



## Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols

August 2, 1929 - February 20, 2025

The family of Betty Jo Hill Nichols, 95, of Hartsville, South Carolina, is saddened to announce that she went home to be with her Lord and Savior on February 20, 2025. She was born August 2, 1929, to Luke T. Hill and Jesse Mae Hill in Hartsville, South Carolina.

Betty Jo was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, John Steele Nichols; brothers, Boardman Hill, Alvin Hill, Rudolph Hill; sisters, Ottie Mae Chwalek, Margaret King Armstrong, Ella Mae Floyd, Vadere Moates; and adored grandson, Brent Steele Johnson.

She is survived by her daughter, Kris Nichols Johnson (Jerry); her son, John S. Nichols, Jr. (Elaine); her beloved grandchildren, Leslee N. Johnson and Blake J. Johnson, Ashley Nichols Suits (Burk), and Alison Nichols McNatt (Chris); her special great-grandchildren, Luke and Ben Johnson, Cormac Allen, Layton and BJ Suits, and Livia McNatt; and numerous nieces and nephews whom she dearly loved.

Betty Jo married John Nichols in 1947 and remained married until his death in 1981. During this time, she worked for many years as a secretary and dispatch associate for the Hartsville City Police Department. Then, she worked as an assistant in the Hartsville High School Band Music Program for over 20 years. In this role, she was a favorite of the students, helping to keep

their music, instruments, and uniforms together and everyone on schedule.

Through all these years, her faith in God, and love for family were up most of importance in her life. Hartsville First Baptist Church, with all its activities, from teaching children in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and also being active in the service groups within the church, were ways she showed her care, concern, and love for all God's children.

Additionally, she traveled to Zambia, Africa, for over 10 years on mission trips, completing her final trip in 2018 at age 89. Betty Jo also valued and participated in the national service club, Hartsville Pilot Club, for decades. She was most proud of the role the Pilot Club played in organizing swimming classes that taught hundreds of Hartsville's children to swim for over 20 years.

Her family was paramount in her life. She became "Mama Jo" upon the birth of her first grandchild. She was devoted to her grandchildren, always attending their various activities, and supported their musical development, gifting each grandchild their musical instrument of choice for band or orchestra. She never missed an opportunity to celebrate family and always served her special chocolate cake with homemade chocolate icing.

Betty Jo cherished her role of wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, friend and prayer warrior. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Our only consolation is that she is with her Heavenly Father and Savior, whom she loved so deeply, and her many friends and family who are welcoming her there with open arms in Heaven.

A celebration of her life will be held at 2 o'clock on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at First Baptist Church of Hartsville. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 104 East Home Avenue,  
Hartsville, SC 29550.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
104 E. Home Ave.  
Hartsville, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - March 01, 2025 at 11:21 AM

CB

*Such a remarkable lady. She touched so many of us in the band program. I can only hope to do as much.*

**Cary Byrd** - March 05, 2025 at 01:50 AM

SJ

“ *Sally Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



**Sally Johnson** - March 10, 2025 at 12:55 PM

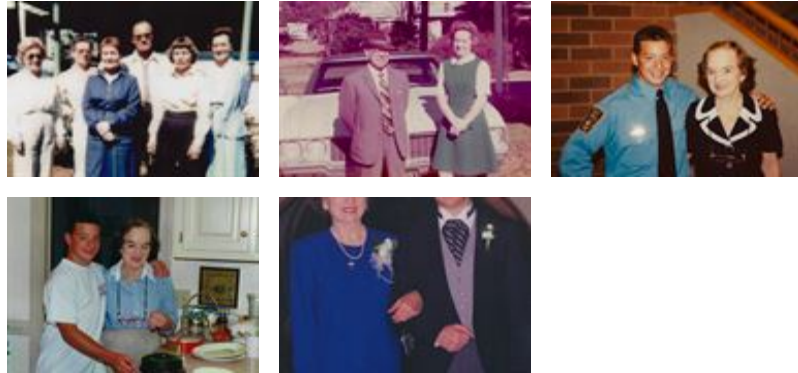
JM

“ *Mrs. Betty Jo made our whole world a more loving and smarter place. I am a student she taught and supported in the 1960's. I am ever grateful for her presence. So glad her family had her for 95 years. May your grief be short and your thanks be forever.*

**Jacque O Moore** - March 02, 2025 at 03:12 PM



“ 64 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - March 01, 2025 at 11:19 AM

RJ

*I never had many opportunities to meet Mrs Nichols, but I will always remember her as a sweet, kind and gracious lady. God Bless*

**Rex Johnson** - March 01, 2025 at 08:16 PM

LC

“ *LaJoyce C. Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



**LaJoyce C. Chapman** - March 01, 2025 at 09:49 AM

LS

“ To John and the Nichols family. Fred and I are so very sorry about your Mom. She was a Southern Lady for sure. Always when she would see me (generally at the Burry Bookstore) she never failed to ask about my family and how were things going. She certainly walked a Christian life. I am sure she will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. Remember those precious memories.

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**Lynn Jj Stephens** - February 28, 2025 at 10:21 PM

S1

“ Mrs Nichols was one of a kind. She was such a blessing to me. She didn't stop thinking of us as one of her kids after we graduated, and this was a testimony of how she felt about “us kids.”  
Forever will remember Mrs Nichols and her example will continue to be remembered.

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**Sharon Byram c/o 1986** - February 28, 2025 at 08:45 PM

SR

“ I am blessed and honored to have known Mrs. Betty Jo Nichols all my life. She was a wonderful Christian lady who set an example for others to follow. She was a pillar of her church and of her community.

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**Susan D. Reynolds** - February 28, 2025 at 07:11 PM

DC

“ Darleen Cribb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



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**Darleen Cribb** - February 28, 2025 at 04:09 PM

RJ

“ Betty Jo was an Angel. She is my sister in law Kris mother. She always visited those in need and those in nursing homes. She visited and checked on our mother as often as she could. She will be miss but she is united with families in heaven. Love you Ms. Nichols

Ronnie Johnson - February 28, 2025 at 11:07 AM

EM

“ I remember seeing her when I was in band or voting. She was always a sweet lady and had a smile on her face.

Emily - February 28, 2025 at 08:02 AM

MG

“ Monti Gray lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Monti Gray - February 28, 2025 at 08:00 AM

ED

“ Ms. Nichols was a joy to be around at Hartsville High School. She was loved by all the students which included the band members. Her smile was welcomed by everyone at all times.

Evelyn Smith Dampier - February 27, 2025 at 11:07 PM

JB

“ I met Ms. Nichols when I started working at HHS. She was always happy and a smile for all. Her band kids loved her and she them. May God wrap his loving arms around you during the next days and months to come.

Janelle Britt - February 27, 2025 at 09:10 PM

SB

“ Suzanne Skinner Beasley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Suzanne Skinner Beasley - February 27, 2025 at 05:08 PM

MG

“ Mike And Cynthia Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Mike And Cynthia Gardner - February 27, 2025 at 09:56 AM

S8

“ Susan Braddock Clemmons (HHS C/O 87) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Susan Braddock Clemmons (HHS C/O 87) - February 27, 2025 at 09:50 AM

RB

“ She looms large in my memories of First Baptist Church. 🙏 for the family

Ray Bell - February 27, 2025 at 08:50 AM

SC

“ Sherry Cross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Sherry Cross - February 27, 2025 at 06:56 AM

TJ

“ Troy (Woody) Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Troy (Woody) Johnson - February 26, 2025 at 08:48 PM

JG

“ Jimmy Ad Judy Gainey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Jimmy ad Judy Gainey - February 26, 2025 at 01:38 PM

KM

“ So sorry for the loss of your mom. She will be missed in our community. Our prayers are with John and Elaine and your family.



Kathy and Rodney McFarland - February 25, 2025 at 07:44 PM

BM

“ We all loved and respected Mrs. Nichols. We traveled this state with her help. The band students loved and respected her as much as we did. I'm sure God has a special place for her in heaven.

Billy and Gayle McDonald - February 25, 2025 at 06:49 PM

VB

“ A special lady has gone to be with the Lord. She will be missed. Prayers for the family during this time of grief. I will certainly miss our chats as Coconut and I take our walks around the Circle.

vernion G boyd - February 25, 2025 at 05:59 PM

TW

“ Mrs. Betty Joe was a real treasure. She touched so many lives through the HHS Band Programs. She was a fine Christian Lady. Prayers for the family.



Travis and Marilyn Walters - February 24, 2025 at 09:04 PM

KL

“ Prayers and hugs with lots of love for this precious family. A lady who loved life and family. My thoughts are with each of you

Kathy Lawhon - February 24, 2025 at 08:26 PM

KJ

“ *Kathi G. Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Kathi G. Johnson** - February 24, 2025 at 06:44 PM

JT

“ *I met her through the HHS Band 1972-1975. She was a true angel. My Dad passed during the fall of my senior year. She helped me get through that awful time. She along with my director Ted Lee attended the funeral halfway to Camden. Her brother in law "Mr. Nick" as I called him was my next door neighbor. She made a huge impact on this earth and now is enjoying the rewards in Heaven. She is probably in charge of all the music. Prayers to her family and friends.*

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**jane Tracy** - February 24, 2025 at 05:51 PM

GW

“ A wonderful, special, one of a kind lady. Full of class, manners, charm and civility. A true southern lady with a big compassionate heart. She had influence on so many, leaving her impact on generations. There will never be another one like Mrs. Nichols. Her grace, kindness, compassion are things I will never forget or the HUGE Cadillac she always drove. Quite the sight. A true southern belle, a steel magnolia if ever there was one!



*May the Souls of the faithful departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

*Greg Wilkins  
HHS Class of '81*

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**Greg Wilkins** - February 24, 2025 at 04:47 PM

SM

“ Stephanie Elmore McCullum lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



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**Stephanie Elmore McCullum** - February 24, 2025 at 02:25 PM

LR

“ My band days at HHS would not have been the same without Betty Jo Nichols. She kept things organized and running smoothly. All of our needs were taken care of by her on our trips, competitions, football games, and all other performances. She was a beloved member of First Baptist Church. Our prayers are with John, Elaine, and all family members.



Lester and Lori Reynolds - February 24, 2025 at 02:11 PM

LW

“ Letitia Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Letitia Ward - February 24, 2025 at 10:14 AM

MG

“ Mike & Cynthia Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Mike & Cynthia Gardner - February 24, 2025 at 09:32 AM

LW

“ Lisa O'Tuel Williamson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Lisa O'Tuel Williamson - February 24, 2025 at 09:29 AM

KG

“ *Kristie Howle Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Kristie Howle Gardner** - February 24, 2025 at 06:01 AM

LL

“ *Ms. Betty... you were the best band lady ever made. You were always there, encouraged us and made us feel safe, we just knew everything would be alright. When I would see you after high school you always remembered my name even though you were there for 1,000's of young people beginning their next life transitions. What a super hero and inspiration for many. Thank God for you...Love you* ❤️

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**Lori Lesieur** - February 24, 2025 at 12:25 AM

PH

“ *We the Hall Familu will miss her deeply. She has touch our lives and countless others she was with the band program when I myself was in band in the 60s then when my children and grandchildren were in the band as well. We all loved her and even after leaving the school she was always invested in our lives. There will never be anyone else like her. She was a blessing not just in band but to the entire community of Hartsville. She was a wonderful Godly woman and always did anything she could to help others.*

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**Patricia Hall** - February 23, 2025 at 11:16 PM

B'

“ Mrs. Nichols had a heart of a true gold, she loved to help and she loved the bands of Hartsville. I can only imagine the music she is enjoying in heaven. May she rest in peace.



Ben Jones {HJHS Band Director '02-'05} - February 23, 2025 at 10:49 PM

Roberta  
Timmons

“ I really loved this lady so much. She was such a large part of my life for the 6 years that I was a member of the HHS marching band. She was always ready to go on our many out of town trips to Bristol TN or Washington DC to march in the Cherry Blossom Parade. What a wonderful lady and band mom she was. She was just precious with the sweetest smile. To know her was to love her.



Roberta Timmons - February 23, 2025 at 09:00 PM

JG

“ Jewel Walters Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Jewel Walters Gibson - February 23, 2025 at 08:10 PM

CT

“ Cheryl Cromer Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Cheryl Cromer Taylor - February 23, 2025 at 07:10 PM

MP

“ So sorry for your loss. Betty Jo was my mentor and good friend. She was such a a bright light in my life. If it had not been for her I would not be in Charleston living my dream. I loved her dearly.

Myra Polson - February 23, 2025 at 03:31 PM

GO

“ One word best describes Mrs Nichols, Remarkable. Every time our paths crossed it was always a cheerful Good morning or good afternoon. I am going to miss her. Love and prayers to her family



Grady L O'Neal - February 23, 2025 at 02:58 PM

HB

“ Hilda Biggerstaff lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Hilda Biggerstaff - February 23, 2025 at 02:54 PM

CB

“ Tom & I are so very sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed. All of you have our deepest sympathy. Love, Cecelia Brown

Cecelia Brown - February 23, 2025 at 02:28 PM

LL

“ Lori Lesieur lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Lori Lesieur - February 23, 2025 at 02:10 PM

JA

“ Betty was a kind and sweet lady . I met her when I worked with the hpd

Jimmy I Andrews - February 23, 2025 at 02:05 PM

BG

“ Bonnie Gainey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Bonnie Gainey - February 23, 2025 at 01:46 PM

K'

“ *Kimberly L. Harriott(HHS C/O '05) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Kimberly L. Harriott(HHS C/O '05)** - February 23, 2025 at 01:13 PM

KM

“ *Kay Miller lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Kay Miller** - February 23, 2025 at 12:53 PM

JB

“ *Jeannie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Jeannie Brown** - February 23, 2025 at 10:30 AM

GG

“ *Prayers for family and friends!*



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**Gene and Teresa Gibson** - February 23, 2025 at 10:29 AM

RW

“ I loved her at First Baptist. My prayers go out to her family. *Becky Wadsworth Walker*

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**Rebecca Wadsworth Walker** - February 23, 2025 at 10:27 AM

PH

“ *Pamela Haynes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Pamela Haynes** - February 23, 2025 at 10:22 AM

PC

“ *Paul Cannarella lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Paul Cannarella** - February 23, 2025 at 09:38 AM

CC

“ *Christel Copeland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Christel Copeland** - February 23, 2025 at 09:19 AM

VP

“ Vickie Parker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols



Vickie Parker - February 23, 2025 at 09:02 AM

DB

“ What a wonderful friend that I will miss very much. Debbie Brown Wynne ❤️

Debbie Briwn-Wynne - February 23, 2025 at 09:00 AM

TB

“ I have many memories of Ms. Betty Jo from the Pilot Club years ago. You all have my sympathy and prayers.



Tonda Bunch - February 23, 2025 at 08:53 AM

TS

“ Mrs. Nichols was loved by so many. She was a small lady with a huge heart. John and Elaine and your whole family, our prayers are with you. Hers was a life well lived.

The Sturdivants - February 23, 2025 at 08:23 AM



“ *Robert Oneal lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Robert Oneal** - February 23, 2025 at 08:11 AM

DE

“ *Prayers of comfort lifted for the family. So very sorry for your loss.*



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**Diane Euten** - February 23, 2025 at 07:24 AM

PT

“ *Betty Jo was a busy person. Her kindness went with her to many band trips, many Pilot and Anchor Club meetings and conventions, First Baptist mission projects, athletic events for Ashley and Allison, Bingo at the nursing home... The list is endless. She will be missed. I'm glad I knew her* ❤️

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**Paula Terry** - February 23, 2025 at 06:59 AM

BF

*What a wonderful lady . Praying for family and endless friends.*

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**Brenda D Floyd** - February 23, 2025 at 05:36 PM

LS

“ *Lavonde Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Lavonde Smith** - February 23, 2025 at 01:30 AM

BD

“ *Aunt Betty you were a treasurer. Not only to your family, but the Hartsville community. You were so kind to me and my sister as we grew up. Rest in peace!*



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**Billy Dalrymple** - February 22, 2025 at 11:47 PM

BG

“ *Mrs Betty Jo made a lasting impression on the Hartsville High band students. When the band bus traveled, she was on it looking after our children. Prayers for the family.*

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**Bill Gaskins** - February 22, 2025 at 10:28 PM

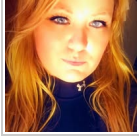
RS

“ *Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Rebecca Skinner** - February 22, 2025 at 10:25 PM



“ *Meg Harris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Meg Harris** - February 22, 2025 at 10:19 PM



“ *Dave Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jo Hill Nichols*



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**Dave Thompson** - February 22, 2025 at 08:55 PM