



## Betty Jo Fields Howard

April 9, 1936 - January 25, 2026

Betty Jo Howard, 89, passed away peacefully on January 25, 2026. She was born on April 9, 1936, to Lonnie Elmer and Maudie Mae Jordan Fields in Benedict, Virginia, a coal-mining settlement that later became part of St. Charles, VA.

After graduating from Pennington Gap High School, Betty moved to Dayton, OH, where she began her professional career as a proofreader for McCall's magazine. During this time, she converted to Catholicism, a faith to which she remained deeply devoted throughout her life. She married Joseph Edward Howard, with whom she had five children and relocated to Frankfort, KY. Betty worked as an administrative assistant with the Kentucky Department of Labor. One year after her retirement, she made her home in Englewood, FL.

In 1988, Betty and her partner, Joe Scolaro, moved into a condominium that quickly became a beloved gathering place for friends and family—so lively and welcoming that it earned the affectionate nickname “the best restaurant in town.” Together, they shared a rich life filled with travel, laughter, and the company of loved ones.

Betty embraced life with enthusiasm and courage. She was active in sports and a talented athlete in high school as one of the star basketball players during her tenure. Never one to shy away from a challenge, she even learned to ski at age 50, despite a lifelong fear of heights. Alongside Joe, and often with family, she traveled extensively throughout the United States and visited his hometown of Tripi, Sicily.

Known for her passion, generosity, kindness, and warmth, Betty made friends easily and welcomed everyone into her home. Her open-door policy meant neighborhood children were frequent visitors—often stopping by to jump on the trampoline—and dinner invitations were readily extended, even to traveling college students selling encyclopedias. Strong, independent, and well read, Betty was creative, stylish, and fun-loving. Above all, she was a devoted and wonderful mother who will be profoundly missed.

Betty is survived by her children: Sheree Jones; Mike (Regina) Howard; Jerry (Jonna) Howard; Leigh Ann (Steve) Lowe; and Kristie Howard; her three grandchildren: Jordan (Jennifer) Howard, Eli Howard, and Michael Howard; her three great-grandchildren: Lola, Hudson, and Jarett Howard; and her brother, Jimmy (Paula) Fields, of Wichita Falls, TX. She was preceded in death by her sisters Mae (Emerson) Mullins, June (Bill) Robbins, and Francis (Bill) McMillan.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church with Father Charles Howell officiating. Burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Gardens

3250 Versailles Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 11. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
72 Shepherd Way  
Frankfort, KY 40601

## Funeral Mass

FEB 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
72 Shepherd Way  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Tribute Wall



“ *Just wanted to thank everybody for their thoughts and prayers for my mom. Jerry howard*

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**jerry howard** - February 12 at 09:41 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Fields Howard.*



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February 10 at 08:45 AM

TH

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Aunt Betty from spending summers in KY when I was little to warm and cozy visits in FL when we were older.

One of my recent favorite visits is when I introduced her to my granddaughter, Arianna. They had so much fun. She loved children and lit up a room. Her laugh was contagious and her humor was infectious.

My life was so enriched because she was a part of it. I know I speak for all my siblings as well. Aunt Betty was so full of life.

Because of her I have only chewed one half piece of gum my whole life. She told me when I was around 10 or 11 to never chew a whole piece. She said it is because I always wanted to present myself as a young lady not like a cow chewing their hay and slobbering all over my mouth. I laughed so hard but it has stuck with me for over 50 years. I chew gum daily so that's how often I think of her. I love her to my core.

To my sweet cousins and uncle, I won't be able to be with you now but my heart will be.

All my Loving Condolences,  
Tina



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**Tina Hill** - February 07 at 07:12 PM

LA

Thank you for sharing Arianna with Mom! That was a weekend of joy filled play & love between the two of them. I am grateful for the extra time we had with Mom to love and care for her as God's child as she did for us since birth. So grateful for all our cousins and the love they share!

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**Leigh Ann** - March 23 at 09:04 AM

DM

“ Leighann and Mike So sorry for the loss of your mom. So very happy I got to meet her and spend time with her. She was such a beautiful lady and so full of life. I just simply fell in love with her!!❤️

Denise Mills - February 06 at 07:38 PM

LA

Thank you Denise & Kenny! Love from all of us!

Leigh Ann - March 23 at 09:20 AM

JZ

“ Jimmy, Katherine, Brent, Addison and Zane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jo Fields Howard.

Jimmy, Katherine, Brent, Addison and Zane - February 06 at 04:54 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Fields Howard.



February 06 at 04:54 PM

SA

“ Aunt Betty was such a special person and she impacted so many lives in the best of ways. She will be greatly missed and I feel blessed to have known her.

Sending our warmest condolences-  
Sherry McMillan Albritton & Family

Sherry Albritton - February 06 at 10:42 AM

LA

*Thank you! With love from all of us!*

**Leigh Ann** - March 23 at 09:18 AM

SF

“ *Sherry McMillan Albritton & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Jo Fields Howard.*



**Sherry McMillan Albritton & Family** - February 06 at 10:33 AM

TM

“ *Sheree, I am sorry for the loss of your mother. Prayers for you and your family.*

*Read more at: <https://state-journal.com/2026/02/04/betty-jo-howard/>*

**Teresa Bingham Moore** - February 05 at 07:42 AM

LA

“ *\* "Bless them, God, with your love, your healing, and your peace".*

*No there words left say, she was a beautiful and fantastic lady.  
I wish I would've spent my time with her.  
She was my second mother to me.  
also had a beautiful family*

**Laurie** - February 02 at 03:13 PM

LA

*Thank you Laurie! I'm so glad you that you got to know each other. She & Joe both felt right at home with you right away! With love, Leigh Ann*

**Leigh Ann** - March 23 at 09:15 AM

MD

“ Betty was the best friend my mom ever had. They got together almost everyday for lunch. When I visited my mom in Florida, I looked forward to spending time with the two of them. They joked and laughed together until we all had tears running down our faces. When my mom died, Betty and I would talk on the phone, check on each other, talk about our families, and tell old stories. We would laugh and cry. She made me feel like a daughter and friend and I'll always miss her. When someone we love so much dies, a part of us dies too. I'm so glad she was part of my life.

Marta Donahoe - February 01 at 08:25 AM

LL

Thank you so much for sharing! This does sound exactly like them ageless! ❤️ I loved them both so much! Leigh Ann

Leigh Ann (Howard) Lowe - February 01 at 07:56 PM

JV

“ Jerry, sorry about your loss your mother was a good lady wish I was in Frankfort to see u. Joe Vaughan

Joe Vaughan - January 29 at 04:13 AM

JE

Thank you very much. That means a lot to me. Jerry

jerry - January 29 at 07:49 AM

JH

“ Mom, your suffering is over. You are now with our lord and savior. I know your loved ones are waiting for you with open arms. I want you to know how blessed and grateful I am to have you for a mother. I love you. Jerry

jerry howard - January 28 at 07:03 PM

VO

*Jerry I'm so sorry for your loss. Betty was a dear friend of Mom's.  
Sending prayers for you all.*  
Vicki

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**Vicki O'Connell** - January 29 at 05:38 PM

JG

*Jerry I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Praying for  
comfort and peace for you all.*  
Janice Gould

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**janice gould** - January 31 at 01:26 PM

JE

*Thank you very much that means a lot*

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**jerry** - February 06 at 08:16 AM

JV

*Jerry this is Joe Vaughan give me a call 270-562-1097 like to hear from  
u*

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**Joe Vaughan** - February 17 at 09:53 AM