



Betty Jean Spurlock Shearin

November 7, 1931 - May 31, 2015

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die.”(Ecclesiastes 3) On November 7, 1931, Betty Jean Spurlock was born in Salem, Virginia, to the late Thomas Shirley and Willie Ann (Borden) Spurlock. One can only imagine that there was much joy when she came into this world. “Now we look forward with confidence to our heavenly bodies, realizing that every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in heaven with Jesus. . . And we are not afraid, but are quite content to die, for then we will be at home with the Lord”. (2 Corinthians 5:6, 8) Not afraid of death, but confident in her faith and in her family, at 83 years old, on Sunday night, May 31, 2015, Betty died.

In the poem, “The Dash”, it’s not the date you’re born nor the date you die that matter, but the “dash” between them. So it is with “Mom Shearin” as she was fondly called in her later years. Her life mattered. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia State University, one of two in her family of 16 to have a college degree. In 1954, degree in hand, she moved to Durham, NC., where she worked as a secretary at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance. She spent the evenings sitting on the porch enjoying the night air while awaiting a suitor. One evening in 1956, her suitor did not show, but someone new did. It was there while sitting on a porch that she met her husband to be, Alexander Moore Shearin, Jr. (“Xan”). The porch on which she sat was at the home of Xan’s Aunt Mag where she roomed. It was there on his weekly visit to

see his Aunt Mag that Betty caught his eye. With a no-show date one evening, Xan stepped in and took her out. Six months later they were married. Xan served in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Jackson, SC, which led them to call Columbia, South Carolina, their home. To their union came one daughter, Victoria Louise Shearin Lawson. Betty lost her beloved Xan in 1994. Betty was an administrator, educational association administrator, mother, friend, and a woman of faith. Born into a Baptist family, she attended Shiloh Baptist Church in Salem, Virginia, from birth until her move to Durham. In North Carolina, while rooming at the YWCA her first year, she was invited by her roommate to come to church at St. Titus Episcopal. She enjoyed the service and soon joined. It was there she and Xan married in 1957. Once in Columbia, she later joined St. Luke's Episcopal Church where she was very active with Daughters of the King, the Altar Guild, the Finance Commission, Episcopal Church Women, St. Luke's Episcopal Church Quilters and Crafters Guild; and St. Luke's Episcopal Free Lunch Ministry.

In addition, she became a member of the staff at Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina (1957-1994), and for one year (1984-1985) served as acting president of the College. In addition, she served as vice president of administration (1986-1988), special assistant to the vice president of business affairs (1988-1990), consultant (1990-1994); and she served as the volunteer coordinator for the Richland County Library, Columbia, South Carolina (1991-1995). She held membership in the Democratic Party and the Association of Records Managers and Administrators, where she also served as board secretary (1983-1985). Work was not the only activity for Betty, through the years she loved playing bridge with the ladies of Les Tallyettes, reading, exercising, dancing, photography, quilting, scrapbooking, and traveling. She often shared books, quilt ideas, and scrapbooks from her travels with visitors and friends. Betty Jean, as her daughter affectionately called her, was a woman where everything she did was formed by her passion, faith, and family. She was an authentic and honest person always seeking to help others. She was a friend, confidant, a rock within her family, and a life guide coach. She

was a daughter, wife, mother, and friend. And though she will be missed, her influence, teachings, and friendship will live on forever. "A woman who walks with God will always reach her destination" as a poem states; and, Betty has done just that. Thanks be to God!

Rejoicing in her memory, but mourning at their loss, are her daughter, Victoria (James); a brother, Kelly Spurlock; her sisters, Lois S. Hopson and Grace M. Hopson; a sister-in-law, Margaret Spurlock; a brother-in-law, Clinton A. Shearin, Sr.; nieces: Shirley Brown Garner (Harold "Deke"), Danise Brown Greene; Valerie Wilson Wesley (Richard); Patricia Wilson Pheanious (Robert), Karla Spurlock-Evans (Booker), Joyce Hopson King; Sharon K. Spurlock; Angela L. Hopson (Jerry); and Marsha K. Shearin (Purusa); nephews: Carl Spurlock (Beverly), George Spurlock, Jr. (Coleen), Bernard B. Spurlock Jr. (Carmen), Kevin Hopson (Deborah), Robert Hopson (Cathy), Michael Hopson (Mary), Anthony Hopson (Fyane), Dwayne Spurlock (Conchita), Clinton "Chip" A. Shearin Jr. (Kristal); a host of other relatives and very dear friends. Preceding her in death is her beloved husband, Alexander "Xan" M. Shearin, Jr.; her brothers: Thomas L. Spurlock, Robert K. Spurlock, George N. Spurlock; Shirley Spurlock, Bernard B. Spurlock Sr., James C. Spurlock, Leonard G. Spurlock; her sisters: Lena S. Terry, Florence I. Spurlock; Mary S. Wilson, Louise Spurlock, and Helen S. Scarborough.

Funeral Service will be held 12:00 PM Saturday, June 13, 2015 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church with burial to follow in Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens. A visitation will be held from 6:00 PM till 8:00 PM at Palmer Memorial Chapel

Cemetery Details

Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens

Columbia, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Jean Spurlock Shearin*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Such a sweet and loving person. The bible says that Psalms 23 not to be amazed all those in the memorial tombs will here his voice.*

Jill - March 28, 2016 at 10:20 PM



“ *Gina Walton sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Jean Spurlock Shearin*



Gina Walton - January 17, 2016 at 12:06 PM



“ *Gina lit a candle in memory of Betty Jean Spurlock Shearin*



Gina - January 17, 2016 at 12:05 PM



“ *Auntie Betty, you are very much missed. We love you! LOVE ALWAYS Gina Walton*

Gina - January 17, 2016 at 12:04 PM

VB

“ I have been seeing Ms. Shearin at the Cola. Heart Coumadin Clinic for many years. It was always a joy to visit with her and find out about her latest travels and adventures with friends. She was always happy to share that she was "on her way" or "she had just gotten back" from a wonderful visit with Vickie. She will be missed and will be remembered as a kind and gentle lady. God bless. Vickie Barron, nurse and friend.

Vickie Barron - June 12, 2015 at 08:59 AM

BG

“ To the family of Mrs. Shearin,

Please know that you are in my prayers. Mrs. Shearin was a joy to speak with from time to time as I matriculated at Benedict College. She was a beautiful person.

Brenda Gilchrist

Brenda Gilchrist - June 12, 2015 at 08:07 AM

JW

“ Sending our love and lifting you in prayer.

Josefa Bethea Wall - June 11, 2015 at 11:04 PM

 Stacie Towe

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Betty at my salon and she was the sweetest lady! ? My condolences to sweet Vickie and the family.

Stacie Towe - June 11, 2015 at 01:28 PM

SK

“ I attended Benedict College from 1978-1982. When I first encounter Mrs. Shearin, she asked, "how may I help you and what is your name?" I said my name is Shirley Jean Whitener. The rest is a story for another day.

My thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family during this time and the days ahead. Shirley W. Kelly - Clayton, NC



Shirley Kelly - June 11, 2015 at 09:28 AM