



SHIRLEY (EDGE) BETZ
Freedom Area Class of 1949

***“I can assure you, public service is a stimulating, proud, and lively enterprise.
It is not just a way of life. It is a way to live fully.”***

Lee Hamilton

Shirley Betz was born in Rochester, Pennsylvania on April 30, 1931, to Raymond and Viola Edge. She had one sibling, Roberta. Betz attended the Freedom Area Schools throughout her education, moving from Central Elementary School to Liberty School, and ultimately to Freedom Area High School. She graduated in 1949.

Betz attended Maison-Felix Beauty Academy and became a professional hairdresser. She made this her career for fifty years. In addition, she also worked for several years at Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

In 1971 Betz ran for the Freedom Area School Board, winning the first of many elections. She served on the board of directors for thirty-six years; twenty-six of those years she assumed the position of treasurer. To date she has been the longest serving member of the Freedom Area School Board. During her tenure she was instrumental in overseeing many developments in the areas of education, physical plant, finances, and extracurricular activities and athletics. She served as the Freedom board representative to the vocational technical school. Betz was a part of virtually every committee on the board, and worked on two significant transformations: the renovation of the high school and the movement of the junior high school to the middle school concept. She worked under two superintendents, Hall of Fame inductee Robert J. Cercone and Ron Sofo.

In 1950 Betz married the love of her life, Bill Betz. Together they raised a family of three sons, Bill, Jeff, and Bob. She has six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

She has enjoyed vacationing at the Betz family cottage at Canadohta Lake, which is near Meadville, where she pursues her hobbies of swimming and fishing. In addition, she has been a founding member of a 500 bid card club that was established fifty-two years ago. Betz still meets with her card club friends Catherine Arbutina, Bertha Farls, and Jean Nudi.

Betz makes her home in Freedom.