



Betty Ruth (Smith) Banks

February 1, 1936 - February 3, 2024

Betty Ruth (Smith) Banks was called home by the angels on February 3, 2024, in Birmingham, Al.

Betty was a true southern belle, the epitome of grace and elegance during her lifetime and cherished her family above all else. She was born in Chilton County, Alabama to Pate Smith and Elda Rader Boyer Smith on February 1, 1936, ninth in line out of eleven children in a close-knit family.

Betty met and went on to marry her first husband, Warner Bucklin in 1954. The two had three children together and Betty was a stay-at-home mom and a full-time housewife until she started taking college courses part time.

When Betty was just a girl, she learned to play the piano and autoharp by ear. She became a beautiful player. Her, Warner and her sister Janette formed a gospel group called the Shilo Trio. Betty was such an excellent player that while auditioning for a spot on the Country Boy Eddy Radio Show on WBRC, Country Boy Eddie himself asked Betty to play for him. She declined the offer, stating she had a husband and young children at home.

Due to her hard work and dedication Betty eventually became a certified special education teacher. She was an incredibly smart woman and continued her education even after receiving her certification, being just shy of her

master's degree.

Betty married her best friend, Donald Banks in Massachusetts in 1979. While married to Don she discovered her love for travel. Through Don's job, together they traveled the world.

In her adulthood, Betty also discovered her love for genealogy and history. In her spare time, she and her daughter would often travel to cemeteries, libraries and courthouses uncovering the family background and stories.

Betty is preceded in death by her husband of 39 years: Donald Banks; Daughter-in-Law: Janet Bucklin; and all of her ten brothers and sisters.

Left to cherish her memory are her children: Bruce Bucklin of Texas, Barry Bucklin (Bob Ault) of Ohio and Lisa Bucklin (Brian Gary) of Alabama; her grandchildren John, Matt, James, Emily, Ben, Lillian, Sam, Lindsey, Ian, and Collin; her six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM at Bolton Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow at 11AM. She will be laid to rest at Pinelawn Gardens.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to The ARC of Central Alabama.

Please sign online condolences at www.boltonfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Pinelawn Gardens

207 Hwy 47 South
Columbiana, AL 35051

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

Bolton Funeral Home
207 Hwy 47 South
PO Box 4
Columbiana, AL 35051
(205) 669-3179

Graveside Funeral Service

FEB 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bolton Funeral Home
207 Hwy 47 South
PO Box 4
Columbiana, AL 35051
(205) 669-3179

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Milton and Virginia's family purchased the Yellow Tulips and Purple Iris (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Betty Ruth (Smith) Banks.



Milton and Virginia's family - February 10, 2024 at 12:39 PM

LY

“ Fondly remember Betty from my teen years in Stoughton MA. My father and mother. John and Eileen Bamberry were friends of the family. So very sorry for your loss.
Condolences from Lynne Bamberry Young



Lynne Bamberry Young - February 08, 2024 at 07:06 PM

BH

“ 1 file added to the album Aunt Betty



Benjie Hughes - February 07, 2024 at 11:35 AM

PK

“ Sweet children of Aunt Betty I want you all to know she was much loved by nieces and nephews. I have loved her since a little person staying at Granddaddy Smith's house when the sisters were all still living at home. I thought I was right up there with them. Wyndell (her nephew) would also be there. We loved our Aunts. They made things special. Aunt Betty's brother wanted so badly for her to be name Baby Ruth (candy bar) that our grandmother named her Betty Ruth. How I love hearing all the stories of their growing up days.. A close bunch of sisters and brothers. My Dad Milton one of the brothers. Sweet Aunt Betty you were so loved for all your 88 years.
Love, Trish

Patricia Smith Kovalchick - February 06, 2024 at 04:00 PM