



Bettye Jo Townsend

December 21, 1936 - September 8, 2025

Bettye Jo Branson Townsend, 88, of Kingston, TN, and formally of Hollywood, FL, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2025. She was born Dec 21, 1936 in Greenback, TN. She was the beloved daughter of Amie Selvage Branson and Thomas Branson, both of whom, preceded her in death. She is also preceded in death by her devoted husband, Hugh L. Townsend, and her cherished son, Avery Townsend.

Bettye Jo is lovingly remembered by her daughter and son-in-law, Coleda and Robert Gearhart and her granddaughter, Amy Gearhart Ferraro and son-in-law Christopher Ferraro and grandson, Lt. Col Robert Gearhart. She was a proud Grand-Mema to Lily Elizabeth Ferraro and Elly Grace Ferraro of Westbrook, CT.

Bettye loved East Tennessee but moved to South Florida in 1970, with her family, for her husband's career. During her time in Florida, she attended Barry University and graduated with a master's degree. She also attended the National Judicial College. She was Director of the 17th District Court of Broward County in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. She moved back to TN when she retired.

Bettye Jo was forever young. Her family called her "Firecracker Mema". She loved to craft, sew, quilt, and paint in acrylic and watercolor. A challenge was never an obstacle for her. In fact, that is what she loved the most.

Bettye will be missed by her family, friends and long term caregiver

Graveside service 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Loudon

County Memorial Gardens. Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Townsend Family.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Loudon County Memorial Gardens

6505 US-11

Lenoir City, TN 37771-8563

(865) 986-0065

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bettye Jo Townsend.* ”



September 16, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ *Bettye was a mother-in-law to my brother and have known her for decades. She was a lovely woman with a big personality, incredibly intelligent, and close to my family. I always enjoyed getting together with her and celebrating life.* ”

Shirley Gearhart-Pruitt - September 14, 2025 at 01:37 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bettye Jo Townsend.* ”



September 13, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BK

“ Coleda, I am so sorry about your mom. We were happy when she was able to move back here from Ft. Lauderdale. We were able to see her more. She loved my homemade potato soup and I would take it to her often and if it wasn't often enough for her, she would let me know she was ready for some more! I gave her some "Santorini stones" that are excellent for painting but not sure if she ever used them or not. I will miss her but thankful that I will see her again one day!

Beverley Branson Kelley - September 12, 2025 at 12:24 PM