



## Betty Jo Davis

February 27, 1930 - March 7, 2024

In fond remembrance of Mrs. Betty Jo Davis, of Centerville, Tennessee, who passed away peacefully on March 7, 2024, at the age of 94 at Lifecare of Centerville. As a cherished cornerstone of her family, Betty embraced the role of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother with boundless love.

Born in Coble, Tennessee to the late Brown Lee McClain and Georgia Edith Coble McClain, on February 27, 1930, Betty was an exceptional educator who demonstrated a profound love and commitment to education. After graduating with honors from Middle Tennessee State University, Betty fearlessly taught 5th graders outside of the Nashville area for two years. On her very first day, she welcomed over thirty students to an inclusive environment. In a memorable twist that day, a young boy brought a snake in a box, marking the beginning of Betty's journey in education. Betty later spent several years educating both children and adults about good eating

choices through the University of Tennessee's Expanded Nutrition program, and then found her true calling back home teaching Freshman English in addition to English electives at Hickman County High School.

Betty met Bill Davis while they were lab partners in a chemistry class at MTSU. Not long after, she and Bill were married in 1958 and together they raised two children. As a beloved hostess, she and Bill orchestrated big family meals and often welcomed guests in their home. Her passion for cooking and baking transformed every gathering into a feast of warmth and joy.

Betty's generosity was as sweet as her homemade chocolate chip cookies.

She dedicated herself to spreading joy by packing and delivering these treats to dear friends in the Nursing

Home, at Tulipwood, and to friends confined to home. Betty also loved to fish.

She could bait

her own hook with a worm and take the fish off herself, all while maintaining perfectly manicured

nails. Betty was an excellent seamstress and made everything from hand tailored suits to t-

shirts to swimsuits appropriate for the many days her children spent playing in the creeks

around the county.

In addition to her parents Betty is preceded in death by her husband, Bill Davis, sister, Mary

Luther, sister Nancy (Elijah) Roder, sister, Rebecca Jane McClain and

grandson, Evan Davis.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Brad (Monica) Davis of Centerville,

Tennessee, Lynn (Walter "Bubba") Nelms of Germantown, Tennessee, brother-in-law Don

Luther of Centerville, Tennessee, grandchildren, Louis (Macy) Nelms, Carter Nelms, Jackson

(Kristie) Nelms, Savannah (Austin) York, Barrett (Holly) Davis, Lauren Messick and seven great grandchildren: Madden, Davis, Everett, Charlie, Emmy,

Birdie, and Savannah. She also leaves several very dear cousins, nieces and nephews.

Betty was a devoted member of Centerville Church of Christ and leaves an enduring legacy as

both an inspiration and a cherished member of our academic community. In lieu of flowers the

family ask to please make donations to the Emma Nicks Education Fund at Centerville Church

of Christ.

McDonald Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Davis family.

# Cemetery Details

## Memory Gardens Cemetery

2833 Hwy 100  
Centerville, TN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County  
102 West End Ave.  
Centerville, TN 37033  
(931) 729-3561

## Funeral Service

MAR 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County  
102 West End Ave.  
Centerville, TN 37033  
(931) 729-3561

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Sherri Booker lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**Sherri Booker** - March 18, 2024 at 06:14 PM



“ *My family and I attended The Centerville Church of Christ with Ms. Betty she was always so kind, even as a child she could make you feel like the most important person attending R.I.P dear sweet lady.....thoughts and prayers for her entire family.*



**James Arthur (Tank) and Dana Atkinson** - March 12, 2024 at 10:06 PM

MR

“ *Margaret Pinkerton Roberts lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**Margaret Pinkerton Roberts** - March 12, 2024 at 11:26 AM

CS

“ Charlotte Staggs sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Davis



Charlotte Maricia Staggs - March 12, 2024 at 04:08 AM

CS

“ Candice Scott lit a candle in memory of Betty Davis



Candice Scott - March 11, 2024 at 11:41 PM



“ Sandi Westover lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis



Sandi Westover - March 11, 2024 at 02:43 PM

RH

“ We are thinking of u.

Ruby & Rex Horner - March 10, 2024 at 08:10 PM

CM

“ *Cheeva McClearen sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



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**Cheeva McClearen** - March 10, 2024 at 07:33 PM

SA

“ *Ms. Davis was a wonderful teacher. She had the patience of a saint. She will always have a place in my heart.*



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**Sherri Agee** - March 10, 2024 at 04:02 PM

RM

“ *Roy & Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



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**Roy & Sharon McCoy** - March 09, 2024 at 09:28 PM

HD

“ *My earliest memory of Betty was a bus trip with my mother and her when I was about four. We went to visit Aunt Lou and Uncle Oll at their Arkansas home across the Mississippi River. Shell Lake was nearby. We three went fishing. that is the first fishing adventure I had with her, but it certainly wasn't the last. Cousin Helen Minns Derryberry*

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**Helen Vernetta Minns Derryberry** - March 09, 2024 at 08:35 PM

MS

“ *Melinda Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



Melinda Sullivan - March 09, 2024 at 08:22 PM

JG

“ *I first met Ms. Betty when I started first grade. I did not want to be there and she gave me comfort. She truly was one of the sweetest ladies I have ever known. I was so glad I got to see her on her last birthday. Deepest sympathy to Brad and Lynn and family.*



Judy Gordon - March 09, 2024 at 07:43 PM

RL

“ *Our deepest condolences to all the family, especially Lynn and Brad. Lisa, Rhonda, Bobby & Sherri Booker*

Rhonda Booker Long - March 09, 2024 at 04:56 PM

MB

“ *MICHAEL BATES sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



MICHAEL BATES - March 09, 2024 at 04:54 PM

RL

“ Rhonda Booker Long lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis



Rhonda Booker Long - March 09, 2024 at 04:53 PM

JB

“ June Boweb lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis



June boweb - March 09, 2024 at 04:01 PM

CB

“ Connie Bowen lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis



Connie Bowen - March 09, 2024 at 03:45 PM

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis



Ronald Gammons - March 09, 2024 at 12:08 PM

RB

“ *Randall-Sandra Barber lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**Randall-Sandra Barber** - March 09, 2024 at 11:16 AM

CA

“ *Celena Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**Celena Atkinson** - March 09, 2024 at 11:01 AM

JE

“ *Lynn and Brad,  
Such sweet memories of your dear mother.  
We fondly remember her loving kindness and  
quiet and gentle spirit.  
Our Love and Sympathy,  
Chug & Johnnie Ruth Elrod*



**Johnnie Ruth Elrod** - March 09, 2024 at 10:23 AM



“ *Betty was truly a Southern lady--always  
cheerful, kind; and I remember that she was a  
wonderful cook as well!!*



**Jewell Prince** - March 09, 2024 at 09:35 AM

GW

“ I'll always remember Mrs. Betty's sweet smile and kind words. Love and prayers-Gwen Wright

Gwen Wright - March 09, 2024 at 09:28 AM

JM

“ Betty was a such sweet lady. She'll be missed by her family and friends.



Janie McCord - March 09, 2024 at 09:09 AM

KB

“ Karen Bowen sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Davis



Karen Bowen - March 09, 2024 at 07:50 AM

MG

“ Betty was a dear sweet friend. We shared some fun times, and she leaves beautiful memories.



Marilyn Gilliam - March 08, 2024 at 11:00 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Bradley Mcgahey lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**kathy bradley mcgahey** - March 08, 2024 at 10:16 PM

GB

“ *George&Mary Bragg lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**George&Mary Bragg** - March 08, 2024 at 09:58 PM

JW

“ *Janet Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**Janet Wright** - March 08, 2024 at 09:24 PM



“ *Betty Love lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



**Betty Love** - March 08, 2024 at 08:38 PM

MB

“ MICHAEL BATES sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jo Davis



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**MICHAEL BATES** - March 08, 2024 at 06:49 PM

JM

“ Joyce Mayberry lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis



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**Joyce Mayberry** - March 08, 2024 at 06:35 PM

JH

“ Joanie Griggs Holtsford lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis



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**Joanie Griggs Holtsford** - March 08, 2024 at 06:14 PM

RS

“ We are thinking of u of the loss.

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**Regina & Martha Shelton** - March 08, 2024 at 05:25 PM

CM

“ *Cheeva McClearen sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



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**Cheeva McClearen** - March 08, 2024 at 05:04 PM

DG

“ *Diane Garrett lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



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**diane garrett** - March 08, 2024 at 04:33 PM

BM

“ *Thoughts and prayers for this wonderful family. Mrs. Betty was a sweet, sweet Christian lady. We loved her and Mr. Bill.*



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**Bobby/Sandy McFarlin** - March 08, 2024 at 04:26 PM

LR

“ *Loved her dearly. More than family. One of the finest ladies in my life. So thankful she finally got to go home. Condolences to Lynn, Brad and all the family. -Larry Rogers*

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**Larry Rogers** - March 08, 2024 at 04:25 PM

JG

“ *John/Wanda Givens lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



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**John/Wanda Givens** - March 08, 2024 at 03:39 PM

NJ

*I have admired and appreciated Betty since she was a beautiful young lady in highschool. It was my privilege to teach with her at HCHS for several years. She was always friendly with a ready smile. May she rest in peace.*

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**Neil and Bea Jobe** - March 10, 2024 at 11:07 PM

JM

“ *Joyce Mayberry lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Davis*



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**Joyce Mayberry** - March 08, 2024 at 03:37 PM