



## Betty Ann Lussier

December 20, 1921 - November 30, 2017

Betty Ann Lussier of Rock Hall, MD, passed away on November 30, 2017, at her home. She was 95.

Ms. Lussier was born December 20, 1921, in Alberta, Canada. Her family moved to the U.S. when she was four. Her father had been a flying Ace for the R.A.F. in WWI. After the war, he became a farmer. Ms. Lussier grew up in Rock Hall and Chestertown, and briefly attended Washington University. She transferred to University of Maryland to study journalism, but was anxious to join the war effort and hopped a freighter to England in 1942 where she joined the British Air Transport Authority as a pilot. After a year she joined the O.S.S., precursor to the CIA, and served there as a counter-spy until the end of the war. She married a Spaniard who had served with her in the O.S.S. She recounted her wartime experiences in a book she wrote five years before her death, "Intrepid Woman."

Ms. Lussier married Ricardo Sicre, a Captain in the U.S. Army, in England at the end of WWII (1945). At the time, they were both assigned to the Office of Strategic Services in Europe, where they met. They were divorced in 1975. They remained best friends and neither of them ever remarried. Mr. Sicre died in 1993.

After the war, Ms. Lussier moved to Spain and started a family with her

husband who had founded an import-export business with some wartime friends. However, she grew restless being a housewife, and after the birth of her fourth and last son she moved to Morocco, where she started a corn farm and championed workers' rights, which got her expelled from the country. She recounted these experiences in her book "One Woman Farm." As her children grew older, she moved to Switzerland, where they were studying, to look after them. Concurrently she finished her B.A. at the U. of Maryland, which coincidentally was the official university of the U.S. military in Europe. When her sons moved to the U.S. for their college studies, she moved with them to New York and got a masters degree in social work from Columbia University.

Upon graduation, she separated from her husband and became a social worker in the New York area, alternating with similar work in Africa for the U.N. and for Christian charity organizations. She also worked for AID in Senegal and in Morocco, where she spent three years teaching single and divorced women how to make a living and lead independent lives. After retirement, she lived in Staten Island, N.Y., for a number of years, before settling in Pacific Palisades, CA, where she spent most of her later years, active in community affairs and busy writing her wartime memoirs. She was a frequent visitor to Rock Hall, where her older sister, Jane Strong lived, and moved there in 2015, after she had developed Alzheimer's disease. She was cared for by her niece, Joan, and her two daughters, Rosalind and Holly.

Ms. Lussier is survived by three sons, Emile Sicre of Mallorca, Spain; Jay Sicre, of Madrid, Spain; and Penn Sicre, of Santa Monica, CA. Her eldest son, Ricardo Sicre, died in 2011 of a heart attack. He lived in London, England. She had nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Ann Lussier*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Betty Ann Lussier*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Betty Ann Lussier*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

JC

“ To all of Betty's most loved ones:

*I had the enormous privilege and pleasure to meet and work with Betty in Morocco from 1980-1982. We traveled through northern and central Morocco together on field trips where she was very instrumental in encouraging the formation of women's cooperatives in beekeeping (until then considered to be primarily the domain of men) and raising poultry.*

*Because I met my husband Ray in Morocco at about the same time, our shared history has often been enmeshed with hers. Betty and Ray became fast friends, especially when he accompanied her to various archives in MD and DC while she was conducting research for what later became "Intrepid Woman." She used to laugh about how she had advised me NOT to marry him and how glad she was that I had disregarded that advice!*

*Although we had always kept in touch since 1982, it was not until we moved to Switzerland in the 1990s that we got to see her more often, when she generously invited us to Gstaad and Mallorca where we were able to meet so many of her dearly beloved family members: three of her sons, several of her grandchildren (upon whom she doted) and two of her sisters. They all graciously welcomed us as Betty's friends, which we appreciated very much. You are all part of a remarkable family and Ray and I both send you our deepest and most heartfelt condolences. We will not see Betty's like anytime soon. But her spirit continues through you all! Thank heavens for that.*

*Much love, Judith and Ray Cole*



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**Judith Cole** - December 10, 2017 at 04:44 AM

BG

“ *Betty Ann Glenn lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Lussier*



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**Betty ann glenn** - December 06, 2017 at 03:29 AM

MM

“ *Michelle Miller lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Lussier*



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**Michelle Miller** - December 04, 2017 at 09:01 PM

DD

“ *Debbie Dalrymple lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Lussier*



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**Debbie Dalrymple** - December 04, 2017 at 01:03 PM

PG

“ *Pat Grussing lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Lussier*



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**Pat Grussing** - December 04, 2017 at 10:24 AM



“ *Pam Teat lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Lussier*



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**Pam Teat** - December 03, 2017 at 12:17 AM



“ *Charles & Donna Hubbard Edwards lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Lussier*



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**Charles & Donna Hubbard Edwards** - December 02, 2017 at 08:57 PM