



Betty J. Keys

March 4, 1940 - August 12, 2020

To watch live stream at church www.facebook.com/firstmtolive

Betty Jane Keys was born in Baltimore, Maryland on March 4, 1940 to Houston and Cora Ellis who preceded her in death. Betty departed this earthly life on August 12, 2020 after a lengthy illness.

Betty was educated in Baltimore City Schools majoring in dress making. She enjoyed sewing outfits for family and friends, so they could look their best.

Betty was employed by "Witty's Sub shop in the early 60's and was known to feed the less fortunate and buy food for the hungry; she would give you the coat off her back if you needed it. Betty perfected her skills in baking and was known for her strawberry shortcake and her famed 7Up pound cake. She worked many years for the Carr-Lowery Glass Company and retired from there.

Betty accepted Christ, joined, and was baptized at the First Mt. Olive FWB Church in May 1958 under the leadership of Bishop Leo K. Ceaser and continued her Kingdom service under Bishop Oscar E. Brown. As a servant for the Lord, her passion was Ushering! She covered her post proudly as she greeted members and visitors with a warm smile and hearty laugh. She wore that starched white uniform, clean shoes, and cap with pride. She faithfully served on the Senior Usher board for 50 years, until her health began to fail. Betty also lent her culinary skills to working and serving in the Church's

kitchen on Fremont & Saratoga.

Betty met and later married Roland Keys, October 1968. During this union, Roland became a paraplegic due to a job accident. Betty was a caretaker who took care of and nurtured Roland until his death in 1986. She often traveled about with her road dog Kubba, (dog child that she loved); Kubba loved those McDonald's hamburgers. Betty enjoyed watching daytime soaps on Channel 13, recording them every day and loved having an ice-cold Pepsi daily. Those close to her knew she had cases of Pepsi piled almost to the ceiling in the basement and kept 3-4 cases in the trunk of her car.

In 2006, soon after her retirement, she was diagnosed with dementia and required 24 hr. care; Betty resided at Westgate Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Her cheerful spirit remained even after she lost the ability to speak; Betty displayed the joy she had by her ever constant "humming and singing." This is how Betty praised her way through her difficult struggles. "What a mighty God we serve!"

She leaves to cherish her memory, sister, Joyce Y. Stanley; nephew and nieces, Bishop Charles Ellis (Rosalind), Tanya M. Deshields, Valerie K. Deshields, Kelvin Stanley (Mary), Kenneth Stanley (Claudette), Thomas G. Deshields Jr. (Lisa), Tracie Carey (Antoine) and a host of family and friends. YOU are MISSED!

Cemetery Details

Meadow Ridge

7250 Washington Blvd
Elkridge, MD 21075

Previous Events

viewing

AUG 20. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

AUG 21. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Mount Olive Freewill Baptist Church
618 N. Hammond Ferry Rd.
Baltimore, MD

Service

AUG 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Mount Olive Freewill Baptist Church
618 N. Hammond Ferry Rd.
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty J. Keys*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I will always remember Ms Betty's smile when I spoke to her sitting in the hallway at the nursing home. She will be missed. May GOD bless Ms Joyce and her family.*
Ms Pat J Trent



Patricia Jones Trent - August 20, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ *The Blue and Howard family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Betty J. Keys.*



The Blue and Howard family - August 19, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ *Love you always, Aunt Marian, Earl, Jr. & Linda purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty J. Keys.*



Love you always, Aunt Marian, Earl, Jr. & Linda - August 19, 2020 at 12:57 PM

LC

“ To our family.....Sweet memories of Betty will last forever. She was the great baker with out of this world cakes. A fond memory 15 years ago with Dad's passing being "Jane on the spot", Betty was right there first thing for us before final public viewing with that gentle hug and kind words assuring us that things would be alright in our time of need. Being kind, compassionate, fun loving and caring did not take effort it was her norm. She fought a good fight and will be missed.



Rest in peace now with your Heavenly Father and know that things will be alright now with Him as you've often said to others.

And family, May Your Faith in Him light a path to a place of Comfort and Peace!!!

*Love you,
Aunt Marian, Earl, Jr. & Linda Cornish*

Linda A. Cornish - August 19, 2020 at 12:27 PM

KF

“ Kenneth & Claudette Stanley & Family purchased the Tranquil Seas for the family of Betty J. Keys.



Kenneth & Claudette Stanley & Family - August 18, 2020 at 04:30 PM

TC

“ To my Aunt Betty, you already know how much you will be missed- not only by me but by Aunt Joyce too. One of my earlier memories of us include the time you took me to the drive-in movies on Route 40-your black Thunderbird had soooooo much space in it that you didn't have a problem with me sliding over the seats from the front to the back and vice versa all along while eating cake and goodies. I will never forget that strawberry cake you made for my wedding guests 27 years ago on 8/21/93. I'll also remember the times Honey & I delivered the Pepsi's to you because the stores (A&P and Kash n' Karry) would only allow 4 six-packs per person. We also spent many Saturdays together visiting Grandma in Salisbury. When your health declined and you were admitted into the rehab center, I made time to come visit. After I moved to North Carolina and I returned here, I also made time to come see you. Val & I would sing and dance and you would move your hands to the beats (aka music) we made with our mouths. This put a smile on your face as well as ours because we knew that you knew it was us. I (along with my husband and kids) made lots of memories with Aunt Betty. I miss you and will cherish every memory I have with you.

Love always,
Tracie

Tracie Carey - August 17, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Betty J. Keys.



August 16, 2020 at 04:37 PM

BE

“ To our Aunt Betty....We will cherish the memory of her warrior spirit and great love for her family. We thank God for her many words of encouragement and her tireless efforts of service to others. We love u forever Aunt Betty!!! Charles n Rosalind Ellis



Bishop Charles Ellis - August 16, 2020 at 01:17 PM

TC

Totally agree Cousin Charles

Tracie Carey - August 17, 2020 at 01:53 PM

TD

“ Auntie Betty was a family jewel. She was a Kingdom worker whether at First Mt. Olive or on the streets of Baltimore; she would give you the coat off her back! She loved God, family & friends, Bishop Oscar & Lady Brown and Kubba (her dog child). I will miss her sweet loving spirit, her baking master pieces, hosting family night gatherings and her love for me. RIH until we meet again my Betty Boop. Love you Always, your neice, Tanya.



Tanya Deshields - August 15, 2020 at 08:55 PM

JD

Sorry for your loss, praying for strength and peace for you and your family 🙏

Jacquelyn Dent-Lee - August 15, 2020 at 09:55 PM

TC

Thank you Ms Lee

Tracie Carey - August 17, 2020 at 01:52 PM

JE

“ GOD BLESS YOU AND FAMILY

jesse - August 15, 2020 at 10:04 AM

TC

Thank you Ms Jesse.

Tracie Carey - August 17, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - August 14, 2020 at 09:17 AM