



Betty Guthrie Thompson

March 17, 1941 - April 8, 2025

Betty Guthrie Thompson, 84, of Danville, VA died on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at Roman Eagle Rehabilitation and Health Care Center after a decline in health over several years.

Betty was born on March 17, 1941, daughter of the late Henry Guthrie and Catherine Johnson Guthrie.

Born and raised in Danville, she began her career working as a freelance court reporter for years and finished her career with the Danville Circuit Court. She was also a member of Unity Presbyterian Church.

On May 27, 1961, she married Elmer Noel Thompson, Jr.

In addition to her husband, Betty is survived by her son, Dr. Elmer Noel Thompson, III (Karen), Ridgeley, WV; her daughter, Anne Daniel (Keith), Kannapolis, NC; and her grandchildren, Will Daniel, Greenville, NC; Dr. John Thompson (Lindsay), Philadelphia, PA; and Caitlin Thompson, Arlington, VA.

Betty embraced life with joy and warmth, finding beauty in every moment and never meeting a stranger along the way.

She met the love of her life, Noel, as a young teenager after Noel's father, a

man with only sons, told him he should talk to the sweet girl down the street - because he'd always wanted a daughter. That introduction was the start of a beautiful love story that would span a lifetime. Betty was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother, always cheering from the sidelines and offering her unwavering support. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy.

Betty had a playful spirit and a deep love for tradition, especially at Christmastime. From the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas Day, she proudly wore one of her beloved Christmas sweaters, spreading holiday cheer wherever she went. The beach was one of her happiest places, with Emerald Isle holding a special place in her heart during cherished family trips. Throughout her life, Betty was blessed with lasting friendships, none more treasured than her beloved "Steel Magnolias." Her kind spirit, generous heart, and zest for life touched all who knew her. Betty's life was full of love, laughter, and grace - a beautiful example of a life well lived.

Her family would like to thank her amazing friends, sitters, the staff of the Kernodle Clinic, and Roman Eagle for the care she received as her health declined over the last two years.

A celebration of life service for Betty will be conducted on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 2:00 P.M. at the Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel with the Reverend Jeff Wright and Reverend John Losee officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to Unity Presbyterian Church, 835 Franklin Turnpike, Danville, VA 24540.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is respectfully serving the Thompson family.

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

APR **26**. 2:00 PM (Est)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel
5858 Riverside Drive
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 793-5511
info@wrenn-yeatts.com
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

Tribute Wall

JD

“ A real southern lady, was a joy working with her for many years. RIP

Jim Dooley

Jim Dppley - April 26, 2025 at 10:28 AM

LP

“ This wonderfully lovely lady who encompassed all that is good in life was one of my mom’s bestest friends! Betty was 11 years younger than my mom and I was 16 years younger than Betty so Betty always called me her “sister daughter” and I always called her my “sister mama”! AJ and Betty always celebrated “joie de vivre” together! Just imagine how they have “stirred the pot” in heaven!!! ☐

Lisa Greenberg Plazzo - April 22, 2025 at 05:48 PM

BT

“ Bobby Jr., Jennifer and Tyson Thompson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Guthrie Thompson.

Bobby Jr., Jennifer and Tyson Thompson - April 22, 2025 at 09:58 AM

BT

“ Bobby Jr., Jennifer and Tyson Thompson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Betty Guthrie Thompson.



Bobby Jr., Jennifer and Tyson Thompson - April 22, 2025 at 09:58 AM

BF

“ My grandmother was a Guthrie, Henry's cousin. Betty and I didn't find our kinship until later in life, but she always went out of her way to get across a room to speak to me. That meant a lot to me. I will miss seeing her at the Christmas symphony.

*My sincere sympathy.
Bill Farthing*

Bill Farthing - April 21, 2025 at 08:17 PM

LP

“ Sending my deepest sympathy to Noel and all of the Thompson family. My memories of Betty as a kind friendly beautiful person will always be remembered. I pray that God will comfort you as you grieve this great loss. My family and I lived on Park Avenue for many years and remember the Guthrie family. May God be with you now and give you precious memories of Betty. You are in my prayers. 🙏

Linda Beale Porter - April 14, 2025 at 12:35 PM

EP

“ Our family sends our love and wonderful memories of Betty and Noel and children while we lived as neighbors for so many years. My Dad always and still to this day speaks of his fondest times with Betty. We will miss Betty for her warm smile. laughter, and care and concern for others. Noel, Noel, III , and Ann, you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

*Eva Perkins and family
Earl Morris*

Eva Perkins - April 13, 2025 at 02:22 PM

WM

“ I grew up across the street from the Thompson family. I only have fond memories of Ms. Thompson. She was always happy and friendly. I remember many summer days in 1970s spent in their house with Noel, III. She was a tremendously nice lady as is the whole family.

Winston Morris

Winston Morris - April 13, 2025 at 02:17 PM

ED

“ Terry and I are so sorry and sad to hear about Betty. I have such wonderful and loving memories of my first cousin, Betty. When I was a very little girl, she would always paint one of my fingernails before she took off on a date with Noel. She was such a great lady and will really be missed. Love, Elaine Johnson Donaldson

Elaine Donaldson - April 12, 2025 at 12:40 PM

JS

“ What do you say when there's so much to express? Mrs. Thompson, as I first knew her in high school, was a steadfast and loving supporter of all her children's endeavors. As a close friend of Noel III, I was fortunate to experience that support firsthand over many years—in band, college, and beyond. Her encouragement was a constant, and her generosity left a lasting impression.

If I were to recount all the cherished memories and thoughtful gestures she shared, this would be far too long. I will treasure those moments deeply, and her kindness will forever remain in my heart. Mrs. Thompson truly left her mark.

May God's peace and comfort be with Noel Jr., Noel my dear friend, Anne, and your families during this time of loss.

Jenelle Otersen Samson - April 12, 2025 at 12:06 AM

LB

“ To all the Thompsons, so sorry for your loss but happy for Betty's "gain".
My dear sweet, kind and beautiful friend will be remembered by our family from the years we lived on Park Avenue & school mates at Schoolfield & GWHS. Betty was a very special girl and your grief is "great" because your love for her is enormous! My thoughts and prayers are with you. I know what you are going thru because my husband Bobby, passed May 29, 2023. HEAVEN IS LOOKING BETTER EVERY DAY! Much love,
Latrell Beale Francis

Latrell B. Francis - April 11, 2025 at 11:48 PM

JA

“ So sorry for your loss, Betty was one of the sweetest people I know. Enjoyed talking to her when she would come shopping at K-Mart. Will keep you all in my prayers.

Janet Alderson - April 11, 2025 at 07:40 PM

BB

“ Betty was a lovely person, devoted to her church and family.
Belinda Baker

Belinda Baker - April 11, 2025 at 06:57 PM

MW

“ One of the sweetest people I have ever known. I always enjoyed visiting with Betty and Noel, I will miss her terribly.

Marlene Watlington - April 11, 2025 at 06:48 PM

LD

“ Betty was such a kind-hearted and sweet lady that touched many lives. She will be deeply missed by all of us that had the pleasure to know her. Our utmost sympathy is extended to Noel and the entire family. Linda, Scooter, and Hunter Dunn



Linda Dunn - April 11, 2025 at 05:30 PM

GG

*“ To the Entire Family,
My deepest sympathy are extended to you! Betty was a wonderful person and shared her kind nature with everyone that was fortunate enough to be touched by her presence. A true loss to our entire community.*

My thoughts and prayers will flow out to all of you during this difficult time!

Gerald Gibson - April 11, 2025 at 04:17 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty Guthrie Thompson.



April 11, 2025 at 01:32 PM