

# Elizabeth Smith Lenna Fairbank (1923-2011)

*John Q. Barrett\**

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Betty Lenna Fairbank, one of the world's wonderful, huge-hearted people, died on April 15, 2011, at age 87. Obituaries and news stories<sup>1</sup> only begin to describe some of her extraordinary qualities, which included deep faith, awesome determination, civic spirit down to her bones, instinctive, deep and lasting affection, decisive leadership, and incredible generosity.

At the Robert H. Jackson Center, I serve as the Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow. A film clip on YouTube records my remarks at the Jackson Center in 2006 about Betty and the honor of serving as “her Fellow.”<sup>2</sup> (She did like that line.)

Betty Lenna’s life improved—greatly improved—the lives of many, many others. It truly was my great fortune to be one of those people, and to be her friend.

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For an archive of selected Jackson List posts, many of which have document images attached, visit [www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/faculty/profiles/Barrett/JacksonList.sju](http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/faculty/profiles/Barrett/JacksonList.sju).

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., *Elizabeth S. Lenna Fairbank: Businesswoman, Community Leader, Philanthropist*, JAMESTOWN PORT-JOURNAL, Apr. 16, 2010, available at [www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/582922/Elizabeth-S--Lenna-Fairbank.html?nav=5009](http://www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/582922/Elizabeth-S--Lenna-Fairbank.html?nav=5009); Dave Emke, ‘A Community Icon’: Local Leaders Remember Betty Lenna, Dead at 87, JAMESTOWN POST-JOURNAL, Apr. 16, 2011, available at [www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/582910/-A-Community-Icon-.html?nav=5192](http://www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/582910/-A-Community-Icon-.html?nav=5192); Cable 8 News Story—Betty Lenna Funeral Service, available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6OxyKOMhIA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6OxyKOMhIA); Jason Rodriguez, ‘She Celebrated Life Everyday’, JAMESTOWN POST-JOURNAL, Apr. 20, 2011, available at [www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/583091/-She-Celebrated-Life-Everyday-.html](http://www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/583091/-She-Celebrated-Life-Everyday-.html).

<sup>2</sup> See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCsycLpCCIw&feature=email](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCsycLpCCIw&feature=email).