



Betty Lee McCardell

July 15, 1940 - December 15, 2019

Betty Lee McCardell, 79, entered into her final rest on December 15, 2019. Betty was born in Baltimore, Maryland to the late Elmer Otis and Ora Ann (Carey) Harris. Betty was the fourth of four children. Although the youngest, she would not hesitate to address things with her parents that she “perceived” as being unfair whether it was related to chores or how late you could stay out.

During the summer, Betty could be found spending time with maternal grandparents and cousins assisting with working the land, feeding the animals, or preparing breakfast, dinner and supper. She grew up with many “country” norms and mannerisms in spite of being raised in Baltimore. This would include:

- No housework or activities on Sundays
- Having black-eyed peas, greens and pork on January 1st
- No talking or watching TV when thundering and lightning
- Kids keeping quiet and still when “grown-ups” are talking

After graduating from Douglass Senior High School, Betty had applied to work in Stewart’s department store cafeteria. She was committed to lovingly serving others regardless of their biasness. She would see a silver lining in every cloud. When Betty was laid off by Stewart’s, she applied for jobs at several places and ended up getting a job working at hospital. She found her calling in nurturing and caring for those experiencing sickness and disease. She became a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1971. Almost two decades later, she attended and graduated from Anne Arundel County College Nursing Program and passed the state board for Registered Nurse in 1989 the first time she tested. Her motto was don’t say, “I can’t” say “show me how.”

Betty’s knowledge and skills as a health care professional did not end at Anne Arundel County College. She could be found volunteering for various educational programs that Saint Agnes Hospital provided. Moreover, she was a care giver for several family members up to their passing. She never accepted any money for providing care but would ask the recipients to just say a prayer for her. Anytime she heard someone coughing or

sneezing, the remedy was hot tea with lemon and honey and take Tylenol for pain.

Betty describes her spiritual journey as always serving God. Growing up, they were in church from sun up until sun down at Calvary Baptist church where her uncle was pastor. She remembers sitting with her siblings on the “mourner’s bench” and making the decision to accept Christ into her life at eleven years old. She began attending St. Edwards Catholic church in the 1970’s when she would babysit Ms. Eva Brown’s children and would be responsible for taking them to mass. Betty worked as part of the Hospitality committee, cooking and serving during repast at the church and serving food to the homeless on Saturdays. She was an active member of the Blessed Mother Sodality up till the time where her health would not allow her to attend regularly. She would always say, “I’m a Christian first who practices Catholicism.” Even when on hospice care, she would tell loved ones about the need to commit there life to Christ and trusting God.

After being a single parent for seven years, Betty met her soul-mate, LeRoy. Their love for each other was tangible to everyone who knew them. When not working, they would take the family and entire “neighborhood” to drive-in movies, Gino’s, Mr. G’s, or to the state park. Even during hard times, they would still unselfishly help others less fortunate by giving food or buying clothes for other families. These were just extensions of their love.

Betty considered everyone as family. It didn’t matter whether by blood or association, everyone was treated as family. You could depend on her attending various life events occurring with family and friends: births, graduations, weddings, and funerals. She was known for taking the “whole kitchen” whenever she traveled out of town or visited loved ones. This would include fried chicken, potato salad, bread, cake, and ice tea. If her first love was family, her second love was shopping. She would regularly visit the outlets at Reading and Lancaster in PA or to Rehoboth outlets in Delaware with her Vanity Fair and Gold Toe coupons. Everyone knew they were getting underclothes and socks for Christmas. Her shopping went to another level when QVC started being broadcasted on TV. If it was on easy pay and something for the kitchen, you can believe Betty purchased it.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, LeRoy and brothers Otis and Richard. She leaves to mourn five sons: Karl, Tony, Olen/Marco (Renee), Tim, and LeRoy/J.R. (LaHoma); twelve grandchildren: LaRhonda, Erica, Ashley, Tyesha (Brandon), Olen II (Kia), Timothy Jr. (Alexis), Chris (Kalin), Sarah, Calvin, Isaiah, Mylah, and Tiana; sister, Marian; sister-in-law, (Barbara), Niece/Daughter: Lynn (Will), Niece, Pam; Nephews: Curtis, Sidney, Carl, Richard (Toni), and a host of great grandchildren and cousins and friends.

Cemetery

**Maryland National Memorial
Park**

Laurel, MD,

Events

DEC 20 **Viewing** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US,
21215

DEC 21 **Wake** 11:30AM - 12:00PM

St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church
901 Poplar Grove St., Baltimore, MD, US,
21216

DEC 21 **Service** 12:00PM

St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church
901 Poplar Grove St., Baltimore, MD, US,
21216

Comments



“ Calvin sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Lee McCardell



Calvin - February 11 at 09:07 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - December 19, 2019 at 10:47 AM