



Betty Jean Simmons

March 19, 1933 - July 20, 2020

Betty Jean Simmons was born on March 19, 1933 in Fluker, Louisiana, to the late Boyd and Geneva Burton. She departed this life on Monday, July 20, 2020 at Lebanon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in Lebanon, Missouri, at the age of 87. She was one of five children, all of whom preceded her in death—that included four brothers: Boyd Jr., Joseph, Benjamin, and Charlie. She was educated at Fluker Elementary School in Fluker, Louisiana, and later attended Kentwood High School High School in Kentwood, Louisiana.

On July 14, 1956 Betty married the love of her life, Benjamin Simmons, in Amite, Louisiana—a marriage that lasted 55 years until his death on July 6, 2011. Betty always accompanied “Simmons” to every U.S. Army domestic and foreign duty assignment thereafter. Upon Benjamin’s retirement in 1967, they made their home in St. Robert, Missouri, and eventually Dixon, Missouri in 1986. Betty retired from the Department of the Army after 31 years of service where she received numerous commendations for her outstanding service as a custodial worker.

Betty started her Christian journey at an early age at Fluker Chapel AME Church in Fluker, Louisiana and later joined First Baptist Church of St. Robert; St. Robert, Missouri and then joined First Baptist Church of Waynesville, Missouri. There Betty began her 20 years journey of faithful service and membership until her illness in 2019. While a member at First Baptist of

Waynesville, Betty would arrive early each Sunday for Church School and Sunday morning worship. She would also return Sunday evenings for business meetings. Her favorite song, "Victory in Jesus," is a testament to her fervent belief in Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

Betty enjoyed traveling, playing bingo, and the company of her family and close friends, and her Church Family. After her retirement she was known to travel with her friends Pauline Calloway and Rose Wright, and they were known as "the Golden Girls" on Caribbean cruises. Betty was always helpful to those in need and was well-loved by many who knew her. She demonstrated her Christian witness and was known to do all she could to help the poor, the hungry, and those in need. The work that she has done speaks: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (Matthew 25:11).

Left to cherish her memory is her daughter, Rev. Dr. Mattie A. Carmon (and husband: Rev. Dr. Wilbur Carmon) of Somerset, New Jersey; four grandchildren, Shanel Robinson and Andrea Gray (and husband: Alex), both of Somerset, NJ; Wilbur Carmon-II (and wife: Jamie) and Robyn Parks (and husband: Aaron), both of Hillsborough, NJ; nine great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; a special niece Millie Simmons, and a host of nephews, nieces, other relatives, and several very loyal and faithful friends such as: Laffie Souser, Debbie Osmon, and Laura Miles.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2020 in the First Baptist Church of Waynesville with Pastor Steve Clark officiating. Former pastor, Rev. Dr. Dennis Crowder, read the obituary and reflections and recalled his wonderful memories of Betty. The congregation sang "Victory in Jesus" and "Amazing Grace" and soloist Cassie Allen sang "God on the Mountain". Serving as escorts were family and friends. Burial followed in the

Missouri Veterans Cemetery of Waynesville, Missouri.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 29. 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Waynesville
202 N. Benton Street
Waynesville, MO

Service

JUL 29. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Waynesville
202 N. Benton Street
Waynesville, MO

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Jean Simmons*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *I too loved Sis Betty. She loved Madea movies and once or twice just the 2 of us would check out one at the Waynesville theatre. I remember going to her home and connecting her DVD player so she and I could just watch Madea movies. We had some good times. I thank the family for allowing me to share my talent in singing during her beautiful memorial service. I will truly miss her.*



Cassie - July 31, 2020 at 09:18 AM

AG

“ Grandma Betty - I have no doubt you have entered the pearly gates with bells on! Because that's how you have always done things: living life to the fullest, speaking your mind, and with no regrets. I admire that about you. You were a devoted partner to Granddaddy. Thank you for that. It warms my heart and brings me comfort to know that you are reunited with him. And more importantly with the Lord. Thank you also for the unwavering generosity you've shown us all.

I will confess that though I am very much a proper, yet approachable lady, on occasion I still catch myself whistling out loud. Surely I'm forgiven for that ;)

Rest well and we'll see you in the morning. I'll miss you forever.

Andrea Denise

Andrea Gray - July 29, 2020 at 12:55 PM

KS

“ Kristin Swinchoski lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons



Kristin Swinchoski - July 27, 2020 at 08:21 AM

LB

“ Laffie Burton lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons



Laffie burton - July 26, 2020 at 09:43 AM

MK

“ I am so sorry to hear this and my thoughts and prayers go out to you all as you deal with the loss of Aunt Betty. Aunt Betty was an amazing woman. Growing up I had the pleasure of visiting her home so many times as I was friends with Millie. I remember how welcoming she, and Uncle Ben were. I loved seeing them! All through the years, no matter the occasion, she always gave me a hug and we talked about life in general. She was a hard worker, great neighbor, welcoming and strong in her faith, oh, and that smile...the best! I will always have fond memories of her, especially watching her do Millie's hair, oh the struggle and smoke. Thanks for always taking the time to ask me how I was doing, the awesome, all encompassing hugs, and sharing time with me. You made an impact on my life.

margaret kremer-coyne - July 25, 2020 at 08:41 AM

MS

“ Marge Scott lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons



Marge Scott - July 24, 2020 at 05:25 PM

JO

“ Joseph Oliver lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons



Joseph Oliver - July 23, 2020 at 05:07 PM

BB

“ Betty was such a pleasure to know. She and my mother worked together on post years ago and became pretty good friends. I loved talking to her when I'd see her out and about. It saddens my heart that I will no longer see her, but makes my heart happy that I was privileged enough to call her my friend. Rest in peace, Betty.



Barbara Becker - July 23, 2020 at 01:36 PM

DM

I loved this lady. I first met her when I went to First Baptist Church, St Robert to play the piano. She gave the BEST hugs and always greeted me with that hug and a smile.

Dorothy Marr - July 23, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ Esther Maldonado Dixon lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons



Esther Maldonado Dixon - July 23, 2020 at 01:23 PM

HB

“ Harold&Brigitte Burleson lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons



Harold&Brigitte Burleson - July 23, 2020 at 10:20 AM

PG

“ *Pulaski County Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons*



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - July 23, 2020 at 10:19 AM

LW

“ *Betty was a wonderful Christian Lady. She was so good to my Daughter Julia Wyatt at Life Care. We loved her dearly*



Linda Wyatt - July 23, 2020 at 08:47 AM

LF

“ *Linda Foster lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Simmons*



Linda Foster - July 23, 2020 at 12:19 AM

MC

“ *Marianne Cole sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jean Simmons*



Marianne Cole - July 22, 2020 at 06:01 PM

LC

“ *Linda Cole-Schonbok sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jean Simmons*



Linda Cole-Schonbok - July 22, 2020 at 05:58 PM