



## Betty Joan Knowles

August 14, 1934 - March 28, 2021

Betty J. (Mumma) Knowles (Age 86) of Nokesville, VA passed away on Sunday March 28, 2021.

She is survived by her son Mark & his wife Yvonne (Clark) Knowles, grandchildren Emily (Knowles) Eppley and Valerie Knowles, brother Richard “Dick” Mumma and his wife Sally (Blaine) Mumma. She was preceded in death by her husband Walter Emerson, daughter Lisa Ann, brothers Wesley Ray and James “Jim” Mumma and his wife Marilyn E. (Thomas) Mumma.

Betty was born in Everett, Bedford County, PA, growing up in Burnt Cabins, Fulton County, PA. She married Walter, an Army Private stationed at Fort Bragg, NC, on 12/23/1953. The ceremony was held at the Burnt Cabins Methodist Episcopal Church with the reception afterwards held at Walt’s family farmhouse in Fort Littleton, PA. After the big event, Betty graduated from Hustontown High School in 1954.

In 1955, Walt was discharged from the Army, having achieved the rank of Corporal. At the urging of Betty’s uncle Howard “Carl” Fix, who lived in Pittsburg, PA, Walt interviewed with AT&T Long Lines. Walt was hired and Betty left Burnt Cabins to begin her journey as a “Bell” spouse.

Betty’s high school ambition was to be a housewife. She far exceeded her goal during the 25 years Walt worked for AT&T Long Lines. They moved to Pittsburg, to Bedford, to Chambersburg, to Malvern PA, to High Bridge, NJ, finally settling in Nokesville, VA where Betty spent the last 43 years of her life.

While living in High Bridge, NJ, Betty was a library volunteer at her daughter’s elementary school. She thrived in the challenge of learning the Dewey Decimal System and interacting with the teachers and students.

Betty joined a bowling league with Walt known as “The Tuesday Night Owls” where the weekly event created new friendships & fond memories. But the most significant impact upon Betty while living in High Bridge was the first time she donned a motorcycle helmet with Walt. She joined Walt on weekends, touring local sites with a few of their neighborhood cycle buddies.

After the move to Nokesville, VA in 1978, Betty & Walt joined a motorcycle club known as “The Retreads – XL Plus”. Betty enjoyed the local rides and meeting fellow enthusiasts.

Over the years, as the size of the Walt’s motorcycles increased, so did the mileage. Betty & Walt’s endurance rides took them to the West coast twice, and once to Alaska and, the North West Territory crossing over the Artic Circle line.

It was through one of Betty’s motorcycle friends that she was invited to apply for a job at a local surgical office as an administrative assistant. Betty enjoyed the challenge working in a professional office as well as being associated with a team of talented doctors.

When her daughter Lisa was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS), Betty gave up her professional career to become Lisa’s full-time care provider at home. The love, strength, and endurance from Betty to make Lisa’s last five years with her family as comfortable as possible, was an inspiration to all.

Two years after Lisa passed, her husband Walt had a stroke. Once again Betty became a full time care provider at home, until Walt’s passing in 2012.

Betty loved to watch her children’s sporting & extra-curricular events. After her children had grown she continued the tradition watching both her granddaughters in their activities as they grew. The enjoyment of sports was natural for Betty, being a former high school athlete herself (Basketball, Softball, Track & Volleyball).

In 2014, Betty’s health began to fail. She was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The surgery was successful and she recovered to lead a normal life again. Betty was fortunate to be self-sufficient and live in her own home. She was an avid reader of the Bible and prayer books her whole life. She sought & found comfort in many passages during the challenges she faced and overcame throughout her life.

We never know what God's plans are for us. It is only in hindsight when they are revealed. Reflecting upon & celebrating Betty's life, it is clear to us what plans God had in mind for Betty. Through her strength, resilience, and actions in life, her love of family was first and foremost, of which they benefitted greatly.

We love you mom. We will miss your smile, your stubbornness, your hugs, and even the breakneck speed at which you rode the mower around your lawn at 86 years old. Peace be with you.

Due to COVID-19, there will be no funeral service at this time. There will be a graveside service at Union Cemetery, in McConnellsburg, PA at a future date to be determined.

# Comments

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Dear Mark, Yvonne & Family,

Please accept our deepest sympathy and heartfelt thoughts during this most difficult time. Mom#2 (Betty) was a very special and wonderful person - she will be missed. She always had a smile on her face and one of the most optimistic people you could ever meet. Her faith in God was truly inspiring and it was awesome to be a part of this journey with her. We have lost a love one and a very special friend but she is in God's hands now and he is taking care of her. May the comfort of friends and family be your strength now and in the days ahead. So I am going to end this with a poem from Helen Steiner Rice:

There Are No Words - Helen Steiner Rice

There are no words ...what can I say?  
At last her sweet soul winged its way  
To peace and freedom in the sky  
Where never again will she suffer or cry.

It's all part of God's great plan ...  
Which remains a mystery to man.  
We cannot understand His ways  
Nor can we count our earthly days.

But who are we to question and doubt?  
God knoweth well what He's about;  
He knew she longed to "go to sleep"  
Where only angels, a vigil keep.

The pain of living grew too great  
No longer could she stay and wait;  
She did not want to leave you, dear,  
But she had finished her work down here.

So she closed her eyes and when she awoke,  
These are the words the Master spoke ...  
"Welcome, dear child, you are Home at last,  
And now the burden of living is past."

"There's work for you in My Kingdom, dear  
And you are needed and wanted here."  
So weep not, she has just gone on ahead,  
Don't think of her as being dead.

She's out of sight for a little while,  
And you'll miss her touch and her little smile,  
But you know she is safe in the home above  
Where there is nothing but Peace and Love.

And, surely, you would not deny her peace ...  
And you're glad that she has found release.

Think of her there as a soul that is free,  
And Home at last, where she wanted to be.

Gregg & Lisa McBride - April 08 at 07:47 AM

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“ Gregg & Lisa McBride lit a candle in memory of Betty Joan Knowles



Gregg & Lisa McBride - April 08 at 07:25 AM

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“ What a wonderful neighbor! We can recall spending time in the back yard and back porch just sharing thoughts and good stories. I'll always remember Mrs. Knowles smile and wave as we passed one another mowing grass. Time passes so quickly, it seems like only yesterday when we met but here we are forty years later saying Rest In Peace. A great neighbor that will be missed. Prayers for family and friends for peace and comfort.

Daniel and Rose Lam - April 07 at 07:21 PM

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“ I will miss my dear friend, Betty. I met her through Walt and saw her love and care for Lisa and Walter, her love for Mark and his family and her determination to recover after her brain tumor was removed. She had a beautiful heart, abiding faith, a strength like no other and did not hesitate to share her thoughts. She has earned her eternal rest. Rest well my friend. I love you.



Nancy Bassett - April 06 at 12:39 PM