



Mrs. Bettye Hawkins

January 10, 1925 - January 18, 2017

Mrs. Bettye Hawkins passed away peaceably on January 18, 2017, surrounded by family and friends at her home. Mary Elizabeth (Bettye Brooks) Foreman Hawkins, 92, lost her battle with death, as her body simply wore out. But what a glorious life she lived.

Bettye was born January 10, 1925, in the Delta town of Schlater, Mississippi, to Caley Artis and Moorman Brooks Foreman. A relative visited the Foremans and their newborn first child and promptly proclaimed Miss Mary Elizabeth would henceforth be called Bettye Brooks. And she was.

She had many great friends growing up in Schlater (an ability to attract affection from others marked her entire life), but three relationships would remain close through their golden years: Alice Rie Strode, Mary Jane Thatch and Annie Catherine Baird. They shared life's highs and lows and intimacies: playing with dolls to forging families; planning weddings and facilitating funerals. They shared an unbroken, inviolate and enviable bond of friendship.

Bettye Brooks was the unquestioned red-haired, blue-eyed belle of Schlater, mixing brains with beauty. She was Homecoming Queen and valedictorian before heading off to Delta State Teachers College.

It was there that she met the love of her life, Gains Benjamin Hawkins Sr., an

English/history major recently returned to school following WWII. After both graduated from Delta State, they married in 1947.

Gains taught high school history briefly before the U.S. Army called, inviting him to re-up as an officer during the Korean War. A 29-year highly decorated military career ensued, before his retirement in 1970 with the rank of colonel.

The Hawkins family, eventually growing to five children, traveled the world with tours in Japan, California, Virginia, Hawaii and Maryland. Bettye sparkled as an Army officer's wife, hosting military brass at their home or socializing with political and Army elite at a military ball. She effused effortless Southern charm while revealing a razor-sharp intellect. She was a woman of genteel steel, a quality her husband and children knew well.

Bettye reveled as mother of two sons and three daughters, oldest to youngest 12 years apart. Gains was often away weeks and months at a time on active duty, so Bettye commanded the household, but with a soothing touch and voice. She pushed her kids gently—they knew their mom believed in them fully and would support their life choices. She would forever be at their side, encouraging or consoling, and always, always their biggest champion, urging them to do their best because they were the best.

Gains retired from the Army in 1970 and the family moved to West Point, Miss, minus the boys now adults. The family enthusiastically blended into the community. Gains ultimately became director of the Dugan nursing home and the girls married and started their own families. Bettye went to work as a secretary at Eastside Elementary School.

After Gains' death in 1987, she increased her involvement in the West Point community, volunteering at the Chamber of Commerce, the hospital and a host of other organizations. She joined the Red Hat Society.

Her maternal grandfather was a Methodist minister and her Christian faith permeated her life. She expressed her faith through acts of kindness and generosity with The Golden Rule her guide.

She was an active member of First Presbyterian Church for some 45 years. Her genteel steel was likely drawn from her internalization of her Christian beliefs—an unyielding faith in Jesus Christ as her Savior and a commitment of compassion, kindness and mutual respect to all the people she encountered.

God's Glory granted her a glorious life and she embraced it.

Bettye was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her brother, Caley Artist Foreman Jr., and a grandson, Joseph Colin Hawkins.

She is survived by her children: Gains Benjamin Hawkins Jr. (Holly) of Salisbury, MD; Caley Casper Hawkins (Liz) of Little Rock, AR; Patricia Brooks Johnson of Albuquerque, NM; Polly Anne Timmerman (Brooks); and Elizabeth Moorman Stringer (Robert) of Starkville, MS.

She adored her grandchildren: Bleecker Marquez (Chris); Stacey Harris (Cory); Trent Woolbright (Alexis); Brad Pettit (Brooke); Ben Hawkins; Evan Hawkins (Shannon); Kristen Rowe Hawkins; Marti Hoster (DJ); Casey Hawkins; Mary Elizabeth Stringer; and Kathryn Anne Stringer.

She has five great grandchildren: Nick Harris, Kylie Harris, Presley Pettit, Orion Marquez and Parker Pettit.

Funeral services will be Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 2 p.m. from First Presbyterian Church in West Point. A reception will follow the funeral at First

Presbyterian. The graveside ceremony is private. Visitation will be Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Calvert Funeral Home in West Point.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 5:00 PM (CT)

Calvert Funeral Home
P.O. Box 77
27600 East Main Street
West Point, MS 39773
(662) 494-2833
info@calvertfuneralhome.com
<https://www.calvertfuneralhome.com/>

Service -First Presbyterian Church in West Point

JAN 22. 2:00 PM (CT)

Calvert Funeral Home
P.O. Box 77
27600 East Main Street
West Point, MS 39773
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Tribute Wall

DF

“ *Danna Herbert and Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins.*



Danna Herbert and Family - January 21, 2017 at 10:47 AM

SE

“ *Miss Betty left a life well-lived, a family well-raised & memories that will never fade. What better legacy could any of us hope for. Our prayers of support & love are with you.*

Steve Ellis

Steve Ellis - January 21, 2017 at 08:24 AM

WH

“ *I loved Mrs. Bettye. She was so kind and thoughtful to everyone at East Side school where I started work in 1982 when the educational refund act was passed during William Winter term of office. She was a southern lady with style and grace. She and Mrs. Lucille Crump were a magnificent team. Happy, sweet, kind and always smiling Mrs. Bettye loved people. I'm thankful God allowed me to be a part of this wonderful lady's life.*

Wanda Hudson - January 21, 2017 at 08:03 AM

DT

“ Debra Tillman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins



Debra Tillman - January 20, 2017 at 07:29 PM

DT

Love you Aunt Bettye!!!

Debra Tillman - January 20, 2017 at 08:07 PM

AB

“ Mrs. Hawkins was one of the sweetest ladies I have ever known. I worked at East Side Elementary with her. She never forgot me and always asked about my son when I saw her. She was a true joy to be around.

Anglyn Busby

anglyn busby - January 20, 2017 at 06:26 PM



“ Although I never met her, I Do know what a wonderful influence she was on all around her. I have heard many Wonderful stories from her grandson Trent. He adored her and always talked so lovingly of her, I wish I could have known her. God bless and help her family with their loss.

Janet Erambert - January 20, 2017 at 06:06 PM

LM

“ to all the Hawkins - children - Mrs Bettye was the very picture of a true southern belle She was always gracious and I never saw her with a hair out of place. She will be missed - love you and think of you often Polly

LYNDA MIZE - January 20, 2017 at 05:44 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins.



January 20, 2017 at 02:13 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins.



January 20, 2017 at 01:53 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins.



January 20, 2017 at 01:50 PM

BR

“ *Bill and Lynne Rosamond purchased the Delicious Delights Basket for the family of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins.*



Bill and Lynne Rosamond - January 20, 2017 at 10:05 AM

YW

“ *Your family at WPGX purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins.*



Your family at WPGX - January 20, 2017 at 09:40 AM

MS

“ *I did not know Mrs. Hawkins. She must have been a remarkable lady because I do know her wonderful daughter, Polly. You're in my thoughts and prayers.*

Millicent Smith - January 20, 2017 at 08:36 AM

RM

To Liz & Polly - my thoughts and prayers are with you. Your Mom was one of a kind, so sweet and such a beautiful heart.

Robin Massey - January 20, 2017 at 06:56 PM

JC

“ To Polly and your family,
My deepest sympathy and prayers are with you all during the time of grief. I know your mom knew how much she was loved and cherished from the way you all doted over her so much. I know in the coming days you will share so many happy memories of your pasts with her and of her. Just remember all the joy she brought to your lives and will continue to bring in the memories she leaves behind, but she is not gone now she can follow you all anywhere you may go, because you have gained an angel to watch over you as you go forth in your lives.

We love you all,
Jennifer, Landon and Madison Cameron

Jennifer Cameron - January 20, 2017 at 08:02 AM

JO

“ Mrs. Bettye Hawkins was West Point's First Lady. She will be missed. She was an asset to NMMC Hospital Auxilliary. Our prayers are with her family.

Carla & Juanita O'Brian
Mary Fontenot

Juanita O'Brian - January 20, 2017 at 07:00 AM

KA

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Hawkins, but I've heard so much about her through her daughter, Polly. The dedication and Love Polly so willingly gave her mom is a testament to the Life an Love Mrs. Hawkins showed her children. I'm very sorry for this loss In the Hawkins Family.

kecia Adams - January 20, 2017 at 05:00 AM

JW

“ I am so sorry Caley, to hear about the loss of your mother. Prayers for you and your family.

Charlie and Judy White

Judy White - January 19, 2017 at 10:17 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bettye Hawkins.



January 19, 2017 at 08:17 PM

MC

“ I am sorry for your loss. Betty was a kind and loving woman.

Maryrose Fritz Custer - January 19, 2017 at 07:29 PM

LW

“ What a beautifully written tribute for Mrs. Bettye. She was all that and more. She leaves a precious legacy for her family. It was our privilege to know her and call her a part of our family. May God bring your sweetest memories to mind whenever you feel sad and May you know that she is resting at peace now in her Heavenly Home with your Dad. With our love and sympathy~
John & Linda Woolbright



Linda Woolbright - January 19, 2017 at 06:45 PM

JE

“ *What a beautiful tribute to one who was loved by all; admired for her sweet, caring spirit; and who modeled for us how to be a lady while "owning" her independent, intellectual sense of self and style. We loved Memama as if she were one of our own and our lives are richer for having known her. She was one proud "Mama" and "Memama".... And rightfully so, because you each reflect her wonderful influence in your lives. Our love and prayers are with you.*

Love, Jean, Steve, Jim and Elizabeth

jean Ellis - January 19, 2017 at 05:48 PM

BT

“ *I'm so sorry, Pat, for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family.*

Bonnie Thiem - January 19, 2017 at 04:35 PM

ST

“ *With sympathy and friendship,*

Susanne Allen Thomas

Susanne Allen Thomas - January 19, 2017 at 04:16 PM