



Betty S. Heifner

March 24, 1924 - February 11, 2010

Betty Sue Heifner, 85, of Bolivar, MO, went to be with her Lord February 11, 2010. She was born March 24, 1924, in Huntsville, MO to Clarence and Esther Heifner. Betty attended Huntsville schools until her senior year when she moved with her sister Anna Marie to Shenandoah, IA. While completing high school, Betty and Anna sang for many shows on KMA radio. From 1940 to 1945, Betty and Anna, better known as the Heifner Sisters, would sing on countless radio programs in Columbia, MO, Shenandoah, IA, Atlanta, GA, Cincinnati, OH, and St. Louis, MO. Following her radio career, Betty worked for the phone company in Moberly, MO as an operator, saving her money for college. In 1952, Betty graduated from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, MO, then a two-year institution. She completed her college education at William Jewell in 1955, receiving a BA in Sociology. Throughout her life, Betty was actively involved in church activities including teaching and leadership roles. Feeling a call to full time Christian service, Betty enrolled in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. She graduated with a Masters of Religious Education in 1957, the first year women were awarded degrees as well as allowed to live on campus. Upon graduation Betty joined the staff at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC as Youth Director. For the next several years she worked in various church staff positions. While serving as Educational Director of Memorial Baptist Church, Columbia, MO, Betty decided to take classes at the University of Missouri. She said it helped her to keep in touch with the education world and the students. Those few classes

led her to return to school to work on a Master of Arts in sociology. In 1969 she received her degree and planned to find a job teaching sociology. Southwest Baptist College had recently expanded its curriculum to include sociology as a major, allowing Betty to return to her alma mater. Betty made Bolivar her home for the last 41 years. She taught hundreds of students, helping them better understand their own call to Christian service. She continued to minister through her various leadership roles in the First Baptist Church and served her community on the board of the Polk County Community Center and the Bolivar Sheltered Workshop. Betty is survived by her sister, Anna Marie Miller of Moberly, MO, brother Leland Heifner, Moberly, MO and many loving family members. She was preceded in death by her mother and father. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 AM Friday, Feb. 19, 2010 at Patton Funeral Home, Huntsville. Inurnment will follow in the Huntsville City Cemetery. A second memorial service will be at 10:00 AM Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 at the Esquire in Bolivar under the direction of Murray Funeral Home, Bolivar. Donations in memory of Betty may be made to the Bolivar Area Community Foundation, c/o Murray Funeral Home, P O Box 506, Bolivar, MO 65613.

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Tribute Wall

DT

“ My earliest memory with Betty was walking with her in a gravel parking lot that was a part of the SBU campus. She told me that I would pick up the gravel pieces while showing them to her and say "wound wocks". She said it tickled her. She wound up taking my brother, Chris, and I in at young ages. I could tell at times that she was challenged by this undertaking but she was a very headstrong person and she did everything that she could possibly do to make us happy. It seemed to make her happy doing so. She always did her best including us in activities with the church. I remember multiple lock-ins we participated in and camping trips. She liked to take us traveling with her during the summers when it was affordable. She took us to Elephant Rock State Park and places that had to do with Mark Twain. She liked taking us to visit caves and anything to do with the great outdoors really. Every night she would read us a book or two and then when they were finished she would read us scripture from her Bible based on what was in her Open Windows pamphlets she would acquire from the church. She had a special honk that she would drive around town honking so that if we heard it that we knew she was looking for us and would come find her for whatever she needed. She had us include a lot of our young peers in activities. She always made sure that we felt like we were included and loved. Even during the hard times when we didn't see eye to eye. The memories and things I could speak on just keeps on going. I could talk about memories I have involving Betty for hours if not days and still have more to say about what she did for us and what she ultimately sacrificed for our happiness and safety. For a long time growing up I felt pretty broken due to choices that left us in the predicament we found ourselves in but looking back on things I truly believe that maybe we were luckier for it. God only knows what kind of man I'd be today without the leadership she provided for me. I wish now that I'm an adult I could sit with her and thank her for what she did but I know she knew I was grateful when she left this place. It was actually one of the last conversations I had with her before she passed. Thank you Betty. I miss our days together on this earth but I know some day I will see you again. I wish you could have had the chance to have known my kids.

Dustin Tyree - September 18, 2024 at 01:04 AM



“ *Betty S. Heifner*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Betty S. Heifner*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM

CT

“ *But he was my great-aunt she took me in as a young preteen and raised me as her own she was a wonderful woman in many ways. I miss her dearly, but I'm thankful that she was part of my life because without Betty I probably would have ended up in prison or dead. She taught me a lot of morals for life and about God and she was a great supporter of my music and my creative nature. Betty Love My Dog Spike he was a little chihuahua she would take him walking and cuddle with him and that's funny because she hated dogs because she had gotten bit at a young age will riding a bike. If you knew Betty you knew she was amazing, she do just about anything for anyone and was always looking to help someone. Is a very strong Christian lady had a lot to do with First Baptist Church in Bolivar Missouri which is where she had me become a member. I have thousands and thousands of memories Betty and I could go on forever. But knew that I carried a lot of built up anger and Hate I remember the last thing she said to me the day before she died was, Chris you need to let go a lot of that hate and ! So I did found the first person I could think of that I hated the most and I forgave them. To this day I can still hear her when I need to hear her it makes me laugh sometimes and sometimes it makes me cry we didn't always see eye-to-eye but I know she loved me. It's something I can't say for very many people. She may not have liked the fact that I became a musician but at the end she was happy to see me happy. I wish she was still here I have so much I'd like to talk to her about*

Christopher Tyree - October 28, 2019 at 11:35 PM

DV

“ Betty was our youth leader at Carpenter St Baptist Church when I was growing up in Moberly. Then when she was going to school in Columbia and I was working there we both attended Memorial and kept in touch. Then when I married and moved to Halfway and she was in Bolivar we kept in touch. Mom (Ruby Ballew) and my sister (Judy Foster) visited her several times in her home and after her move to Butterfield. Betty was always a good friend of the family.
Mary (Ballew) Voris

Dean & Mary (Ballew) Voris - February 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CT

Thank you for going and visiting her when you guys did

Christopher Tyree - October 28, 2019 at 11:38 PM