



Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford

May 17, 1934 - October 14, 2023

It is with deep sorrow that the Cranford family announces the death of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford, 89. Mrs. Cranford entered into rest on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Born in Hartsville, SC, she was the daughter of the late Cebron and Gladys Windham Watford.

The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home are caring for the family.

A graveside service to honor her life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2023, in Magnolia Cemetery with the Rev. Ladell Humphries officiating. The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

In her younger years, she loved to travel and visit places she had only read about. She was also very social, enjoyed “loafing” in town, and spending time with her friends. Recently, she was very thankful for her friends and her time spent with them at The Legacy.

While she enjoyed her friends, she valued her time with her family. Mama, as she was most affectionately known, loved hosting gatherings and cooking her memorable meals. Grandsons Russ and Brandon remember smelling the many aromas of what was being cooked. Russ fondly recalls Mama making

her famous sweet potato bread just for him. "Mama knew I loved her sweet potato bread and she knew exactly how I liked it -crispy on the corners or almost burnt." Brandon's favorite was making his way to her house on the morning of Thanksgiving while she cooked up a storm. "We always ate around one o'clock, but I couldn't stand it. I would watch the Thanksgiving parade while she cooked. She would always give me a biscuit and a piece of fatback before anyone else."

Her granddaughter, Whitney, remembers that even though she loved family gatherings she also savored quality time alone with family members. Whitney says, "We would spend countless hours together watching our favorite show, Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman, and playing cards. We would get into this banter where we would go back and forth quoting lines from the show. It usually ended in fits of laughter that were uncontrollable. She was the only person I could do this with, so the show has always been something special between us. As far as card playing, she loved Go Fish. That had become our Saturday routine - spending two hours playing endless rounds. Mama would talk some good smack talk to me too, and it was valid because she often won. I didn't stand a chance."

Mama was always a woman of class according to her granddaughter, Jamie. "Growing up in grade school, Grandparents Day was always my favorite. Every year, I looked forward to bringing my Mama Betty with me. People always said we looked so much alike, so one year we even dressed the same. 'Twins!' People told us, and I would feel a swell of pride to be seen beside such a beautiful woman. Mama was a woman who took pride in her appearance. While some might call it vanity, she called it self-respect. That's something I will always carry with me - take pride in yourself, just because."

Opinionated is just one word her son, Gene would say described her. "She would always speak her mind. If you asked her for her opinion, she would tell

you whether you liked it or not. I guess it was a red-head thing.”

She was a woman deeply rooted in her faith and love for the Lord. Her son Kim recalls some of the last words she ever said, which he will never forget. “She told Gene and me how much she loved us, and she spoke of the old hymn, ‘It Is Well With My Soul.’ She then repeated to us, ‘It is well with my soul. I’m ready.’ ”

After the death of her husband David, she often spoke of longing to be reunited with him. Her family rejoices with her in this reunion. She is now in the presence of her Savior. They are in awe of the legacy she leaves behind and will carry it on into the future.

Surviving are sons, Gene (Maxine) Cranford and Kim (Brenda) Cranford of Hartsville; grandchildren, Russ (Yvonne) Cranford, Brandon (Shannon) Cranford, Whitney Cranford, Jaimie Cranford; great-grandchildren, Marli Cranford, Mac Cranford, Triston Cranford and Gabe Cranford; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David Cranford; brother, Otis Watford; sisters, Louise Mims and Dorothy Ingram.

Memorials may be made to North Hartsville Baptist Church, 1117 Patrick Hwy., Hartsville, SC 29550

Cemetery Details

Magnolia Cemetery

140 South Cedar Lane
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3004

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Brown Pennington Atkins Funeral Home
306 West Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550
info@bpafuneralhome.com
<http://www.bpafuneralhome.com>

Graveside

OCT **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

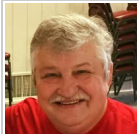
Magnolia Cemetery
140 South Cedar Lane
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3004

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Praying for you all as you celebrate your mother’s remarkable life.
Love to you all.

Lori and Randy Lowe - February 20, 2024 at 02:35 PM



“ Larry Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Betty Watford Cranford



Larry Cassidy - October 30, 2023 at 08:54 PM

DS

“ I am so sorry for your loss I remember her when I was a little girl we
lived a few streets over she was always friendly sending prayers.

Diane Watford Steen - October 20, 2023 at 01:33 PM

KC

“ Kim Bryant Clanton lit a candle in memory of
Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Kim Bryant Clanton - October 18, 2023 at 08:52 PM

KG

“ Gene and family, sorry to hear about your Mother, Kim and Carrol
Gainey

Kim and Carrol Gainey - October 18, 2023 at 09:23 AM

RM

“ Rodney And Kathy McFarland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Rodney and Kathy McFarland - October 17, 2023 at 11:47 AM

KE

“ Kaye Ewing lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Kaye Ewing - October 17, 2023 at 08:04 AM

DC

“ Danny And Freida Collins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Danny and Freida Collins - October 16, 2023 at 01:10 PM

JD

“ Our heartfelt condolences over the loss of someone so dearly cherished by her family and friends. Thoughts and prayers, now and in the coming days.



Jimmy and Cora Dial - October 16, 2023 at 01:03 PM

JS

“ *Kim & Brenda and the Cranford family sorry for your loss, thoughts & prayers.* ”



James & Joanne Smith - October 16, 2023 at 12:59 PM

MM

“ *Murphy Monk lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford* ”



Murphy Monk - October 16, 2023 at 12:32 PM

DC

“ *DeeDee Chisholm lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford* ”



DeeDee Chisholm - October 16, 2023 at 12:26 PM

TW

“ *Sending love to all..Terri* ”

Terri Northcutt Woodham - October 16, 2023 at 10:56 AM

CT

“ *Gene, Kim, and family. I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.* ”

Curtis Tyner - October 15, 2023 at 10:22 PM

RT

“ *Roberta Sloan Timmons sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Roberta Sloan Timmons - October 15, 2023 at 08:00 PM

RT

GENE ,MAX AND FAMILY. I am so sorry for your loss. I am covering this family with prayer and in the days to come. With much love, Roberta Driskell Timmons

Roberta Sloan Timmons - October 15, 2023 at 08:02 PM

RT

Much love to you all

Roberta Sloan Timmons - October 15, 2023 at 08:03 PM

SC

“ *Gene, Maxine and all of the Cranford family, Jimmy and I are so sorry for your loss. Praying God will wrap His arms around you and comfort you during this difficult time.*

Sherry Cross - October 15, 2023 at 05:35 PM

RS

“ *Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Rebecca Skinner - October 15, 2023 at 05:02 PM

WY

“ *Wilma Gainey Yarborough lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Wilma Gainey Yarborough - October 15, 2023 at 04:36 PM

TB

“ *Dear Sweet Cranford Family, I have so many precious memories with Betty and her loving husband Dave Cranford. I remember officiating Betty's mother's funeral, Gladys Watford, and shortly after officiating Betty's precious husband's homegoing service. Betty and Dave Cranford were my favorite people and after these many years I still remember our sweet times together. They taught this yankee about great southern food. Betty is now in the loving arms of her precious husband Dave! He was a faithful and loving deacon at Whispering Pines Baptist Church. I was honored to serve the Lord with such a great man! I know Betty and Dave are beside themselves with absolute joy and I can't keep from smiling knowing how much they LOVED each other! Go rest on Mount Zion sweet Betty! Oh happy day for you! I love you all so much!*
Tim Britton

Timothy Britton - October 15, 2023 at 04:04 PM

GG

“ *Gene, Kim and families, We are saddened for the loss of Ms. Betty! She was such a bright star for all who knew her! Lots of love and Prayers to you all.*



Gene and Teresa Gibson - October 15, 2023 at 01:16 PM

SM

“ *We loved Betty and will miss her. Sending prayers. Delores, Sheila and Bryan*



Sheila Marshall - October 15, 2023 at 12:44 PM

RC

“ *Such a sweet lady. We hold you in our prayers.*



Richard & Jane Cheshire - October 15, 2023 at 11:53 AM



“ *Mama Betty was a very special lady special mom grandma mother in law and friend. She lived a good life and we will miss her presence but will never forget her praying for all the family*



Crystal Minnehan - October 15, 2023 at 11:23 AM

JM

“ *Jerry Mclain sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



jerry mclain - October 15, 2023 at 11:06 AM

PJ

“ Kim, Gene, and family, So sorry about Betty. She was such a sweet lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. RIP Betty. We will see you again one day.

Pat James - October 15, 2023 at 10:25 AM

JB

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to the family and friends may God rap you all in his loving arms and give you the comfort and strength to get through this difficult time in your lives. Hold on to the memories cherish them with your heart.



Judy Bryant - October 15, 2023 at 09:43 AM

KM

“ Kathy Mcfarland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Kathy Mcfarland - October 15, 2023 at 09:34 AM

JG

“ Jewel Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Jewel Gibson - October 15, 2023 at 09:26 AM

VJ

“ Von & Linda Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Von & Linda Johnson - October 15, 2023 at 09:08 AM

TG

“ Mrs. Betty was a very wonderful lady always had a sweet word to say and a smile on her face. May God bless you all.



Tony Grant - October 15, 2023 at 07:28 AM

WG

“ Gene, Kim, and Family
We are so very sorry for your loss. Lifting prayers for your family.



William and Jean Gullede - October 15, 2023 at 01:54 AM

KL

“ Kim and family, I have fond memories of your mom. Prayers for comfort during this time. Love and hugs, Kathy Lawhon

Kathy Lawhon - October 15, 2023 at 01:13 AM

PB

“ *Phyllis Driggers Braddock sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Phyllis Driggers Braddock - October 15, 2023 at 12:04 AM

JL

“ *Kink remembering you in thoughts and prayers*



Judy and Marion Lane - October 14, 2023 at 11:15 PM

DC

“ *What a sweet beautiful lady.
Prayer for the entire family.
May she rest in peace.*

Dawn Crawford - October 14, 2023 at 09:09 PM

LN

“ *Our prayers are with you all! Blessed to have known Mama Betty*

Lynn Newsom - October 14, 2023 at 09:04 PM

DJ

“ *Dennis And Robin Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Dennis and Robin Johnson - October 14, 2023 at 08:32 PM

DI

“ *DianeSheffield-Wilkes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



DianeSheffield-Wilkes - October 14, 2023 at 08:32 PM

BM

“ *Bob Becky McWatty lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Bob Becky McWatty - October 14, 2023 at 08:25 PM

AS

“ *Al & Melinda Sansbury lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Al & Melinda Sansbury - October 14, 2023 at 06:22 PM

GO

“ *Kim and Family, so sorry to hear about Mrs Betty. We cover you in our thoughts and prayers. Always reflect back on the memories you cherished with her, They will last a lifetime. Much Love and prayers, Grady O'Neal*



Grady L O'Neal - October 14, 2023 at 06:20 PM

EB

“ *Eric And Jo Lynn Bradshaw lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Eric And Jo Lynn Bradshaw - October 14, 2023 at 05:42 PM

TF

“ *Dear Cranford Family...Love and prayers to all of you. Mrs. Betty was always sweet to me all the way back to my teen years at Whispering Pines. I know Mr. Cranford was waiting for her, too. Teresa Fisher*



Teresa H Fisher - October 14, 2023 at 05:29 PM

JH

“ *Gene and Kim, and rest of the family, I was so saddened to learn of Betty's passing. I'm so glad I was able to visit with her several times lately. She was a special lady and I was glad to be her friend. Jackie Howle*

Jackie Howle - October 14, 2023 at 05:16 PM

KN

“ *Kathy Norris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Kathy Norris - October 14, 2023 at 04:49 PM

CB

“ *Carol Elmore Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



carol elmore bryant - October 14, 2023 at 02:57 PM

CB

Prayers for Betty's family. Carol

carol elmore bryant - October 14, 2023 at 02:58 PM

SC

“ *Susan Braddock Clemmons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford*



Susan Braddock Clemmons - October 14, 2023 at 02:56 PM

FL

“ *Praying for your family! Sorry to hear about Mrs Betty.*

Fran Bailey Langley - October 14, 2023 at 02:39 PM

MG

“ Mitchell And Jackie Gainey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Watford Cranford



Mitchell and Jackie Gainey - October 14, 2023 at 02:19 PM

MG

Heaven has a new. Angel Mrs . Betty was a jewel to this earth. Prayers for the Family 🙏❤️🇺🇸

Mitchell and Jackie Gainey - October 14, 2023 at 02:21 PM

GL

Betty was a wonderful lady! She is now seeing her loving husband David in Heaven. She is rejoicing and has a new healthy body. Gerald and I always thought a lot of her. She was a friend to both of our families. Our prayers go out to all the family! May God comfort you and give you peace!

Gerald and Cathy Lynch - October 14, 2023 at 03:32 PM

JL

Gene , & all the Family , Ms. Betty was a Wonderful women and all of our family knew her our entire lives. She is @ peace now , may GOD BLESS your family.

Jennings M. Lloyd - October 15, 2023 at 05:56 PM