

Elizabeth Mae Gallison Swanson

Obituary

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ALEXIS, N.C. - Elizabeth Mae "Betty" Swanson, 71, died Nov. 22, 2012, surrounded by her loving family at her home. She was born Feb. 4, 1941, in Bangor, to the late Alice and Thaxter, Gallison.

Betty graduated from Bangor High School, Bangor, in 1959 and Gorham State College in 1963. She was married in 1966 to Harry Swanson Jr., then of Belfast.

She is survived by husband, Harry Swanson of Alexis, N.C.; daughter, Suzannah Lake and husband, Ed, of Richfield, Ohio, daughter-in-law, Kathleen Swanson of Meredith, N.H.; grandsons, Zachary Swanson, Elijah Swanson and Christopher Lake; granddaughter, Natalie Lake; sister, Marie Gallison Walls; and nieces, Tammy Boulier, Lauri Friedman and Amy Corkum.

A memorial service will be held at The First Methodist Church, Bangor, at a time to be determined.

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Betty Swanson

Thursday at 7:55pm ·

This Thanksgiving day, shortly before the noon hour, my beloved mother Elizabeth (Betty) Mae Swanson passed away after her tremendous fight with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family, husband for 47 years –Harry Swanson, daughter Suzannah Lake, son in law Ed Lake and grandchildren Christopher and Natalie, daughter in law Kathleen Swanson and grandchildren Zachary and Elijah. We brought her home from the hospital with Hospice on Monday after her dear sister Marie had spent a week helping her get on her feet for another more promising looking clinical trial. Unfortunately, her body had taken quite a toll from the previous trial and things went downhill rapidly. I get a chuckle because during her stay in the hospital I actually snuck her always by her side dog Chico, into the hospital in one of my bags to visit her. Dad just about had a heart attack because the doctor hadn't been in yet, but Marie backed me up and Nana got a huge kick out of seeing her boy. When we finally got her home on Monday Chico never left her side in her bed. We walked her horses to the doorway to visit her and Natalie led the pony Rodi up to visit her and she saw her cowboy grandson Eli get bucked off Rodi when he jumped on his butt bareback, lingering a bit too long and that sort of

set the little Dartmoor off for a minute! Natalie continued on with Rodi and made him bit head to tail as a consequence, as she will tell you. During her final hours we continued to remind her how much we love her and that she didn't need to say anything because we know how much she loves us. It was a tough Thanksgiving but I am so thankful for the love that filled this house today.

Mom graduated from Bangor High in 1959, graduated from Gorham State College (now called University of Southern Maine) in 1963. She had an unbelievable soprano voice, turning heads of all who ever heard her sing in a church, and also competed in the Miss Maine pageant. She and my dad met at age 12, showing their horses in the pairs class as youngsters in Maine. They married in 1966, Chris was born in 1967, and I came along in 1972. She taught music for 20 years in Maine and New York. She was a lover and owner of Arabian horses for over 58 years trainer and a breeder and trainer for over 45 years.

She suffered the worst pain a parent could imagine losing her son Chris 10 years ago after a diagnosis with leukemia. He left behind his beautiful wife Kathy and his incredible boys Zach and Eli, who meant the world to her. She saw, (as well as we all see), so much of Chris in so many different ways in her beloved grandsons. She is now at peace and in heaven with Chris.

Her other 2 grandchildren my Natalie and Christopher were only brought into this world with moms help in my dealing with my type 1 diabetes. I honestly believe that other than the doctors and myself she has been the only person who I ever let give me my shots of insulin. Even during her stay in the hospital she told dad "now make sure you have orange juice in the house for Suzannah". Natalie is a diehard horse & animal lover and has been told all along that she rides just like her Nana with her soft hands, wonderful seat and perfect posture. Christopher is like his Nana with his love for music on the piano and he called Nana after every lesson to tell her how their lessons went. She is so proud of all of her grandchildren.

I could go on and on about my mother and the wonderful woman she was. She has friends throughout the country and she will be missed beyond belief. I love you so much mom but like I told the kids, you are so much a part of our hearts and beings and that can never be taken away. You are the ultimate mother, wife, sister, friend, and Nana.

We love you.

Suzannah — with Zach Swanson and 5 others.