



## Mrs. Betty Deere

November 28, 1930 - May 3, 2020

There are acquaintances you make in life that just seem to make your day brighter and returning their smile is effortless. Lexington lost one of those ladies on Sunday, May 3rd, Mrs. Betty Deere. She was a friend to many and truly never met a stranger.

Betty was born on a Friday, November the 28th in 1930, in the Shady Hill community of Henderson County to the late Frank and Burcie Dyer Smith. She was the middle child of five children and had two brothers and two sisters, who preceded her in death. Betty was married to Thomas Deere until his death in 1972 and continued to be a great mother and role model to their two daughters until her death. If you ever met Mrs. Deere you'd quickly learn two things: her devotion and eagerness to share about her "girls" and other family and the importance of her church, First Baptist in Lexington. She was a faithful, longtime member of First Baptist and was also a member of Faith Sunday School Class, serving as a Group Care Leader. A ministry of talking to others on the telephone was perfect for Betty. In addition, Mrs. Deere was known in her neighborhood as the "Mayor of Dixie Street."

Living each day with Jesus gave Betty such joy. She was grateful for God's gifts to her. At the top of her list would be her family and grandchildren, her many adventures with her girlfriends and the blue ribbon she won at the county fair with her Jam Cake. That was a bragging right she would share with

you if given a chance! If you were really in Betty's good graces, you most likely would get one of her fudge pies.

Betty is survived by her daughters, Diane Patton and her husband Alan of Atoka, and Debbie Jamison and her husband Dale of Brentwood. There are five grandchildren: Meg Jamison and her husband, James Addison; and Mary, Julia and Joy Jamison; and Matthew Patton. Betty was also a step-grandmother for most of his life to Christopher Patton (Peggy Sue), and a step-great grandmother to Max Patton. Her nieces and nephews loved their Aunt Betty and knew she loved them.

"I-40" was another nickname for Mrs. Betty, so earned as she kept the road hot between Memphis and Nashville while her grandchildren were growing up. As her oldest grandchild, Meg, noted, "She would do anything for her grandchildren. She showed up for every graduation, dance recital, and any other special event her grandchildren were involved in." Meg also noted that the way her grandmother lived left no room for giving up, backing down or tiring out. "She was the strongest and most courageous woman I've ever met," was Meg's tribute to her grandmother.

Graveside services will be held at Rock Hill cemetery in Henderson County on Saturday, May 9 at 1:30 pm with Rev. Tommy Crocker officiating. Betty had many friends and you're welcome to attend the services, but the family stresses the importance of social distancing, maintaining groups of less than ten. The use of facemasks is your option. The family will receive waves and words instead of hugs and handshakes due to the current pandemic.

If you wish to send memorials, the family has noted the following ministries: First Baptist Church in Lexington, TN; Williamson County Young Life in Brentwood, TN; and Church Health in Memphis, TN.



## Cemetery Details

### Rock Hill Cemetery

Lexington, Tn

## Previous Events

### Graveside Service

MAY 9. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Rock Hill Cemetery  
Lexington, Tn

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ *Delores Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



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**Delores Williams** - May 09, 2020 at 02:21 PM

JB

“ *Ms. Betty was a precious, dear friend and cousin. It was a pleasure delivering her mail for a number of years in Lexington. Though Mom and I do not know the family well, we wanted to tell you that she was very dear to us. Our prayers and condolences are with you during this time of sadness. She's off to her rich reward in Heaven.*

*In our thoughts,  
Julie Bivens and Robbie Smith*

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**Julie Bivens** - May 09, 2020 at 09:51 AM

KR

“ *Kelley Ragsdell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



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**Kelley Ragsdell** - May 06, 2020 at 01:35 PM

KR

*I have known Mrs. Betty all my life. We were neighbors for 7 years on "Dixie Street"....and yes...she was definitely the mayor on that street. Lol She was a very great lady and sweet as ever...we always had lots of laughs and gossip out on our front lawns. Lol Prayers for the family 🙏❤️*

**Kelley Ragsdell** - May 06, 2020 at 01:44 PM

BS

*“ We would like to express our sincere sympathy to you and your family. Betty was a sweet friend who always express love and happiness to see you. We are a part of the family through Ms. Bercie (Dyers). Bobby & Brenda Snider*

**brenda snider** - May 06, 2020 at 01:04 PM

MA

*“ Mike Austin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



**Mike Austin** - May 06, 2020 at 12:34 PM

MA

*Wow, What a wonderful lady! I'm without words, because this lady and I go way back. I remember the years I worked in Lexington, and she would come by and visit with me. We would talk about any thing, and there were time that I felt like she was my mother , and she would tell me and I quote " I'm gonna tell you just like this". When I moved to Bolivar she would call me on a regularly basic just to check on me, and to see how I was doing, and I'm Gonna miss that and her. My thoughts and Prayers go out to the the family in this time of loss.*

**Mike Austin** - May 06, 2020 at 12:45 PM

GS

“ *A wonderful person who loved life . i will miss you Ms. Betty*

**Gloria Sibert** - May 06, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ *Wow, what a wonderful human! I first met Betty when I was in the 5th grade at Caywood School in 1989. After school, we kids would all gather at Rexall Drug store and Betty would endlessly create milkshakes and orange aides everyday for us kids. Now she would get on to us if we became too rowdy. Some of us kids would stay till closing. I honestly did not know that Betty was still with us until I read it this morning. She had a certain way of smiling at you and always, always spoke to you. My goodness, just what a wonderful person she was:~) God speed Betty and I love you.*



**Christopher Escue** - May 06, 2020 at 11:23 AM

SC

“ *Mrs Betty was our neighbor for 23 years and I loved her so. She will be greatly missed*

**Susan Crowe** - May 06, 2020 at 12:08 AM

BW

“ *Barbara Willis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



**Barbara Willis** - May 05, 2020 at 11:25 PM

BW

*So sorry for your loss ,Betty was A dear sweet lady love by all that knew her.*

**Barbara Willis** - May 05, 2020 at 11:28 PM

JH

“ *Joyce Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



**Joyce Hughes** - May 05, 2020 at 10:36 PM

TT

“ *Betty and I have been friends for a long time. I work at Food Giant in Lexington, Tn. Everytime Betty would see me she would holler hey Jean and wave. There for a while I never said anything about her calling me Jean. Which is my mothers name. So I decided to call Betty by one of her daughters names. The next time she came in Food Giant Betty holler hey Jean how are you doing? I said hey Debbie I'm doing fine. She looked at me so funny and then she slapped her leg and said , did I call you Jean ? I said yes mam. She got so tickled and said I've to tell Debbie about that. S he was always telling me about her grandchildren. She was always either going to see her family in Atoka or going to Brentwood to see the other daughter and family. Betty will be missed by many many people. Betty always had a smile on her face.Betty was a dear friend.Prayers for the Family and For Betty , go rest high on that mountain. Good bye my dear friend.*  
*Tersea Tulley.*

**Teressa Tulley** - May 05, 2020 at 10:15 PM

PS

“ *Pauline Schenck lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



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**Pauline Schenck** - May 05, 2020 at 08:56 PM

JS

“ *Jerry Stegall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



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**Jerry Stegall** - May 05, 2020 at 06:18 PM

GF

“ *Greg Franklin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



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**Greg Franklin** - May 05, 2020 at 05:07 PM

AW

“ *Amy McPeake Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Deere*



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**Amy McPeake Williams** - May 05, 2020 at 02:16 PM

SW

“ *Such a sweet precious lady and friend. I am going to miss her sweet smile and good mornings every Sunday when she would stick her head in my classroom door She loved people and her church without doubt.*

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**Sherry Walker** - May 05, 2020 at 02:06 PM

TA

“ *So sorry for your loss of such a sweet lady. Bobby Ayers and family.*



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**Teresa Ayers** - May 05, 2020 at 01:21 PM

DD

“ *Betty loved me and I loved her..I am going to miss her!*



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**Donna Darrough** - May 04, 2020 at 09:34 PM

LJ

*I began working at the Lexington Post Office in 1984. Mrs. Betty is one of the 1st. people I remember meeting. I loved her from that moment on. I can hear her now saying "Jones, let me tell you something". She will always hold a special place in my heart. Lloyd Jones*

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**Lloyd Jones** - May 05, 2020 at 08:53 PM

TS

“ There was so many good times. We worked together for 20 years. One of my favorite memory is when we went to see Waylon Jennings in Jackson! We both wore our Cowboys Hats!

Teresa Smith - May 04, 2020 at 06:22 PM

TR

“ Ms Betty was a great neighbor and friend. I always loved her visits! She was always afraid she was interrupting my work. I always told her to stop anytime. We shared lots of laughs and great memories on Dixie Street. A truly lovely Christian lady!



Tony Rogers - May 04, 2020 at 03:31 PM

TR

All of the neighbors on Dixie St referred to her as our Mayor. So many fond memories! Not long ago she told me I use to be the youngest on Dixie but now she and I were the only old timers.

Tony Rogers - May 05, 2020 at 01:27 PM

BC

“ In my 75 years, never know a nicer person than Betty, she was a lifelong true friend and was our client for decades. Heaven gained a angel and earth loss one

Bobby Cogdell - May 04, 2020 at 02:20 PM