



Betty Jo Russell

July 14, 1934 - January 12, 2021

Betty Jo Russell, the daughter of the late James T. Bridges and Alice May (Pribble) Bridges, passed away on January 12, 2021 at the age of 86. She went home to Jesus to be reunited with her late husband, Charles T. Russell, her daughter, Victoria, and grandson, Johnny.

Betty was born on July 14, 1934 in Anna, Illinois. She was the eldest of nine siblings and was lovingly referred to as “momma” by her younger siblings.. By the age of four, she was making biscuits, frying eggs and stirring hot gravy while standing on a homemade stool her father made for her to reach the stove.

The first time she laid eyes on Charles Russell was her senior year of high school. She saw him driving around town with a car full of girls. She turned to her mother and said, “Who’d go out with him?” Shortly after that, her friend convinced her to go on a double date where her date was Charlie.

Betty graduated from Anna-Jonesboro High School in 1953 and married Charles Russell that same year. She loved his demeanor, the way he looked at the world and the mutual respect they had for each other. In their 64 year union, they had seven children and two children of the heart.

Betty and Charlie spent the majority of their lives in Union and Johnson

County. When they weren't working, they devoted their lives to each other and their children. Betty taught her love of cooking to her children and grandchildren, encouraging them even when their recipes didn't turn out as planned.

In her early 50s, Betty went back to school and obtained her certified nursing assistant (CNA) license to continue her legacy of caring for others.

She was a member of the Eastern Star organization for 43 years. She was a primary member at the Egyptian #30 and a dual member at Ziegler #841. She served as the Grand Martha of Illinois in 2012, the Grand Representative of Wyoming in Illinois from 2000-2001 and the Worthy Matron several times in both chapters.

She discovered a love for traveling later in her life as she ventured to California and Colorado to spend time with her grandchildren and to meet her great grandchildren. She played the slot machines for the first time in Las Vegas and spent the winter months in Florida with her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Her legacy will live on through her famous chicken and dumplings recipe she taught to her grandchildren, and in the carefully crafted quilts she made for loved ones. Her family will always think of her when a Loretta Lynn song plays and when roses, irises and daffodils bloom in a garden.

She is survived by six of her seven children and her two children of the heart. Her children include Wendell Russell and his wife Sally, and his children Melany, Michael, Christopher, Bradley, Cierra and Amy; Torrie Blevins, daughter of Victoria Russell Blevins (deceased); Cyndia Russell Miller and her husband Robert and their daughter Marquetta; Willie Russell and his wife Dawn and his children Victoria, Tina, Willie Jr. and Amanda; Charles J Russell

and his wife Kim and their children Ashley and Brianna; Lori Russell Daum and her children Nigel and Samantha; Alice Faye Russell Carter and her husband Michael and her daughter Jessica Lyn; Her children of the heart are Chris and Bobbi Kuhn along with their children Aiden and Gavin. She is also survived by her beloved dog, Sugar, who was a great comfort to both her and Charlie. She is also survived by 20 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and one great-grandchild due later this year. Betty is also survived by seven of her siblings.

A public walk-through memorial visitation honoring the life of Betty will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2021 from noon to 2 p.m. at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. A private funeral service will follow with Eastern Star rites. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed on the Bailey Funeral Home Facebook page and will be archived for later viewing. She will be laid to rest at the Pleasant Grove cemetery alongside her husband and daughter in a graveside service led by Pastor Mike Miller. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to Eastern Star Home, 9890 Star Lane, Macon, IL 62544.

Those attending the visitation and service are reminded to observe customarily accepted social distancing guidelines. It is the express request of the family that all attending be required to wear a face mask or covering. This is to ensure the health and safety of all. Betty's death was the result of COVID-19 exposure and the family wishes to remind everyone to take all necessary precautions and be vigilant in protecting your own health and the health of others.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Cemetery

IL Route 146 West
Buncombe, IL

Previous Events

Walk-Thru Public Visitation

JAN **23**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Jo Russell*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Love to you all Robert & Jeanie Bridges purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Betty Jo Russell.*



Love to you all Robert & Jeanie Bridges - January 22, 2021 at 06:55 PM



“ *BETTY AND CHARLES WERE LONG TIME FRIENDS OF MINE AND WHO COULD ASK FOR BETTER .*

JOHN RAY CHILDERS - January 20, 2021 at 08:29 PM



“ *Scott Hunsaker lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell*



Scott Hunsaker - January 19, 2021 at 05:39 PM

TR

“ I was blessed to meet this sweet woman I considered an angel on earth and now an angel in heaven. She was such a loving and caring individual to those she did not even personally know. She was such a blessing to my sister in so many ways and how she handled people with love and no judgment. She sent so many inspirational things for my sister to read while my sister was experiencing a rough time in life. Although they never got to personally meet, my sister has such love and admiration for this woman. She constantly prayed for my sister and will hold a special place in both our hearts. She was a beautiful soul and I feel so privileged to have met her. You will be missed Betty but never forgotten. You raised some wonderful children as well and Alice is so much like you. I know you are with Jesus, Charlie and your loved ones in heaven now. The family is in my prayers. God Bless you all.
Tina Reichert

Tina Reichert - January 19, 2021 at 04:17 PM

DR

“ I was blessed to have her as a mother in-law!! She enjoyed cooking soups with us as well as eating pies! We shared many great times with her in Florida and her home in Illinois! There will never be another person who was so kind. She never complained about life, just enjoyed each day. I will truly miss her! Love you MOM!!

dawn russell - January 19, 2021 at 03:41 PM

DW

“ So sorry for your loss. She was a dear friend, and now she will be with Charlie again. Prayers for the family!

Doris Wiemers - January 18, 2021 at 04:55 PM

JB

“ Alice, you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.
Ted and Joy Beggs



JOY BEGGS - January 14, 2021 at 10:40 PM

SH

“ Scott Hunsaker lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Scott Hunsaker - January 14, 2021 at 09:56 PM

RM

“ I have known Betty and Charlie for it seems like forever. I have missed her working the polls in Simpson over the last few years. Always with a smile and a twinkle in her eye. She will be missed. Prayers to the family...God Bless.

Ronald L McBride - January 14, 2021 at 03:02 PM

PS

“ Phyllis Sontag lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Phyllis Sontag - January 14, 2021 at 01:09 PM

JT

“ *Janis Tapley lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell*



Janis Tapley - January 13, 2021 at 11:45 PM

JB

“ *Shortly after I joined OES Betty asked me if I would take the chair in the North. Not having a clue what that commitment meant, I happily agreed. Betty and I often laughed about how she hoodwinked me. I am so glad she did. She was always there to help me and anyone else. She will be missed by all who knew her. I am sure she and Charlie are making slaw in Heaven for the chicken and dumpling dinners. My condolences to her family. You are in my thoughts and prayers .*

Jackie Blackman, Grand Esther, 2015

Jackie Blackman - January 13, 2021 at 08:05 PM

JS

Betty will be sorely missed at all our Eastern Star functions. She was a wonderful lady!! Always smiling Always willing to help in any way. Rest In Peace Betty and tell Charlie Hello from the Staceys

Judy Stacey - January 15, 2021 at 01:53 PM

DE

“ *Betty was a sweetheart...she had a heart of gold..and had a great laugh. Betty went with me to see Elvis Presley in Carbondale....we had a great time.....Betty will shine in Heaven...Prayers to the family....God Bless.....Deborah Retz (Stokes)*

Deborah - January 13, 2021 at 04:55 PM

DJ

“ Debra Johnson lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Debra Johnson - January 13, 2021 at 10:16 AM

DJ

Betty was a person of great knowledge, ,a super person to work with. Betty will be missed.Prayers for the family.

Debra Johnson - January 13, 2021 at 10:20 AM

TR

“ Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Teresa Richerson - January 13, 2021 at 08:04 AM

CF

“ So sorry for your loss. I remember seeing her at all the O.E.S. dinners. always there working and helping out anyway she could. I know she will be missed by many. thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.



c joan faulkner - January 13, 2021 at 07:48 AM

NW

“ Noble & Mary Jane White lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Noble & Mary Jane White - January 12, 2021 at 09:17 PM

BB

“ I loved this precious lady with all my heart we are so sorry for her loss may God bless her sweet Soul Amen



Billy&Nancy Belford - January 12, 2021 at 08:07 PM

VE

“ Vicki L Eastwood lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Vicki L Eastwood - January 12, 2021 at 07:54 PM

SJ

“ Steve And Darla Jones lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Steve and Darla Jones - January 12, 2021 at 07:16 PM

DB

“ *Such a sweet lady. She will be missed.
Prayers for comfort for the family.* ”



Dorothy Bacon - January 12, 2021 at 06:07 PM

AS

“ *Angie Street lit a candle in memory of Betty
Jo Russell* ”



Angie Street - January 12, 2021 at 05:07 PM

DP

“ *Debbie (Stevens) Poe lit a candle in memory
of Betty Jo Russell* ”



Debbie (Stevens) Poe - January 12, 2021 at 04:57 PM

VB

“ *Vickie Craig Barton lit a candle in memory of
Betty Jo Russell* ”



Vickie Craig Barton - January 12, 2021 at 04:25 PM

NG

I always enjoyed meeting Betty and talking with her I know she well be missed

nita Gulley - January 12, 2021 at 05:41 PM

JR

“ James And Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



James and Diane Rainbolt - January 12, 2021 at 04:20 PM

JS

“ John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jo Russell



John Slack - January 12, 2021 at 04:10 PM

DA

“ Darcie lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Darcie - January 12, 2021 at 02:38 PM

NB

“ Nancy Breeden lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Nancy Breeden - January 12, 2021 at 02:06 PM



“ Sorry for your loss Alice prayers and hugs for you and your family



Sherry Reighgard - January 12, 2021 at 01:53 PM

PS

“ Paula Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell



Paula Sullivan - January 12, 2021 at 01:35 PM

MH

“ So sorry for your loss Alice and family. Will be keeping you in my prayers ❤️❤️❤️



Mary Lou Hynes - January 12, 2021 at 01:12 PM

LH

“ *LaRae Breeden Harner lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell*



LaRae Breeden Harner - January 12, 2021 at 01:10 PM

PW

“ *Pat Womack lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell*



pat womack - January 12, 2021 at 01:01 PM

LK

“ *Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Russell*



Linda Koehler - January 12, 2021 at 12:37 PM



“ *Jeannie McCall sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jo Russell*



Jeannie McCall - January 12, 2021 at 12:32 PM