



Betty Jo Markham

August 20, 1934 - December 24, 2024

Betty Jo Markham was born on August 20, 1934, in Rush Springs, Oklahoma, to Johnny Joseph Harrison and Florence (Curtis) Harrison. She entered heaven at the age of 90 on December 24, 2024. She was born during the Great Depression, the youngest of 11 children, and her father delivered all 11 children at home. Her family moved to Roswell, New Mexico, in 1938, where she grew up picking and chopping cotton, and the money she earned was used to buy her school clothes and school supplies.

Some of Betty's fondest memories were growing up in the East Grand Plains farming community and attending East Grand Plains School, where she was the valedictorian of her eighth-grade class. Betty married Kenneth Markham on July 24, 1951, in Roswell, New Mexico. Kenneth affectionately called her his "Sweet Pea." They met at East Grand Plains School in fifth grade and farmed in the East Grand Plains community for many years. She dropped out of Roswell High School to marry Kenneth and was just three credits shy of graduating. However, she later earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at the age of 57 with a 3.90 GPA.

She was a member of the Silent Generation, and she possessed the qualities of calmness, contentment, fairness, frugality, honesty, humility, loyalty, and kindness. She never uttered a profane word nor spoke ill of others. "Still waters run deep," described Betty, who was a quiet person with deep thoughts, and she knew that having two ears and one mouth meant listening more than speaking.

Three daughters and their husbands survive Betty: Debra Paschall, and Dennis of Granbury, Texas; Kathy Flores and Jose of Hobbs, New Mexico; and Cynthia Markham and Bob Frazee of Portales, New Mexico. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Betty is survived by one brother, Dee Harrison, of Porum, Oklahoma, and one sister, Bernice Mathews, of Roswell, New Mexico.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Markham; her parents, Johnny and Florence (Curtis) Harrison; six brothers, Leonard Harrison, Doyle Harrison, Earl Harrison,

Fred Harrison, Ambrose Harrison, and Bob Harrison; and two sisters, Alma Higgins and Irene Beeman.

God and family were always her top priorities. She did not value material possessions and knew this world was not her home. Surely, God greeted her with the words, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

A funeral service for Betty will be at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 13, 2025, at Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home in Roswell, New Mexico, with the graveside service following at South Park Cemetery.

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 13. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory
2609 South Main
Roswell, NM 88203
(575) 622-5888
abfh@andersonbethany.com

Funeral Service

JAN 13. 1:00 PM (MT)

Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory
2609 South Main
Roswell, NM 88203
(575) 622-5888
abfh@andersonbethany.com

Interment Following Services

JAN 13 (MT)

South Park Cemetery
3101 South Main St
Roswell, NM 88203

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memorial video*



Anderson - Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory - March 31, 2025 at 01:49 PM

OA

“ Our love, Janet and Andy Andrade purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Betty Jo Markham.



Our love, Janet and Andy Andrade - January 10, 2025 at 01:36 PM

“ For as long as I can remember, Aunt Betty has been such a special part of our family life. We were so privileged to have so many aunts, uncles and cousins on my mom's side of the family. Most holidays were celebrated with the Markhams, Uncle Dee's family and usually several others. Easter was always the largest get together. We'd start off the day NY going to church and then it was off to the Markhams. Mom always took lots of pies and homemade rolls. Betty always brought chocolate cake and banana pudding, made from scratch.



Even though Betty was a quiet woman, her eyes always spoke volumes and you could see love in those eyes. The last time I visited Aunt Betty at the Retirement Ranch, I remember above all how a big smile lit up her face when she saw Candy, Ike and I.

When she went back to school I was so proud of her. To return to school at the age of 57 and ultimately receive her BA degree was an amazing achievement.

I'm sure she is having a great reunion time with Uncle Kenneth, mom and dad, Nancy and Johnny, Aunt Lorene and so many others. She made our lives a sweeter journey.

Instead of saying "goodbye, Aunt Betty", I'll just say "See you later. I love you Aunt Betty!"

Dale A Beeman - January 09, 2025 at 02:15 PM

JM

“ That’s my Betty Jo! She is pretty special to me and I have so many wonderful memories of her. I loved making her laugh and spending time with her. She always asked when I was coming over. I still vision her sitting twiddling those thumbs. She enjoyed a card or board game. She used to come eat lunch with me at school. I have her toes. I adored her denim skirt with lace ruffles that she wore on round up Sunday so mom made me a matching one. She was a strong woman who could endure pain like no one I’ve ever known. A woman of few words, but I knew she loved me. She was a hard working woman. She led by example. We used to make sure each other had eaten our black eye peas on New Years. I did this year grandma and asked the Lord to tell you I did 😊. Until we meet again my Betsy Boop I’ll cherish these memories and many more! ps...I’m glad you never really got run over by a reindeer, but that will be our song!



Jennifer Maraga - January 06, 2025 at 08:44 PM