



Marguerite (Geri) Cox Stell Bartlett

July 11, 1948 - August 16, 2025

Marguerite “Geri” Cox Stell Bartlett (1948–2025)

Marguerite “Geri” Bartlett died on August 16, 2025, at the age of 77. A beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law, granny (or “granzers”), daughter, sister, aunt, teacher, and friend, Geri was born on July 11, 1948, in New York, NY, to Edward and Marguerite (“Peggy”) Stell (néé Cox). She grew up in Cleveland, OH and later made her home in Middletown, NY before she escaped the cold to St. Augustine, FL, where she lived for twenty years.

At Pine Bush Elementary, Geri was an innovative and dedicated kindergarten teacher, bringing creativity to her classroom every day. When one year, she and her kindergartners raised ducklings, the ducklings imprinted on “Mrs. Bartlett” and followed her around (to the great delight of the children). In the classroom and at home, Geri was an inventive and truly funny wordsmith.

Her students practiced vocabulary words in their classroom discussions, where drinking glasses were “beverage receptacles”; at home, curlicues were “fringlies and sproinglies.” A favorite exclamation was “giant ratlets!” Geri had a quick wit and total joy at life’s absurdities. Her to-do lists were, she would say, longer than the Dead Sea Scrolls. They even included drawings so that Jeff, Ed, and David (her husband and sons) would occasionally follow directions.

She loved to “Dance with Sara,” with her dance family and her amazing friend, Sara. She relished the occasional jump-scare, a glass of Pinot Grigio (sometimes with ice cubes), and coffee was her friend. Family was her favorite place to be. It is a cliché to say that she adored her grandchildren—but it is true. She was so proud of Avery, Maxwell, Alexander, and Jack and of the people they are all becoming.

Her stepmother, Jean Stell, and her sister, Barbara Prunty, were at the center of her orbit and thoughts. She shared with them a love for music, theater, and culture. She fit in with the New Hampshire Bartlett clan, too: she was a force to be reckoned with when it came to teasing Jeff, and as one of her sisters-in-law put it, she always “seemed” to be delighted to try something new up in New Hampshire, even though she hated the cold.

With all of her family, she spent hours around the dinner table talking about kids and grandkids and laughing to tears. Her 55-year marriage to Jeff was a partnership marked by devotion, humor, and grit. Their bond was unbreakable. Geri and Jeff loved to travel, especially spending time in New York City, and they shared many trips and adventures with their close friends, the Chumards.

Geri is survived by Jeff; her children, Edward and David and their spouses, Robyn and Emily; her grandchildren, Avery, Maxwell, Alexander, and Jack; her sister Barbara and brother-in-law Wyatt, and their children Ian and Heather (and their families); her Bartlett sisters-in-law Kate, Sandy, Joan, Sue, and Betsy; and a wide circle of in-laws and friends who will miss her and her warm heart. She was preceded in death by her father, Edward Stell, her biological mother, Marguerite Stell, and her stepmother, Jean Stell.

There is a hole in our hearts that will never be filled by anyone else. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Marguerite's honor to the ASPCA. A service celebrating Geri's life will be held on Sunday, September 14th at 3 pm at St. Johns Funeral Home and Crematory, located on 385 SR 207, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

SEP **14.** 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home
385 SR 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Our hearts are with you and your family during this difficult time, Jeff. We have made a donation to the ASPCA in loving memory of Geri. Sending you love, John Henderson and Jacquie Taylor Canada

J Taylor - September 14, 2025 at 06:50 PM

JP

“ Geri & I were “Dance With Sara friends” for 20-odd years. She was quite possibly one of the most charming, engaging, and positive people I have ever known. Geri knew how to put people at ease. Her deeply held family values were admirable. I loved her unshakable solidarity with Jeff who was her loadstar; her true north. She was unfailingly gracious, invariably kind, and simply exuded dignity and grace. She also had a wicked sense of humor and could make outrageously hilarious comments with a straight face. Her true gift was using her innate dignity and grace to put others at ease. Whip smart, she was a consummate teacher. She taught kindergarten, where her genuine warmth and flair for teaching no doubt made a lifelong impact on countless little ones. Geri was a blessing to all who knew her. She was living proof that the best things come in small packages. She will always be loved and missed by all of us who were lucky enough to know her. RIP, my little friend, until we meet again.

Jean Penny - August 31, 2025 at 03:10 PM

SU

“ Geri was the quintessential child magnet. She could be found sitting cross legged on the floor with whatever child was in her perimeter. Telling stories, asking each child how they were REALLY doing, giving undivided attention. We saw this at every family gathering with all the many children in our family. She made personal eye to eye contact with my kids and grandkids. I will always remember her giggles and hearty laughter. She was a petite and beautiful woman who will forever hold a huge place in my heart. Sue

sue - August 26, 2025 at 08:57 PM

JN

She was my kindergarten teacher and her laugh and smile lit up a room. I remember the ducklings she had in class. How she read the books with enthusiasm.

Jason N - August 28, 2025 at 11:24 AM