



## Betty Hawthorne Whitaker

December 7, 1932 - March 16, 2024

Betty Hawthorne Whitaker, passed away March 16, 2024. She was born down the road from where she resided for the past 30+ years, she was however, from Texas Northeastern corner and proudly raised in “The Edwards Bottoms”, near the Titus County community of Sugar Hill.

Betty’s love of her life, David, passed away September 22, 2009. She is survived by her one and only child, Charles L. Whitaker, his wife Sarah Reeder Whitaker and “The Girls”, Ashlee Ruby and Brandon and Jessica Lynn.

Born in the middle of the great depression, Betty’s family farmed but mainly worked in the East Texas and Permian Basin oil fields. She was one of nine children, 5 girls and 4 boys. She lost her brother Dudley when he was 14 from kidney disease and brother Fred when he was 16 from an oilfield accident. Her other siblings all deceased, W.A. Hawthorne who made Odessa home, Grady Hawthorne of Longview, Lottie Via of Talco, Ruby Adams of Leveretts Chapel, Ophelia Henry of Palestine, Laura Mae Robinson of Fort Worth. She is also preceded in death by nephews James Via and wife Jerry Ann, Mickey Via, nieces Shelba and Jo Baby from Haughton, Louisiana. She is survived by Mickey’s wife Martha and nephew Bill Adams who loved to visit Betty on his way to his farm in Normangee and great niece Tammy Walker. They were all very fond of Betty and the feeling was mutual. As a child growing up in rural Titus County, life was hardscrabble but enjoyable and exciting. She would tell stories of riding horses along White Oak Creek. She attended elementary

school in Wilkinson community and later Talco public schools from where she graduated in 1951. She gained her nursing degree and worked at Titus County Memorial Hospital. When David gained the Elementary Principal's position at Forney ISD, the family uprooted from Talco and moved to Forney. Betty would work for 15 years at the Kaufman Hospital. After Charles graduated from high school, David became Superintendent at Canton ISD and Canton was their new home. Betty worked as a Librarian and still nursed. She also loved working for friends at First Monday. David would later gain the school superintendent position with Fairfield ISD and away they went to Fairfield and Freestone County in 1983. David retired from there and Betty continued to work for the Fairfield schools until retirement in 2007. She was an active member of Fairfield's First Baptist Church and for years sang in the choir. Her hobbies were working in her yard and watching Maverick Basketball and Longhorn Football. She loved following Fairfield High School Football and the Girl's basketball team. She was loving but opinionated and put her family first. Birthdays, Christmas holidays were extra special events for Charles, Sarah and the girls. She lived a long and full life and will be greatly missed. She was extra special.

Visitation will be 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Thursday, March 21, 2024, at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Celebration of life will be 11:00 am Friday, March 22, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Fairfield with Pastor Leon Thomas and Andrew Wroth officiating. Interment will be at Kemp Cemetery at 3:00pm. Pallbearers will be Dennis Issacs, Kenneth Tidrow, Ralph Lane, John Taylor, Halley Richmond, David Lott, Gerald Green Stephen Ponder. Honorary pallbearer will be Brandon Rice.

# Cemetery Details

## Kemp Cemetery

Church Road  
Kemp, TX 75143

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 21. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Fairfield  
450 East Main Street  
Fairfield, TX 75840  
(903) 389-9217  
[info@griffin-roughton.com](mailto:info@griffin-roughton.com)

## Celebration of Life

MAR 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
303 S Mount  
Fairfield, TX 75840

# Tribute Wall



“ Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker



Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home - March 21, 2024 at 03:53 PM

NB

“ Mr. Whitaker hired me at CISD and were lasting friends for Mr. Whitaker and Betty. She was a hoot and think she was good for Mr. Whitaker.

I'm sorry I have not kept up with her the last few years. She would come to Canton and work for Fairrie and Larry Cox along with their girls and me.

She loved her family and life.

Nan Bailey, 530 West Elm, Canton, Texas 75103



NAN bailey - March 29, 2024 at 08:17 AM

PO

I called Aunt Betty every week up until Feb.2024 Wish I would have knew I would have came she wasvery sweet and loving woman to me we talked for hours she me and her talked about the older daysof her and my mother she will be loved and missed

Pawnee oldham - December 28, 2024 at 12:38 PM

JF

“ Judy McCuller and family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.



Judy McCuller and family - March 21, 2024 at 03:09 PM

JF

“ Judy McCuller and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.

Judy McCuller and family - March 21, 2024 at 03:09 PM

JS

“ Jacqueline S. purchased the Simply Elegant Spatiphyllum for the family of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.



Jacqueline S. - March 20, 2024 at 05:25 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.



March 20, 2024 at 04:03 PM

UC

“ *United Way of Kaufman County purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.*



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**United Way of Kaufman County** - March 20, 2024 at 02:53 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.*



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March 20, 2024 at 11:33 AM

JS

“ *Joseph S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.*

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**Joseph S.** - March 20, 2024 at 11:33 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.*



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March 20, 2024 at 11:05 AM

JF

“ John & Lana Rice and the Kemp Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.

John & Lana Rice and the Kemp Family - March 20, 2024 at 11:05 AM

CC

“ Betty and I had a close relationship. We did not see eye to eye on a lot of things. But we were able to keep our relationship strong. We would just say "I'm sorry" and move on. I have a lot of regrets with Betty. I have two daughters with cancer. One was just diagnosed in November, and I have made and am still making trips to Victoria every Sunday to keep her 4 kids during her chemo. I fractured my pelvis the first of June and was bed ridden and on crutches for 3 months. I was not available to be a good friend to Betty. I feel very lost and saddened that I did not get to have any time with her the last months of her life. She was truly a unique individual! I still can't believe she is gone. I am praying for your family! Cindy Capps

Cindy Capps - March 20, 2024 at 10:44 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Betty Hawthorne Whitaker.



March 20, 2024 at 08:20 AM



“ *Patsy Stark lit a candle in memory of Betty Whitaker*



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**Patsy Stark** - March 18, 2024 at 08:36 PM



*Reading Mrs. Betty's; obituary one can't help but think what a grand reunion she must be having, Sweet Lady. Rip.*

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**Patsy Stark** - March 20, 2024 at 03:49 AM



“ *Betty was not only a dear friend, but a coworker & akin to a local grandparent to our kids. She never failed to call on my birthday & then called my daughter, as we shared that special day. We moved away almost 30 years ago, but we still kept in touch with cards & calls. She will be missed.*

*Sherry Kent*

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**Sherry Kent** - March 18, 2024 at 11:36 AM