

Betty Jean Smith



11 HOURS AGO

DAVENPORT — Betty Jean Smith, 89, passed away Jan. 31, 2016, at Silvercrest Assisted Living in Davenport. There will be no local visitation. Burial will be in Memphis, Mo. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Payne Funeral Chapel in Memphis.

Betty was born in Davenport to John R. and Anna L. (Barnes) Smith on March 25, 1927.

Betty graduated from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa, with a B.A., and then received her M.A. in secondary administration from Northeast Missouri College.

Her career started in Monticello, Iowa, with a three-year teaching position, followed by five years at Alcoa in Riverdale, Iowa.

Betty returned to teaching at Bettendorf Junior High School as a geometry and algebra instructor, and physical education teacher plus cheerleading coach.

In 1962, Betty went to Davenport Central High School to coach girls basketball, tennis, track and volleyball.

Betty then moved to West High School to teach physical education and coach cheerleading, volleyball, golf, basketball and tennis. The West High volleyball team became the first state champions in Iowa in 1970 and followed with a second place finish in 1971 and 1972. The West girls golf team posted a 31-1 record in a three-year span.

Betty retired in 1988 after 19 years of teaching and coaching at West High School.

Betty was an outstanding athlete and excelled in fast-pitch softball in the position of pitcher. Betty enjoyed traveling, reading, golfing and spending winters in warm places.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sisters, Luella and Darlene; and brothers, John and Jim. She is survived by nine nieces and nephews, and very special friends of many years, Gertrude Saunders, and her family.

Memorials may be made to West High School Scholarship Fund.