Jane Gappa Community Fund

Jennifer Niven famously said, "It's not what you take, it's what you leave." Betty "Jane" Gappa is one person who left behind numerous memories and valuable lessons to those who knew and loved her.

Jane was born in southern La Porte County in a house on Highway 39 on October 17, 1923. During her childhood, she lived in multiple places in Hamlet and Brems, Indiana with her father _____, her mother Eva Christoph, and her five siblings. Jane had two older sisters, an older brother, a younger sister, and a younger brother (do we want their names as well?). She graduated from Center Township in 1941.

Soon after graduation, she met and married August Gappa. Together, they lived on a farm in Brems. They had two children, Linda (Gappa) Bailey and August (II) Gappa. In 1959, they moved to Pheonix, Arizona but returned home to their farm in Jackson Township later that year.

Sadly, Jane's husband passed away in 1971. After her husband's passing, Jane became even more resilient in her work. She was always unwavering when it came to supporting her family. Her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Gappa, remembers her as a hardworking and independent woman. Jennifer said, "She was strong because she had to do it on her own."

Jane wore many hats throughout her life. In addition to being a wife and mother, she ran the JBird Restaurant, worked at Howmet Corporation, worked as an agent at Binkley Real Estate, and managed the Pines Apartments in Winamac, Indiana for 15 years. Jane joined her aunt and uncle at Binkley Real Estate and managed the Winamac office. She sold real estate for nearly 40 years, having been drawn to this work as a result of her family connections.

Although Jane worked hard during her life, she had a lot of fun as well. In her spare time, she enjoyed exhilarating hobbies, such as flying planes, riding motorcycles, and dancing. Those who knew her remember her as a fun-loving and strong-willed woman. She loved being a grandma, and her family enjoyed her company. She made people laugh and acted as a confidante to many.

"She was determined with everything she did and independent without a doubt," said Jennifer.

Jane and August passed on their own attributes to their children. They taught them to put their family first, to work hard, and to treat people well. These are the traits that their children carry with them to this day.