



Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Ligon

LDN Staff -

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mary Elizabeth Gilbert was born in Chicago in 1921 where she attended the University of Chicago Lab School. Following graduation from Lab School she attended Wellesley College where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees. From Wellesley College Betty went to New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, where she taught for five years. For two years following New Trier, Betty was dean of girls at Salem High School in Salem, Oregon. In 1953 Betty entered Teachers College Columbia University to study for a doctorate in education. She obtained this in 1956 and began teaching at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York, the same year. She taught at Hofstra continuously until her retirement in 1982 at which time she received the honorary degree of professor emeritus.

Betty's primary teaching field was counselor education. She taught teachers and others who wanted to become guidance counselors what she thought the job entailed. It was Betty's opinion that guidance counselors ought to be doing more counseling and less clerical work than was typically being done on Long Island at this time. Betty co-authored with Sarah McDaniel a book entitled "The Teacher's Role in Counseling."

In 1960 Betty Gilbert and Walter Ligon were married. Ligon had taught social studies in the public schools. Later he went into guidance work, first in the junior high then in the senior high. Betty and her husband continued working in tandem, as it were, until 1982 when both retired.

Betty and Walt had a rich retirement from 1982 onward. They traveled to many parts of the world, often to take part in workshops in the person-centered approach, sometimes with the Lisle Fellowship, or sometimes just to see and experience a different culture. For several years they spent six months on a cattle ranch in Texas which they had inherited from Walt's mother.

In 1962 Betty and Walt adopted an 8-year-old girl whom they named Mary Belle Ligon (now Schinnerer). Betty is survived by her husband, Walt; their daughter, Mary Belle Schinnerer; and three grandchildren, Benjamin Clark Berman, Katherine Smith and Robert Schinnerer.

There will be a memorial service for Betty on Friday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. at Clark Retirement Community on Franklin St. SE, Grand Rapids. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Lisle Intercultural Projects would be appreciated. Lisle broadens global awareness and cultural understanding through world-wide projects which integrate learning with experience. www.lisleinternational.org or 900 Country Road 269, Leander, TX 78641. Date published: 11-2-2011