



## Betty Elizabeth DeWitt

October 8, 1930 - February 1, 2014

Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" McPherson DeWitt, 83, died Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014 at her home in Newnan, Ga.

Mrs. DeWitt was born Oct. 8, 1930 in Birmingham, Ala., the daughter of Charles Earl and Pearl McPherson. Her family lived in Brooklyn, N.Y. for a year before moving to Jacksonville, Fla.

Mrs. DeWitt was recognized as a child prodigy on the piano. She graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville at age 16. After graduation, she was employed at Furchgott's Department Store in Jacksonville where she was selected to be the right hand to the Comptroller.

She attended Huntington College in Montgomery, Ala.

Betty McPherson was introduced to Eirvin M. "Toby" DeWitt by his mother, upon his return from service in Panama. They were married Jan. 20, 1951.

She became an Army wife who spent most of her early marriage alone while her husband attended Officer Candidate School in New Jersey.

She gave birth to their first daughter, Sharon "Sherri" Elizabeth, at St. Albans Naval Hospital in St. Albans, N.Y., Feb. 17, 1953. Immediately thereafter, Toby DeWitt was assigned to the Atmospheric Nuclear Test in Nevada.

The DeWitt's second daughter, Karen Sue, was born Aug. 12, 1956 while they were stationed in Okinawa. Karen was later killed in an automobile accident Jan. 3, 2005.

Together the DeWitt family enjoyed living in Paris, France for three and a half years while Toby was stationed at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). The family traveled widely in Europe and enjoyed experiencing various cultures and cuisine. Betty often volunteered with school field trips for both girls. She gained a great appreciation of French wine.

Later they loved living in Wiesbaden, Germany.

She did not drive or drink coffee when she married. Betty learned to drive with the help of a neighbor and a car full of small children. When she first drank coffee, it had to be laced with cream and sugar. When she attended ladies' luncheons, she said the cream and sugar were always at the other end of the table, so she learned to drink and enjoy her coffee black.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Betty was an exceptional seamstress. She made most of her daughters' clothing even after they attended college. She also was an expert at cross stitch and needlepoint, sharing her knowledge and expertise in Newnan, where the DeWitts settled upon Toby's retirement from the Army in 1967. She and her husband ran a telephone answering service for 25 years and operated a stitchery shop in Newnan.

Betty enjoyed being able to put down roots after life in the Army where they had moved 21 times in 15 years. In Newnan, Betty formed and led a Girl Scout troop for several years. Some of her girls from her troop have kept in touch. She joined and participated in both garden and bridge clubs. She also loved curling up with a good book.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Toby; her daughter, Sherri Brown (Dave); her brother, Charles Earl McPherson Jr. (Shirley); three grandsons, Stuart, Matthew and Andrew; a granddaughter, Katie; several nephews and a number of cousins – all of whom has remained close over the years.

Betty was an exceptional woman, wife and mother, and everyone who knew her loved her. She felt she lived an extraordinary life with wonderful blessings in it. She dearly loved her family.

Betty was always happy, and the world was a much better place for having her in it.

She chose to be cremated, and there will be no service. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.  
McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## **McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory**

38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Tribute Wall

BD

“ Toby, Sherri, Dave, Charlie and Shirley, I am so very sorry to learn of Betty's death. For so many years she was kind of like a second mom to me and grandmom to my girls. She taught me cross-stitching and I have numerous things hanging in my house that she guided me on. She was smart, kind, compassionate and always, always laughing. I will never forget that laugh - makes me smile right now just to remember it. She was my friend for 35+ years and I will never forget her. May your tears and grief soon turn to smiles and laughter as you remember the good times and memories you shared with Betty thru the years. All my love, Jen

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**Betty DeWitt** - February 25, 2014 at 08:25 AM

FF

“ I am sorry to hear about Miss Betty. She was always so kind to me. I am glad that she will now be reunited with Karen. My prayers are with the family.

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**Frank Farmer** - February 06, 2014 at 02:41 PM

BH

“ Whilst I never had the pleasure to meet Betty in person I was so happy that we met via internet and did indeed communicate with the aid of a web cam. I will always remember Betty for the wonderful smile she had, I know there will be so many who will miss her. My deepest condolences to Toby and family, It's the little things, the small, everyday occurrences that you'll remember. The laughs, the stories, the smiles. And even though it seems like you can never recover from your loss, it is these very memories that will help push the pain away and bring back the smiles. Sending my love to you Toby across the miles I wish I could be there for you. x

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**Barbara Hunt** - February 05, 2014 at 07:21 PM

GC

“ Dear Sherri, I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I have so many good memories of her and your family. Think of you often. Will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Gail

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**Gail Cannon** - February 05, 2014 at 08:37 AM

JG

“ Toby and Sherri I am so sorry to read of Betty's passing and my heart breaks for you and all her family and friends who knew her. I worked with Toby for several year and didn't get to know Betty until I started going to Newnan to the cross stitch/frame shop. Such a lovely, talented, and gracious person. She touched the lives of many, I'm sure. My heart is sad just knowing she is no longer with us.

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**Jean Gaissert** - February 04, 2014 at 02:58 PM

SK

“ Toby, Sherri, and all the Family we will all miss Betty so much. She was a dear friend to me, we had Eastern Pilot brothers and helped an newly retired military family how to live in the South East. She was a great friend to go shopping to Atlanta for a day and only have a wonderful lunch and bring home ideas for Prom, special events day for sewing our girls dress and etc. I'm glad our families had those great times together. Wayne, I and the Children will truly miss her. May God Bless your family now and always.

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**Sandra Ketchum** - February 04, 2014 at 02:14 PM

BP

“ Betty was a dear friend as well as a cousin. (I married into the family in 1969 and she welcomed me into my "Newnan family"! ) She was a lovely woman that I spend many hours talking with and for those times, I am extremley grateful. She will be greatly missed. My prayers are for her family...much love to them all.

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**Bettye C. Pennington** - February 04, 2014 at 08:37 AM

BS

“ My dear cousin, and Sherrie, Dave, and grandchildren. Betty was a great lady and beautiful inside and out. We all loved her and you have my deepest sympathy. God bless.

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**Brenda Saxon** - February 04, 2014 at 08:14 AM

PB

“ We are so fortunate to have had Betty as a friend and neighbor. She was such a gracious and lovely lady. Betty, you will missed.

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**Paul and Virginia Boyce** - February 03, 2014 at 09:16 PM

DR

“ Toby and family, I am so sorry to hear of Betty's death. She was such a wonderful, neighbor and friend. I still have several pieces of cross-stich that she taught me to do. I will be praying for all of you.

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**Donna Rainey** - February 03, 2014 at 06:55 PM