



Betsy Musselman

APR 22, 2017



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Betsy Musselman

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Elizabeth Ann Skinner Small Musselman, RN; was born July 24 in Pennsylvania and passed away on April 22, 2017 in Palm Harbor, FL. She is survived by her daughter Stacy, longtime companion George Papageorgiou and beloved Pomeranian Bentley.

Betsy graduated from Boca Ciega High School in St Petersburg, FL and then went on to St. Petersburg Junior College where she received her certification as an operating room technician and her Associate of Arts as a Registered Nurse before attending Saint Leo College in St. Leo, FL where she achieved her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Always one to strive for excellence and further broaden her wealth of knowledge, Betsy later earned a Master of Science in Public Administration and Graduate Certification in Gerontology from the University of Louisville and was awarded the title of Kentucky Colonel.

Betsy's career in healthcare and nursing was as expansive as it was diverse. Throughout her years of esteemed service she held many various positions and responsibilities in several hospitals not only locally in Florida, but also in Texas, Kentucky, Maine, California, and with service organizations abroad. Her influence and passion left its mark on innumerable colleagues and patients. She started her medical career as a Scrub Technician at Palms of Pasadena in Gulfport, FL. In 1969, Betsy became the Operating and Recovery Room Supervisor at St. Petersburg General Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL. During her seven year tenure at St. Pete General, she instituted inventory and cost center controls, held positions on several committees including the Nursing Audit Committee, Infection Control Committee, and Product Evaluation Committee, and acted as a liaison between administration and employees in her role as Chairman of the Employee Council. As OR and RR Supervisor, Betsy provided continuous in-service education for all staffing levels to promote growth and development of her employees and worked with St. Petersburg Junior College ORT program to provide educational experiences for their students, exemplifying Betsy's desire to foster success not only in herself but also in those around her, a value that she carried throughout her entire career.



After leaving St. Petersburg General, Betsy moved to Fort Worth, Texas where she became the Associate Director of Surgery at Harris Methodist Hospital where she assisted in the direction and operational responsibilities for 16 operating suites and an annual volume of 20,000 cases. Similarly to her time at St. Pete, Betsy worked with the University of Texas Nursing School to provide education opportunities for their students and also provided lecture assistance to the LVN Harris School. She assisted with in-service education for all levels of hospital staff and was responsible for writing, reviewing, and updating hospital policy and procedure manuals. Betsy was also instrumental in developing computer cost analysis and controls, instituted perpetual inventories and cost control centers, was active with physician's recruitment in surgical services to help promote on-going, productive communication between surgeons and office personnel, and worked with the School of Anesthesia to enhance the continuity of care and services.

In 1980, Betsy moved to Louisville Kentucky where she became the Assistant Director of Nursing and Surgical Services at Jewish Hospital. She directed 22 operating rooms with an annual volume in excess of 24,865 surgical procedures, a 35 bed recovery room, an out-patient surgical services department with an annual volume of 8,000 procedures, and transplant and anesthesia services. Betsy also sat on several committees including the Infection Control Committee, Nursing Executive Committee, Standards Committee, Labor Relations Committee, and was a permanent member of the Operating Room Technique Committee. After two years as assistant director, Betsy became a consultant for the Surgical Services C.O.N. Development at Jewish Hospital. As a consultant, she directed the planning phase for a free-standing ambulatory service program including radiology, laboratory, out-patient registration, surgical suites, recovery rooms, and associated surgical support services.

Once the consulting project with Jewish Hospital was complete, Betsy relocated back to Texas, this time to the Dallas area and assumed the role of Director of Surgical Services at Methodist Medical Center. Here she held direct managerial responsibilities for 16 operating rooms, recovery rooms and intensive care rooms.

In 1987, Betsy returned to Florida and served as a Surgical Service Consultant at Fisherman's Hospital in Marathon, FL before joining Hellen Ellis Memorial Hospital in Tarpon Springs, FL (now known as Florida Hospital North Pinellas) as the Director of Surgical Services in 1992. In 1994, Betsy was promoted to Vice President of Patient Care Services, reporting directly to the president and CEO. During her eight year tenure as Vice President, Betsy constructed a 12 bed Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Postpartum Unit that included 2 C-section Rooms, PACU



Services, and a 12 bed nursery. She also opened a 36 bed medical-surgical unit, a 36 bed telemetry unit, an Outpatient Care Unit that included 4 operating rooms, 4 PACU beds, and 19 pre/postoperative beds, and renovated a 38 bed medical/surgical/oncological unit. As VP, she was responsible for not only for the 12 operating rooms and medical – surgical services and outpatient services but nearly all aspects of patient care including obstetric and nursery services, endoscopy services, Intensive Care Unit and Cardiac Care Unit, emergency, telemetry, pediatric, oncology, pain management, infection control, and anesthesia services as well as the Helen Ellis Walk-In Clinic, Home Health Care, Hyperbaric and Wound Care Center, Transitional Care Services, Sleep Center Services, and Short Stay Cardiac Unit Services.

Betsy used her role at Helen Ellis to work collaboratively with the nursing leadership and established teambuilding goals that enhanced the performance of all nursing units and allowed for the highest standards of patient care. She functioned as a liaison for the Medical Staff and the Board of Directors and developed operating policies and interpreted existing hospital policies, standards, and regulations to staff, patients, and the public.

In August of 2002, Betsy left Helen Ellis to join University of Florida Health Shands Hospital in Jacksonville to serve as the Acting Executive Director of Perioperative Services. As such, Betsy had 24/7 direct operational and managerial responsibilities for the 32 main operating rooms, outpatient operating rooms, ophthalmology operating rooms, endoscopy unit, same day services, PACU, sterile processing department, pre-operative holding, anesthesia services, pre-admission testing, and a level 1 trauma center.

In addition to her many achievements in hospital nursing, Betsy also served as a consultant to Premier, Inc. and Sun Health, Inc. where she analyzed operations and developed perioperative services, surgical services and systems, ICU/ CCU systems, emergency departments, and joint commission preparation. She also consulted several hospitals including Baylor and Crawford Long Hospitals in Atlanta, GA, Naples Community Hospital Health Care System in Naples, FL, the Veterans Administration Hospital of Maryland, Jewish Hospital in Louisville, KY, Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital in Tarpon Springs, FL, and Fisherman's Hospital in Marathon, FL. As a consultant, she assisted with the development of many different services including surgical services, anesthesia services, ER services C.O.N. development, and joint survey preparation.

Betsy's career eventually led her out west to California where she joined the elite Stanford Healthcare at Stanford University School of Medicine in 2006. She was originally hired on a



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temporary contract to reorganize the SUH operating rooms but was so successful that she remained on staff for several years after her contract expired, becoming the Chief Operating Room Nurse. Betsy was a source of inspiration for many of her colleagues who can recall countless fond memories of Betsy's professionalism, compassion, and courage. She truly listened to people, heard what they had to say, and responded. She didn't need committees to get things done. Her personal interest in all the OR staff spoke volumes and she was respected by the surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, techs, orderlies and everyone who met her. Even with her multiple responsibilities, she always found time to recognize employee contributions through an employee of the month and employee of the year program and her career long passion for staff development never wavered as she worked with SUH to improve nursing education programs. Betsy worked closely with physician and administrative leadership and fostered many collegial working relationships. During her tenure at Stanford, she opened an ambulatory surgical center, implemented WHO checklist, improved first case starts on time, increased handwashing and operating room hygiene and decreasing SSI, improved patient safety and PSN reporting, brought operating room x-ray safety up to AORN standards, improved SPD workflow, minimized lost needles and sponges by improving count procedures, and completely revamped the anesthesia workroom and supplies.

Betsy belonged to several professional organizations throughout her lengthy career including the Association of Operating Room Nurses, the American Organization of Managed Care Nurses, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives, Suncoast Health Care Executives, the Florida Hospital Association, the Tampa Bay Organization of Nurse Executives, the Florida Society for Hospital-Based Skilled Nursing Facilities, the National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration, and Voluntary Hospitals of America, was a Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club of Tarpon Springs, and served on numerous Joint Commission of Healthcare Organizations inspections.

Her passion for nursing and patient care led her to become a Surgical Coordinator for Mission of Mercy in 1995. As Surgical Coordinator, Betsy was responsible for the coordination of all surgical procedures, recovery phase, anesthesia, and surgical support activities in El Salvador. Betsy not only coordinated surgeries on an administrative level but also scrubbed and circulated for adult and pediatric surgeries including neurosurgery, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, gynecological surgery C-sections, plastic surgery, and emergency trauma. In 2002, the Country of El Salvador nominated Betsy for the Nobel Peace Prize for her dedication and philanthropy.



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Betsy Musselman

While Betsy's legacy in healthcare is vast and her accomplishments were great, she still considered herself to be "just a lil ole southern nurse" at heart. She was an accomplished tennis player, who knew no fear often charging the net to meet the challenge. She enjoyed sharing her retirement with the love of her life, her furry four-legged companion Bentley and bringing joy to the world around her.

Betsy's compassion for her patients and fellow medical professionals was unlimited. She led by example and encouraged others around her to strive for excellence. Her mantra was "be sweet, charming and supportive." Through her professionalism, empathy, and take charge nature, Betsy truly left her mark of love, light, and inspiration.

The family encourages friends and coworkers to share their memories of Betsy on her tribute wall. Correspondence may be sent Betsy's daughter, Stacy, at the care of Moss Feaster Funeral Home, 1320 Main Street, Dunedin, FL 34698.



Tribute Wall

Betsy Musselman



Anne Fowler Kilpatrick posted:

I was saddened to learn of Betsy's passing. She came to Harris Methodist in Ft. Worth while I was a young OR nurse, learning how to grow professionally. Betsy came as the Associate Director when we needed her the most. I learned a great deal from her about how to really work with people, and to not be afraid to speak the truth when a disagreement occurred. She taught me some wise management skills. Stacy, she talked about you a lot - you were just a toddler. I remember seeing some of those pictures you have posted on her desk at work. In fact, I remember a specific incident when a surgeon came bounding into her office to loudly complain about something, and she looked him right in the eye and said, "This better be more important than picking up my daughter with a fever at daycare!" And, of course, that ended that! When she and your dad moved to Louisville, we were sad! So this afternoon when I googled her name and the obituary appeared, I was afraid it was her. And when I clicked on the obituary, I saw that little sly smile she always gave! Anne Fowler Kilpatrick

August 14 at 11:07 AM



Karen Santos posted:

Dear Stacy, I am just now seeing this. I was thinking of Betsy this morning. She was my Director and CNO at Helen Ellis. She was also a good friend to me at a time of personal crisis. She was also my maid of honor when I was married in 1993. I will always remember her strength of character and immense support for us at work and on the personal front. I thought of her back in 2013 while I was working in Yuma Arizona. I called her on impulse and she immediately answered "hi Kari". She had just come home from Stanford. We spoke for a while and I remember her saying the position at Stanford was "not bad for and end to a long career". I asked if that meant she had retired and she answered "well you never know". So glad I had that chat with her. My sincerest sympathy to you. She was a wonderful person. Regards, Karen Santos

May 30 at 5:21 AM



Stacy Musselman August 28 at 3:16 PM

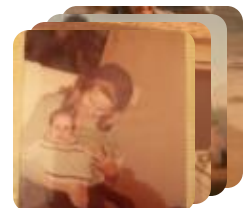
Reading this touches my soul. I appreciate your words. Thank you.



Stacy Musselman shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Love you mom. Thank you for the love and support. Going thru the family photos as been wonderful. I wish I had 1 more day with you to express my love, respect, admiration and hold your hand. I miss you

April 26 at 5:53 PM





Tribute Wall

Betsy Musselman

DH

Debbie Hernandez posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Betsy's passing! What a great lady she was! She was the O.R. Director of nursing at Stanford Hospital, and was always had a good listening ear! I'll never forget my first meeting with her! She had me sit down, made me feel comfortable right away. She asked how I was doing, and what could she do for me! I had never been asked that before, nor have I been asked that since! We always wanted to do the best we could for her! Our O.R. Scheduling office always felt very supported by her, and I truly missed her when she left to go back to Florida. Sending prayers to Besty's family. Thank you for sharing such an amazing lady with us!

May 11 at 10:34 AM



Stacy Musselman August 28 at 3:17 PM

Thank you for sharing.

CE

Christine Eckerson posted:

Sorry to hear about Betsy's passing. I worked at Helen Ellis OR as a perioperative nurse for many years while she was in charge. Sorry to say I didn't get to know her well but just read all her accomplishments and wow! Just want to pass on my condolences to her family and friends.

May 4 at 3:59 PM

ST

Sandra Tracey posted:

I'm so very sorry to hear this news. I was the Executive Secretary to the CEO at Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital when Betsy was there as Director of Nursing. We worked together almost daily on so many problems and had a wonderful friendship as well as a great working relationship professionally. Betsy could always be counted on! She knew her job so well and could always be counted on to take the right action in any situation that arose. My heart goes out to her family during this time of grief, but want them to know what a wonderful woman she was, and how admired by so many. May the Holy Spirit -- the Comforter -- be with all who love her to give them wonderful memories and the peace that only God can give.

April 30 at 11:32 AM



Stacy Musselman May 4 at 5:50 AM

Thank you. She was an amazing mother and I was truly blessed to have her guidance and love.



Tribute Wall

Betsy Musselman



Ron Stecker posted:

So sorry to hear the news ! I was Director of Patient Business Services at Helen Ellis and "Betsy" and I worked very closely together. We were a team RECOGNIZED FOR GETTING THINGS DONE even when we had to " rock a few boats"!! .We stayed in touch through e-mail and I will reluctantly remove her from my list. Ron Stecker

April 30 at 11:11 AM



Stacy Musselman May 4 at 5:52 AM

Thank you for your comments Ron. She loved her work and her coworkers.



Belinda King lit a candle in honor of Betsy.



April 29 at 4:15 PM



Stacy Musselman May 4 at 5:53 AM

Thank you.



Rosita posted:

I am so sorry for your loss . May God extend His arms of comfort through His words at 1Peter 5:7. And give hope through His words at Isaiah 25:8.

April 28 at 12:06 AM



Stacy Musselman May 4 at 5:54 AM

Thank you.



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Musselman family.



April 27 at 1:23 PM



Tribute Wall

Betsy Musselman



Jay Brodsky shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Betsy was my colleague, mentor, and most importantly my friend. Walter Cannon and I would have failed miserably as co-medical directors of the operating rooms at Stanford University without Betsy. The three of us were a team (surgeon, anesthesiologist and nurse) but clearly Betsy was the most experienced, capable member of that team. Her expert professionalism was matched only by her personal interest in the lives of everyone she touched. I will miss you Betsy.



April 27 at 10:08 AM



Stacy Musselman May 4 at 5:54 AM

Thank you for being there for us both. Love and light to you.



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Musselman family.



April 27 at 5:06 AM



Tribute Wall

Betsy Musselman



Bruce Aud posted:

Stacy... I am absolutely amazed by the tour de force of your mother. I pray that you have many wonderful memories to sustain you and I wish you all of Gods blessings, comfort and strength. May your mother's love continue to fill your days and may she watch over you, proud and amazed by the wonderful person she called daughter. Much Peace & Love...

April 26 at 5:53 PM



Melody Falsis-Mittelbuscher May 11 at 5:44 AM

Stacy, I am really very sorry to hear about your Mom's passing. I am an operating room nurse @ Stanford Health Care who had the opportunity to work with her. Betsy came to join us at the perfect time. She was a Godsend to us. I was the Chair person of the OR's Nursing Practice Council then. I liked your Mom the first time I met her. She was my mentor and very supportive of my role. She encouraged me to grow professionally and taught me a great deal on how to deal with people. I will forever remember her for telling me that she would love for me to bring her all my concerns, however, I should have solutions to go with them, otherwise I would be wasting my time talking to her. She always reminded me not to use the word "issue" because it has a very negative connotation. This stuck to my mind. This was her legacy for me. When she first came to Stanford, I asked her how long was she staying. She responded it'll be just for a year. I told her, I don't think so. You'll be here for awhile because somehow we have that effect on people. Stacy, I really appreciate and felt honored knowing your Mom. I will forever remember her for what she had done for us here in Stanford. Like what a co-worker said, she may be old school but we liked her management style. She cared for us both professionally and personally.



Stacy Musselman May 4 at 5:57 AM

Thank you Bruce. Your words touched my soul. Love and light to you.



Stacy Musselman shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 18 at 10:26 PM





Jay Brodsky shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 27 at 10:08 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Betsy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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