



Betty Jo Hudson

July 11, 1935 - September 5, 2016

Betty Jo Tidwell was born in Coalgate on July 11, 1935. She was reared by Charles Clifford and Grace Lee Tidwell in a house in the woods off Highway 3 with her brother Howard and sister, Margaret. Betty was a protective big sister who could cook a full meal by age 9. She was also an avid reader, a child of nature, and a creative soul. She attended Coalgate High School as a star student and worked at Hudson's Big Country Store after school as a secretary. She caught the eye of Billy Castle Hudson, a Marine home convalescing after being wounded in Korea, when she was a student in Ruth Hudson's English class and Billy Castle stopped by with his soldier uniform to be used as a prop in the senior play. They dated for 2 years while Betty attended Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University), where she was handpicked by Dean Patchett, the Dean of women, to work as her personal assistant. She also pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma, majored in Home Economics with a French minor, and was chosen as Air Force Cadet Sweetheart. Billy Castle and Betty married in December 1955. They spent the next decade focused on Castle's career with Phillip's petroleum, in Tulsa then Woodward then Tulsa then Columbus, OH. They were active in the United Methodist Church in every city, leading youth groups, teaching Sunday school, and serving in almost every office. They had Beth in 1957 and Sydney in 1959. But the family business called Castle home, so in 1961 they came back to Coalgate, with Amy arriving soon after and 3 years later, Kyle. They continued their devotion to the Methodist Church lay witness mission work, youth group and

Sunday school. Betty started a supper Bridge Club that peaked at 4 tables and inspired other clubs that still meet. Betty went back to work in Hudson's office, started a catering business on the side, and she and Castle contracted to provide meals at the Senior Citizen's Center. She had a corner of Hudson's that she turned into a little bookstore and led two study trips to Europe. When Hudson's closed after 91 years and Betty and Castle moved to Oklahoma City to be nearer the grown kids, Betty went to work as an office assistant at the St. Anthony Hospital Spine Center, and she worked for St. Anthony for 5 years. Betty and Castle joined Church of the Servant and loved their years in Oklahoma City following their son-in-law's basketball teams, entertaining their growing brood of grandchildren, and fellowshiping their beloved extended Hudson family and their many lifelong friends. And then in 2004 they moved to Durant, again near their daughters and grandchildren, where they attended the United Methodist Church and Betty joined PEO, played bridge, and worked actively for the Bryan County Election Board. After Castle's death in 2009, Betty remained a vibrant, vital presence in all her activities, including hosting family dinner every Sunday. Betty passed away suddenly on the morning of September 5, 2016. She is deeply, deeply missed.

She is survived by her daughters, Beth Robinson and husband, Tony, Sydney Long and husband, Rick, and Amy Hudson, all of Durant; grandchildren, Taylor Robinson, Will Robinson and wife Kristen, Mark Long and Hudson Long; great grandchildren, Carson Robinson, and Claire Jeanette Robinson, to be born in December; and numerous beloved extended family.

A celebration of Betty's life will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the First United Methodist Church in Durant.

The family suggests donations to be made to The First United Methodist Church in Durant or Coalgate.

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Jo Hudson*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



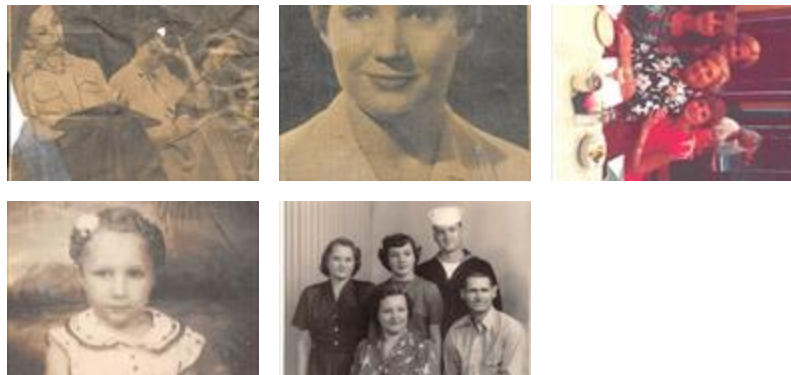
“ *With Sympathy Tazo Tea Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Hudson.*



September 15, 2016 at 12:24 AM



“ *116 files added to the album Memories Album*



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - September 09, 2016 at 03:22 PM

SH

“ Amy, just heard about your Mom's passing today when I got to work.. Was on leave last week and didn't get to sign the MH OPC card but wanted to give my condolences to you and your family. It is so special that you were able to take the trip to Ireland with her a few years ago and share precious memories. As much as I miss you at work, I am glad that you were able to move home and take part in her caregiving. I know you will miss her terribly and there will always be a void but my prayer is that you will be comforted by all the wonderful memories ya'll shared together! Love, Susan

Susan Haralson - September 09, 2016 at 10:50 AM

SF

“ Stephen and Jennifer Kiser and Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Betty Jo Hudson.



Stephen and Jennifer Kiser and Family - September 08, 2016 at 12:43 PM

LD

“ L A and Dorothy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Betty Jo Hudson.



L A and Dorothy - September 08, 2016 at 11:47 AM

JK

“ I have so many precious memories of your mom, but I always enjoyed coming to your house especially on Christmas Eve when we would go caroling. It was a warm and beautiful place. Good food, wonderful smells and boisterous conversation (as was the Hudson way) and love of family were there. Your mom was always very well put together. (Fully accessorized as this separates us from the animals.) ;) She paid such attention to detail as was her gift. I know you all are feeling a great lose and this will go on for quite awhile. You are no stranger to loss for you have been there before. You can rest in knowing she loved all of you very much... To the moon and back.

*Grace and peace to you all from our Heavenly Father,
Jennifer Hudson Kiser*

Jennifer Kiser - September 08, 2016 at 09:19 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Hudson.



September 07, 2016 at 11:28 PM

LH

“ My family loved MeMe and had many great times with her and Papa Castle. Betty was a classy and sassy lady with spark and grace. We will miss her but will always remember the fun times we shared. My thoughts and prayers are for her family now as Meme is doing great. XO


lori harrison - September 07, 2016 at 07:35 PM

CR

“ I'm sitting here with my Dad and Mom. My Mom has been in hospital and they both have had some struggles with health. As I speak with my Mom, she is very concerned and says she remembers Betty as a beautiful and kind person. Betty has always been a delight to be around and I know has invested much time into our family over the years. Our families have seen some of the same struggles over the years and we identify with you all. I rejoice in knowing she is with those who have gone on before us. I'm sure she has already captured the eyes of the cloud of witnesses in heaven and has much to say. We send blessings, comfort and peace to all at this time. Goodness and mercy has followed Betty all the days of her life and so it will be in the generations who follow in the blessed assurance of God Almighty.

*Epperson Family
Jim, Wanda, Christy and Bob*

Christy Race - September 07, 2016 at 07:09 PM

 Betsy
Thomas
Rook

“ I met Betty when I was a Kappa at OSU with her daughter Beth and Sydney, also Kappas. I did not remember that Betty was also a Kappa!! She was so gracious and kind, interested in everyone and I will always cherish the times I had talking with her and husband Bill, who attended OU with my dad. I knew I could always rely on Betty to fill me in on Hudson family events and I was ever grateful for that! She will be greatly missed. I am sorry I did not see her again but am so happy to see the Facebook posts to keep up to date with everything. Deepest condolences to the entire Hudson family and extended. Love you all!!



Betsy Thomas Rook - September 07, 2016 at 05:11 PM

MC

“ *A beautiful lady who was a class act in every sense of the word. Mrs. Hudson was the epitome of grace and kindness, and her love for her family was inspiring. Much love to her girls and their families, all of whom she cherished dearly.*

*The Campbell Family
Mark, Mona, Katie & Carson*

Mona Campbell - September 07, 2016 at 03:58 PM