



Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges

April 17, 1941 - January 31, 2021

Portsmouth - Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges, a resident of Portsmouth, NH, well known for her active civic engagement, love of history and art, passed away peacefully on January 31, 2021. She was 79. Elisabeth – Libby to her friends – was born in New York City, NY on April 17, 1941, daughter of Elisabeth West Bartlett and Frederic Clay Bartlett, Jr.

Libby attended the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, CT; the University of Hawaii; and Parsons School of Design in New York City.

A resident of Dorset, VT for most of her life, Libby was active in numerous civic affairs, notably the Dorset Historical Society, as president, and contributor to the town history, *Dorset: in the shadow of the marble mountain* (published in 1989). She shared and documented her extensive knowledge of Dorset families, a legacy for generations to come.

For many years, she was an assistant to the Art Teacher at Dorset Elementary School, a position she cherished for the opportunity to help foster the students' creativity. Libby believed in a healthy community and was a vigorous advocate for the United Counseling Service of Bennington, VT, attending many hearings in Montpelier.

In the 1990s, her family moved to Honolulu, Hawaii where she was involved in

the Iolani School Ohana, a parent organization. Libby championed environmental protection through classroom presentations with the Outdoor Circle and as a founding member of the non-profit group Scenic Hawaii, Inc. She also helped create the independent non-profit Hawaii Cord Blood Bank. For more than twenty years, she remained engaged and supportive of HCBB's efforts to increase transplant access for Hawaii's minority and multi-race patients.

Libby loved history and soon after moving to Portsmouth she became active in Strawberry Banke, the outdoor waterfront history museum with over 32 historic houses, mostly on their original sites. She followed her lifelong interest in fashion by sponsoring an innovative historical fashion show production on the grounds of the museum. She also worked as a gallery assistant at Northeast Auctions in Portsmouth for many years.

Libby was an ardent supporter of Cross Roads House in Portsmouth, a shelter providing assistance to local families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness. She recently mentioned to a friend that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, she realized how crucial, now more than ever, Cross Roads House is to the community.

Elisabeth lived the last twenty years of her life in Portsmouth. Her family and friends will greatly miss her loyalty and sense of humor. Above all, she will be remembered as an active and proud civic-minded woman who cared for her neighbors with compassion and generosity.

She is survived by her partner of many years, Donald Bruce Montgomery, of Portsmouth, and by her daughter, Jennie Sturges Gaborno and three grandchildren. She is also survived by her brothers, Clay "Landy" Bartlett and Eric Bartlett Wentworth.

She is predeceased by her daughter, Jessie Kent Sturges.

Services will be held at a later date, please check back for service date and time updates. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in her name to Strawberry Banke (<https://www.strawberrybanke.org/donation.cfm>) PO Box 300, Portsmouth, NH 03802 or to Cross Roads House (<https://www.crossroadshouse.org/donations/donate-today/>) 600 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

Tribute Wall



“ *Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Libby & Bruce Montgomery + family*



Kathleen Sattler - March 09, 2021 at 12:10 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Libby & Bruce Montgomery + family*



Bruce Montgomery - February 24, 2021 at 08:03 PM

BM

“ I have received a number of letters of sympathy following Libby’s death. I would like give voice to the universal themes I read.

People speak of her wit, her outreach loyalty, and her encyclopedic memory of past events. They speak of her ability to know what would interest the person she called and how she would steer the conversation in that direction.

The letters also say how lucky they were to have had her as a friend.

My own family also speaks of how lucky they were to have her as a close-knit member of our Montgomery family for the last 15 years.

I can add from my heart that she brought sunshine to my life every day I knew her.

Bruce Montgomery

Bruce Montgomery - February 24, 2021 at 07:52 PM

RD

“ I was very sad to hear about Libby's passing. She was a friend to me when I first moved to Portsmouth and didn't know anyone. She could make me smile on the darkest of days. She was very generous, and not only to museums and community services. Several times she gave me a present or a little something from a box lot she had purchased at Northeast Auctions- a stuffed straw cat, a stoneware pitcher, an Arts & Crafts ring, and a poster. Every time I look at these things I remember Libby. I am hoping that she and "CC" have re-connected and are enjoying stories and a good laugh together again. Rebecca J. Davis

Rebecca J. Davis - February 17, 2021 at 09:07 AM

DC

“ It is hard to think of Libby without hearing her laughter. We worked together at Northeast Auctions and were often scolded for making too much noise with our snickering behind the podium when Ron Bourgeault was conducting his auctions. She was such a quick-witted person and so kind and thoughtful to everyone. She will always occupy a special place in my thoughts. Deb Child

Deborah Child - February 14, 2021 at 02:24 PM

LD

“ Libby came into my life 20 years ago as a nail client. We soon became friends. Libby was very supportive of my business and personal life and grandmother to my fur babies. I looked forward to seeing and talking with Libby during our weekly appointments. I am blessed that this remarkable generous woman entered into my life. My guardian angel.



Lorraine Dubay - February 14, 2021 at 10:02 AM

MP

“ Libby and I go back practically to the beginning growing up as teenagers having parties and fun in Manchester, Vermont. Her mother was my “Auntie Mame”. Over the years we both raised families and then over time reconnected. I will miss her incredible recall of past events, her sharp wit, her generous philanthropy and most of all her love and friendship. My oldest son’s middle name is Bartlett, a sign of my deep regard for Libby and her Bartlett family. Mike Powers

Michael Powers - February 11, 2021 at 07:10 PM