



Elizabeth "Betty" Murphy

March 30, 1928 - March 28, 2026

Elizabeth "Betty" Murphy, a devoted wife, mother, and woman of deep and abiding faith, passed away surrounded by loved ones on March 28, 2026, just two days shy of her 98th birthday. Born on March 30, 1928, Betty's long life was a testament to love, service, and quiet strength.

As a preacher's wife, Betty faithfully stood beside her beloved husband, Floyd, for 69 years, supporting his ministry and nurturing her family with grace and devotion. She was the heart of her home—a loving mother of five who gave selflessly and unconditionally, creating a life filled with warmth, faith, and togetherness.

Music was one of Betty's greatest gifts and joys. Entirely self-taught, she could sit at the piano and play nearly anything by ear, filling rooms—and hearts—with song. As a choir director, singer, pianist, and performer, she used her talents to glorify God and uplift others, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the blessing of hearing her play or sing.

Betty had a spirit of curiosity and adventure. She loved to travel and explore the world around her. She had once dreamed of becoming an archaeologist—a reflection of her lifelong curiosity and sense of wonder. She was also proud of her heritage and often shared that she was a relative of President George Washington, a connection she held with a sense of honor and family pride. Known for her sharp mind and quick wit, Betty had a wonderful sense of humor and brought laughter and light to those around her. Yet no matter where life took her, her greatest joy was always found in her family and in her

faith. She was known for her kindness, gentle presence, and unwavering love—a source of comfort, wisdom, and encouragement to all who knew her. She is survived by her daughters, Ellen (Jerry Kinlaw), Jayne, and Kathleen (Jeff Zimmerman), and her son, Peter; her cherished grandchildren, Patrick (Kami), Christopher (Amy), Ben, Elizabeth (Brady Thews), and Eric; her beloved great-grandchildren, Jordan (John Patterson), Dakota, Brenna, and Liam; and five great-great-grandchildren, with one more on the way. She was preceded in Heaven by her husband, Reverend Floyd A. Murphy, and her son, John, whom she now joins in eternal peace.

Betty's life was a beautiful reflection of faith in action—a legacy of love, music, and devotion that will live on in the hearts of her family and all who were touched by her life. Though she will be deeply missed, there is comfort in knowing she has been welcomed home.

A viewing for family and friends will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Phelps Funeral Home in Winchester, Virginia.

A memorial service will be planned for the near future to celebrate her courageous and blessed life.

She will be dearly missed, lovingly remembered, and forever held in our hearts.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to the non-profit:

Pinnacle Living
Retired Clergy Housing
120 Eastshore Drive. Suite 130
Glen Allen, Va. 23059

contact: Charles Wickham
804-347-8391

Upcoming Events

Service

MAY 23. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Kernstown United Methodist Church
3239 Valley Pike
Winchester, VA 22602

Reception lunch to follow the service.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Phelps Funeral Chapel
311 Hope Drive
Winchester, VA 22601

Tribute Wall

JK

“ Celebrating a life filled with much love, acceptance, wisdom, & “adoption” of myself & especially of my husband Gregg. Betty & her husband Rev Floyd gave Gregg a safe & Godly refuge in his early Navy career that became an ever bigger blessing to us in his Navy career & in our marriage. So very blessed & grateful for this blessed friendship & family!! Sending much love to the Murphy family from the Kinder family!

Janice Kinder - April 04 at 09:33 AM

DD

“ Betty and Kathleen were my "pew buddies" some Sundays at Kernstown UMC. We would sing the hymns in 3-part harmony. Betty had such a beautiful smile, especially when she was worshiping and singing. She was a very special lady. I was honored to attend her 90th Birthday Skating Party. That lady was sure braver than me. It was such a delightful event and so many people came to share her 90 years and celebrate her with so much love. My deepest sympathy to her children and their families. May you be comforted by the many wonderful memories of your dear mother. She and your father are singing beautifully together for God, Christ Jesus, and all of His Angels.

Danna Doyle - April 03 at 10:00 PM

YK

“ Dear Jayne and her family. I’m so sorry for your loss. I can’t imagine how difficult this must be for you. Please know that I’m here for you—whether you need someone to talk to, sit together, or just be in silence.

Your mom was such an incredible person. I’ll always remember how much she loved adventure and roller skating—it really showed her spirit. She will always be remembered.

Sending you so much strength and love during this time.
With love, Yosi and Monica

Yosi Karahashi - April 03 at 09:13 PM

MP

Dear Jayne and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I am sure your mom will always be close to you and grateful for the care, and above, for caring forward her legacy of art, joy, love for life and strength.

Jayne, I will say it one more time: you are so loved and admired and we are all here to support you and your family through this time. Sending you much love, kindness and energy.

Love, Mariana Paes and the flamenco Rhode Island family

Mariana Paes - April 11 at 07:16 PM

EI

“ Our Betty (and nickname Margaret to me as I was her Eloise) was a force of love and a shining example in teaching us how spirit and faith can lead to eternal life and that family however defined is the base of all things. There was never a conversation we had that did not leave me smiling. May your soul know how much and how many you have touched. Blessed our days have been with you.

Eileen - April 01 at 09:32 PM

PD

“ Sending our love and support from Cambridge, MA, and The Dance Complex. Knowing of her devotion to her mother through our many years of working with Jayne, we are sending our individual and collective condolences. Meeting Betty a few years ago here, for the occasion of Jayne receiving an "Unsung Hero" award for service to the dance community, it was evident that this woman was - still is! - a shining soul and presence to be cherished. Our big arms around all who knew and loved her. - All of us at The Dance Complex

Peter DiMuro - April 01 at 01:26 PM

DD

“ Back in the 70s while serving in Salem, Virginia, Jayne and Kathleen calmly scooted over and allowed me to become part of their loving family. The call on Rev. Floyd Murphy's life was to win souls for Christ, and he trampled down all the weeds to help me discover my pathway to Jesus, thereby establishing himself as my spiritual father. While, I grew to love Betty deeply, I never related to her as a mother figure, but rather as a dear friend. My memories of our times together seem always surrounded by laughter. Sometimes, as I recall, we would see humor and burst out laughing at times that were not quite appropriate church behavior. Since the 1971 this family has been involved at some level and every major milestone of my life. I cannot articulate adequately the powerful impact the Murphy family has had upon my life. Thank you, family for sharing them with me. Because you did, I will see them again. Thank you too for loving them and caring for them so fully and completely in their later years. How wonderfully and beautifully you honored them before a selfish, self-centered the world. Well done! —Dianne Decker— Roanoke, Virginia

DIANNE DECKER - March 31 at 04:06 PM

GN

What can I say about my deep friendship with Miss Betty, one based on the love of the gift of "Music" and the power it has on bringing such joy. We would include a time of her playing the piano and me singing at all my visits. I will cherish those times and her smile joining in on the old favorite hymns. Another memory was being at her skating rink Birthday party, and, she skated. It was a birthday to remember. Thanks to her daughters keeping her at home and staying with her being whatever she needed or wanted to do. It was an honor and blessing to have her as my friend and to make such treasured memories. So as for now I bid her God's speed and the peace that surpasses all understanding. May she join the heavenly choir to praise the Lord along with the other Saints. I will miss seeing you, but you'll forever be in my heart. RIP!! 🙏



Gwendolyn Nickens - April 01 at 07:03 PM

RG

“ Betty,
You were such a sweet lady! Always greeted us with open arms. I will miss you!

Rosalie Gray - March 31 at 02:14 PM

GG

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Glenda P Gebhardt - March 31 at 11:05 AM

GG

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Glenda P Gebhardt - March 31 at 10:53 AM

GG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Glenda P Gebhardt - March 31 at 10:34 AM