanship involved in the making of beautiful things... I never knew of her artistic talent and would have loved to have seen her cards... It was a true pleasure to have known her. May she rest in peace and feel the love of her friends and family.

Jackie Handely - October 31, 2018 at 11:52 AM

PK

“ Peace to Betsy and her family, friends and loved ones.

Patty Klaus - October 25, 2018 at 01:35 PM

JW

“ Bets was a favorite cousin. A very creative person who outshone all the rest of us at family get-togethers where a craft project was involved, and there were a great many of those during our times. Those are the kind of good memories everyone should be lucky enough to have. Always smiling, our Betsy! We miss you. Love, Janie and Jerry Wettstone

J Wettstone - October 25, 2018 at 11:47 AM

CM

“ Betsy was one of the sweetest people ... always kind and thoughtful. Thinking of you and your family.

Candle of Memories - August 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ We will always remember Betsy 's warm smile
We feel the loss of a wonderful young woman!
With sympathy and prayers,
Bob and Mary Noll

August 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Betsy was a beautiful soul.. a shining source of light. I was so glad we were able to reconnect at State High's 30th reunion. She will be missed. So many hugs to the family❤️❤️❤️

August 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Lots of memories of Betsy, I will always remember her for her contagious energy and positive impact on everyone she touched. She set a great example of kindness for the people around her.

August 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM