



Betty Jo Messer Russell

April 6, 1932 - September 5, 2025

Betty Jo Messer Russell, age 93, a beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother passed away peacefully Friday, September 5, 2025.

She was born April 6, 1932, to the late Weaver and Viola Messer. She was of the Baptist Faith. She worked at BASF from December 1, 1967, until it closed in 1994. She enjoyed crocheting, making toboggans and afghans, and feeding the birds.

She was preceded in death by her husband Rev. Ballard Russell; son Larry Jack Stewart; daughter Clara Sue Patterson; brother Elmer Messer; and sister Anna Mae Ownby.

She is survived by her daughter Mary Ann Stewart of Newport; son Joe Stewart of Dandridge; and sisters Josephine Toole of Bath, South Carolina, Mary Lou Watts of North Carolina, and June Holt of Newport. She also leaves behind 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Monday, September 8, 2025, with funeral services following at 7 p.m. in the Manes Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Steve Renner officiating.

Burial will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Receive Friends

SEP 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel
363 East Main Street
Newport, TN 37821

Funeral service

SEP 8. 7:00 PM (est)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel
363 East Main Street
Newport, TN 37821

Burial

SEP 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Resthaven Memorial Gardens
Dandridge, TN 37725

Tribute Wall



“ *Manes Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Betty Jo Messer Russell*



Manes Funeral Home, Inc. - September 06, 2025 at 11:22 AM

SO

“ *June, Mary Lou and all the family; I am so so sorry to read that Betty has passed away. I know you will miss her smile and laughter terribly. I'm praying for comfort and peace for this precious family. Rest in peace sweet Betty. I love you June. I'm so sorry my friend.*



Susie O'Dell - September 09, 2025 at 11:44 AM

TA

“ *So sorry to hear about your mother..sending heart felt condolences to you and your family during this sad time. Prayers for all of you.*

Tammy Presnell Binkley

Tammy - September 08, 2025 at 01:08 PM

FA

“ So sorry for your loss Joe and Mary Ann. She was precious thank you for letting me help take care of her this small amount of time. Your in my thoughts and prayers.

Faye (Amedisys)

Faye - September 08, 2025 at 07:37 AM



AD

“ Joe, I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. Love and prayers for you and your family in this difficult time.

Amy Burnett Dorsey

Amy Dorsey - September 08, 2025 at 06:23 AM

GC

“ Gail Smith Clevenger lit a candle in memory of Betty Russell



Gail Smith Clevenger - September 07, 2025 at 03:55 PM

ES

“ Eddie Samples purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Betty Jo Messer Russell.



Eddie Samples - September 07, 2025 at 03:00 PM

BR

“ *Ben Redding lit a candle in memory of Betty Russell*



Ben Redding - September 07, 2025 at 01:20 PM

VC

“ *Praying for all. May God comfort you during this difficult time. Vana Coakley*

Vana Coakley - September 07, 2025 at 08:40 AM

AR

“ *Mary Ann and Miranda, I am so very sorry to hear about your mother and grandmother. I pray the Lord may comfort and grant peace to each member of your family. A mother is a precious jewel and rest assured she is in heaven with our maker. Please know that I am just down the street should you need anything.*

Annie Ramsey - September 06, 2025 at 06:51 PM

JM

“ *Joanne Ramsey, Pat McGaha, Kristy McGaha purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Betty Jo Messer Russell.*



Joanne Ramsey, Pat McGaha, Kristy McGaha - September 06, 2025 at 03:29 PM

DO

“ We’re so sorry to hear this news. It was always a pleasure to meet up with Betty and talk about our kinship through the O’Neil family.

Duay O’Neil - September 06, 2025 at 02:24 PM

PM

“ pamela messer lit a candle in memory of Betty Russell



pamela messer - September 06, 2025 at 02:23 PM

PM

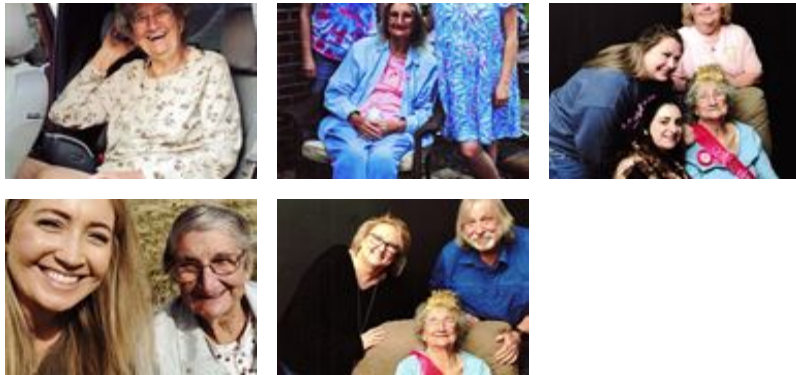
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



pamela messer - September 06, 2025 at 02:23 PM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Manes Funeral Home, Inc. - September 06, 2025 at 11:16 AM