



Betty Monk Rhea

March 13, 1937 - December 1, 2023

Betty Monk Rhea, 86, of Newnan, GA passed away December 1, 2023. She was born March 13, 1937 in Augusta, GA to the late Robert S. Monk and Helen Chavous Monk. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Rhea.

Betty came into this world a fighter and left the same way. When she was born in 1937, weighing only 2 pounds, the doctors did not give her parents much hope. They wrapped her in a cotton blanket and put her under a lamp to keep warm. Five months later, weighing five pounds, she was able to go home. It was such a joyous occasion that the Augusta newspaper did a story about little Betty going home.

Betty met her husband John, in church, while he was stationed at Fort Gordon. They married in 1962, and proceeded to have three daughters. John's work had the family living in Virginia, Illinois, New York, New Hampshire and finally back to Georgia. Betty loved traveling and was able to visit many states and countries as she joined John on business trips. Her favorite place to visit was London, England. After retirement, they continued their passion for travel with many road trips.

Prior to marriage, Betty was a skilled bookkeeper in a bank. The skills she mastered carried over to keeping meticulous records, and a budget for the

household. She was a savvy shopper, known to scope out the grocery advertisements to clip coupons. All the deals were tallied and Betty would visit multiple grocery stores on her weekly shopping day. At one point, Betty earned her real estate license. She was so very proud because she served as the buyer's and seller's agent on the sale of one home, her own, earning her all the commission! Careful management of finances allowed John and Betty to provide their girls and grandchildren many enrichment activities, and family trips across the country. Betty was an expert at navigation, mapping out the most scenic routes to travel.

Outside of keeping a household, Betty enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading the newspaper, and watching shows such as Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. If you were Betty's friend, you frequently went out to lunch with her and she never forgot your birthday. Another known fact about Betty was her affection for baseball and the Atlanta Braves. When home, she never missed a game. If traveling, the game was on the radio. A game schedule with scores was always posted in her kitchen. One of the great memories in her life was catching a home run ball at Turner Field! Weeks following this miraculous event, she was recognized by total strangers as the woman they saw on TV!

Betty was a longtime, active member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Newnan. A few of her favorite activities were selling tickets at the yearly BBQ and helping with the Christmas Drive-Thru Nativity.

The memorial service is Friday, December 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at Cornerstone United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Brian Germano officiating. The family will greet friends at the church prior to the service from 2:00 to 4:00. There will be a private interment at Oak Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Cornerstone United Methodist Church, 2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Rd, Newnan, GA 30265.

Betty loved snowmen at Christmastime. Feel free to wear your favorite snowman attire to the service.

Survivors include daughters, Debbie (Rick) Watton, Bobbi (Charles) Deling, Christy (Brian) Epperson; grandchildren, Kelly Watton, Kyle Watton, Dylan Lannen, Austin (Kelly) Lannen, and Autumn (Anthony) Brady; great-grandchildren, Mason Lannen; Willow, Leigha, and Clover Brady; step brother Daily Monk.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone United Methodist Church
2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Road
Newnan, GA 30265

Funeral Service

DEC 8. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone United Methodist Church
2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Road
Newnan, GA 30265

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Betty Monk Rhea*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - December 11, 2023 at 10:01 AM

KP

I loved this and seeing all the family pictures! Wonderful family memories!!! Loved this video and seeing all the memories!

Karen Pulvino - December 29, 2023 at 06:49 AM

BD

Thank you, Karen! I'm so thankful Dad took so many photographs over the years.

Bobbi Deling - December 31, 2023 at 01:41 PM

KP

“ *I grew up in Liverpool, New York with both Betty and John, going to Northminister Presbyterian Church every week. I met the Organist this past fall at Veteran's Fish Fry in Liverpool and remembered my parents. Small world.*

Karen Pulvino - December 29, 2023 at 01:31 AM

BD

Thanks for commenting, Karen. I have so many memories of our years of friendship in Liverpool.

Bobbi Deling - December 31, 2023 at 01:43 PM

“ (Part 1 - Message Daughter shared at memorial service)

My name is Bobbi. I am Betty's middle daughter. I spoke at my father's funeral and knew I would speak at mother's funeral, too. Growing up, my mother and I had a bit of a rocky relationship. Looking back now, I think she saw a lot of herself in me. Over the years, into my adulthood, we grew close and spent much time together. I'd like to share some things about my mother which were not in the obituary. Let's begin with a childhood memory.

Dad was out of town frequently as he traveled for work. This meant, our mother had to come up with a survival plan for dealing with 3 girls who no doubt were a handful. I think she prized quiet times, without us girls in her hair. I'm sure there are mothers her who can relate. While I know my parents were on a tight budget, my mother made sure the funds were always available so my sisters and I could participate in activities such as summer camps, day camps, swimming lessons, girl scouts, vacation bible school. In the summer, our parents would get us a membership to the local pool. She'd drop us off there all day. We always had activities year round to keep us busy. While I'm sure she wanted us to have all these experiences, it also helped her keep her sanity. The number one "cool mom" thing she did every year was allow us girls to turn the basement into a spook (haunted) house on Halloween. We'd spend many days working on preparations, then we'd invite the neighborhood kids to go through. One time, we rigged up a slide for the kids to go down, landing barefoot in a pile of cooked spaghetti noodles. When it was time to clean up the spook house, mom was in the basement helping to scrape up the spaghetti which had dried into the concrete. Truly, I don't remember her complaining. Likely it was worth all the scraping to have had us girls busy and entertained.

One thing my mother loved to do was go to the theater to see Broadway shows. I wish I'd kept track of all the shows we saw together. In the beginning, she purchased 2 season tickets for

herself and my father When a show came about that Dad didn't want to see, I'd fill in. Then, she just started getting 3 tickets to include me all the time. There may have been an ulterior motive to having me go along; possibly it was so I would do the Atlanta driving and not my father. If you ever rode with my father, you'd know what I mean. We'd go out to lunch beforehand or dinner afterward. Mom loved to eat out more than anything. If an outing didn't include a meal out, it almost wasn't worth it to her. I was still taking my mother out to eat and for drives around town up until the end.

In the obituary we shared that our mother enjoyed road trips with our dad. What wasn't mentioned was the yearly road trips the two of us would take together. Every summer, we would plan some sort of getaway for the two of us. Sometimes these trips were many states away and others were closer to home. My father and my husband got the houses to themselves and a bit of peace and quiet while we were gone. It was a win win for everyone. Here is a list of some of destinations which come to mind.

Georgia: Helen, St. Simon's Island , Augusta, Savannah

Alabama: Birmingham, Boaz for overnight shopping trips around the holidays.

Tennessee: Nashville, Chattanooga

South Carolina: Beaufort, Hilton Head

North Carolina: Asheville

NH, PA, NY, VA, and one trip by air to Illinois.

Bobbi Deling - December 15, 2023 at 08:52 AM

“ (Part 2)

I'm not sure if any of you know this; however, my mother had a fourth career. Her obituary talked about being a bookkeeper before marriage, a homemaker and a very brief stint as a real estate agent. What it did not mention was that for 29 years, mom was a teacher's assistant to me! This was an extremely low paying job, and as all of us know in the teaching profession, we don't do it for the pay! The pay my mother received was simply the joy of helping her daughter survive teaching, day to day over 29 years, saving her countless hours of time. While Mom truly loved helping me with school work, there was just one catch. She would only assist behind the scenes, from home or in the classroom when students were not present. At the beginning and end of every school year, my mother would come to school to help me set up and clean up the classroom. Through the school year, she would grade countless stacks of papers for me. In my early years of teaching, I was convinced the more grades I took on students' work, the better. So, mom was always grading papers. My assistant didn't just grade papers. I went through a phase where students were learning to sew with a needle and thread. They would practice stitching designs on fabric which were later turned into pillows. I'd bring the fabric pieces home to my mother as she had the sewing machine. For the life of me, I could not remember how to thread the machine. Mom helped me sew countless pillows over time. In the second half of my teaching years, I started teaching money management and budgeting to students in upper elementary grades. My mother couldn't be happier as this subject matter was right up her alley! Students had individual checkbooks to keep balanced as they wrote checks for expenses throughout the school year. At the end of the year, I needed to know if the students had kept their checkbooks balanced, otherwise, they would owe a bank fine. To be honest, what I took on was way more than one teacher could handle. My brain never could have handled balancing a year's worth of entries in 40 to 50 students' checkbooks. So, I brought them all home to mom. She would get out her adding machine and go at it, double checking her work.

She'd use a highlighter to mark where errors were made and notate what the final balance was for each student. I used to instruct students, to write clearly. If the students wrote a sloppy 9, and to mom it looked like a 4, she had permission to go with the 4. So, while my mother was not physically present in the classroom with students, she was very present from afar. Those students worked to write as neat as possible, carefully computing their entries, to avoid errors which would be detected by Mom. There is no way I could have done what I did in the classroom without the love and support of my mother for so many years.

My mother and I had a very strong bond. In this next chapter of life, it will be very different for me not having my mother day to day. While our days of road trips and being my teaching assistant had passed, Mom and I visited most days, had lunches out a couple times a week, and talked on the phone every day. I will miss having my source of information for anything I wanted to know from years past. I will miss my mother, my dear friend, until we meet again. Love you, Mom.

Bobbi Deling - December 15, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *Three Cross Throw was purchased for the family of Betty Monk Rhea.*



December 10, 2023 at 09:05 PM



“ *Diane O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Monk Rhea.*

Diane O. - December 10, 2023 at 09:05 PM

LQ

“ Betty Rhea has three lovely daughters, but she generously embraced the role of mothering me when she saw me - and I welcomed it. We'd talk about life and she would advise me on how to handle digestive issues. She extended that warmth to my son Ian. Every summer we would come by to swim in their pool. In the fall, she and Mr. Rhea came by and cheered on the 7 year old as he competed in Coweta's cake decorating competition. I remember what a trouper she was when Ian and I wanted to work a jigsaw puzzle with her or when Bobbi and I challenged her to a game of scrabble. She might say she was not good at puzzles, yet that didn't deter her from jumping in to help. I will remember Betty Rhea as a lovely lady with a strong life force. One I would like to emulate.

Lisa Quick - December 09, 2023 at 02:07 PM

BD

Thank you for your lovely tribute, Lisa. My parents always enjoyed visits with you and Ian. Thank you for your love and support.

Bobbi Deling - December 31, 2023 at 01:44 PM

JB

“ I still remember time spent at Mr. and Mrs. Rhea's house in Newnan on the lake with the magical island, swimming in the pool, lounging on the hammock , and even a few glimpses into my toddlerhood at their house in New Hampshire. What a great friend to my mother Mrs. Rhea was for the entirety of my life, and how supportive she was of me as a boy and young man. My condolences to the family on their loss. She was a terrific woman and will be missed.

James Brandtjen - December 05, 2023 at 05:46 PM

BD

James, thank you for sharing your memories. My parents always enjoyed your family's visits. Your mother was one of my mom's longest friendships.

Bobbi Deling - December 31, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Monk Rhea.* ”



December 03, 2023 at 09:39 PM