



Betty Jean "GG" Byrd

SEP 2, 2024



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Betty Jean "GG" Byrd

SEP 2, 2024

Betty Jean [Parish] Byrd, affectionately known as GG, passed away on September 2, 2024, in Fort Myers, FL, at the age of 90. Born in Ocoee, Florida, she spent much of her early childhood in the care of her grandmother, Ethel Kurtz, in the Sanford/Orlando area, which instilled in her a lifelong love for singing and performing.

Betty was a beloved matriarch whose life was dedicated to her family. As the eldest child during the Great Depression, she helped raise her siblings after moving to Merritt Island, FL. Her culinary skills were renowned, especially her "Boil Chocolate Cake," a favorite among all who knew her. Her home was always open to family and friends in need, embodying her nurturing spirit.

She leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion that is vividly remembered by her family and all who knew her.

She is survived by her daughters, Cheryle Lee [Larry Lee] and Dina Fontaine; sons, Richard E. Byrd Jr. [Robin] and Eric Byrd [Jennifer]; 15 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren. Her brother - John Parish; and sister- Gloria Parish Lunsford.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Richard Edward Byrd Sr.; son, Thomas Eugene Byrd; and son-in-law, Dusty Fontaine. Her parents Percy & Bessie [Thompson] Parish. Her siblings, Don Parish, Bobby Parish, Neal Parish and Sharon [Parish]Terrell.

A celebration of Betty's life will be held at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens on Saturday, October 5, at 11 am, followed by a reception. Her final resting place will be in the Garden at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens, Fort Myers, FL.





Events

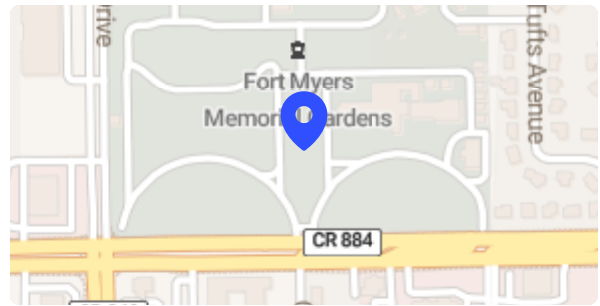
Betty Jean "GG" Byrd

Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, October 5, 2024

 11:00 AM ET

 **Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home**
1589 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers FL 33907





Tribute Wall

Betty Jean "GG" Byrd

MB

Melanie B. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Betty.

October 4 at 3:20 PM



MG

Much Love, Cathy And Greg sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Byrd family.

October 4 at 6:32 AM



DF

Dina Fontaine posted:

It doesnt seem possible just a year ago the family was making plans for mom's 90th birthday party on October 1st and this year are are planning her celebration of Life on October 5th. I am so glad we had her party last year - she got to be Queen of the party all day & she loved it! She got to see & be with most of her family & friends & celebrate making it to 90 looking good & in pretty darn good shape!! have said many times I hope I'm as healthy as mom when I'm her age...up to the time of her passing mom had been in pretty good health. In only the last couple of years did she slow down. After dad passed she had kept very busy with her family & friends & would drive out of town or out of state to visit them. She was very happy living with Rick & Robin these last 14 years - they looked out for & took wonderful care of her and I am so thankful for that. She still loved to cook & would be in the kitchen cooking dinner many times when I'd come visit her at Rick's...I loved getting to visit & be able to enjoy a home cooked meal by mom.I miss her Friday night phone calls Wishing me a happy Sabbath & checking up on me. She remembered everyone's birthday & always sent a card...I dont know how she kept up with all those grandchildren. But she loved them all & they all loved their GG. My heart is so sad at the loss of you mom - but I look forward to the day we will all be together again...love you forever. Dina

September 27 at 9:38 PM

FG

From All Of Us At Golden Gate sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Byrd family.

September 19 at 6:00 AM





Tribute Wall

Betty Jean "GG" Byrd



Richard Byrd Jr posted:

I was fortunate enough to have had mom living with us for the last 14 years of her life ... we traveled with her and enjoyed holidays and just every day life ... mom cooked and cleaned right up until the end ... miss you mom.

September 18 at 9:10 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Betty by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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