



Betty Jo Rutherford

December 22, 1943 - May 14, 2026

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved Betty Jo Rutherford, a woman whose love, strength, and selflessness shaped the lives of so many. She was more than a mother, nana, sister, aunt, or friend — she was the heart of our family, the one everyone could depend on, and the kind of woman whose presence made life feel a little safer and a little warmer.

Betty was a fiercely independent woman who dedicated many years of her life to working for FedEx. She carried herself with determination, resilience, and pride, never afraid of hard work and always willing to do whatever it took to provide for and care for the people she loved. Her strength was unmatched, and she inspired everyone around her through the way she faced life with courage and grace.

Her greatest accomplishment and deepest joy was always her family. She loved her daughters with every piece of her heart and devoted her life to supporting, encouraging, and protecting them. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the light of her life. Nothing brought her more happiness than hearing their laughter, sharing stories, giving advice, or simply sitting surrounded by the people she loved most. To them, she was not only Nana —

she was home.

She had a love that was steady and unconditional. She celebrated every success, carried her family through difficult times, and reminded those around her that no matter what life brought, family always came first. Her hugs brought comfort, her words brought wisdom, and her presence brought peace. The memories made around her — the conversations, the laughter, the traditions, and the love — will forever be cherished and carried on through the generations she leaves behind.

Betty will always be adored and deeply missed more than words can ever express. Though our hearts are broken by this loss, we find comfort in knowing she is no longer suffering and that her love will continue to guide us every single day. The strength she gave us, the lessons she taught us, and the love she poured into all of our lives will never fade.

She was truly one of a kind — a beautiful soul, and a woman whose legacy will live on forever. Though she may no longer walk beside us, she will always remain within our hearts.

Betty is preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Lucille (Pruett) Cornelius; husband, Larry Rutherford; brother, Wayne Morris; and son-in-law, Jay Kemp.

Betty is survived by her daughters, Susan Kemp and Terri Frey (Mike); siblings, John Morris, Bonnie Johnson (Jim), and Glenn Cornelius (Bridget); grandchildren, Chalet Kemp (Craig Kamyszek), Joshua Kemp (Simone), Marco Andrade (Stefanie), Cody Kemp (Alexandra), Zachary Andrade (Heather); 10 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Friends are invited to a visitation with the family on Friday, May 22, 2026 at Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch from 11:00 am until the time of the

service at 1:00 pm. Burial will follow at Memphis Memorial Gardens in Bartlett, TN.

Online condolences may be left on her tribute wall at www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com.

Cemetery Details

Memphis Memorial Gardens

3700 N Germantown Pkwy
Bartlett, TN 38133

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 22. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch
6815 Parkview Boulevard
Olive Branch, MS 38654
(662) 893-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 22. 1:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch
6815 Parkview Boulevard
Olive Branch, MS 38654
(662) 893-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch created a Tribute Video in memory of Betty Jo Rutherford



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - May 18 at 05:20 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.



May 22 at 09:45 AM



“ The Ligon Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.



The Ligon Family - May 21 at 10:38 AM

LJ

“ Love, Bill, Mimi, Babs & Jerry purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.



Love, Bill, Mimi, Babs & Jerry - May 21 at 12:26 AM

KP

“ Ken and Linda Powers purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.



Ken and Linda Powers - May 20 at 08:01 PM

SP

“ Deepest Condolences and much love. The Patrone Family

Susan Patrone - May 19 at 12:33 PM

CH

“ Betty was our neighbor in Memphis for many years. She grew an attachment to my son because he would help her with many things around her home. I was not allowed to refer to him as "My Son". She told me to refer to him as "Our Son". (Which I did) Betty & Renee were some of the best neighbors that we have had. I still think of her when I look at the house. We miss her very much. We will never forget her.

Cedric & Ruthie Heath - May 19 at 12:15 PM

TF

She loved you guys so very much.

Terri Frey - May 21 at 05:33 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.*



May 19 at 11:19 AM



“ *She was a beautiful friend we lived together 20 years and never had an argument except she was hot blooded and I was always the one who was cold. We recently moved into assisted living I did it more for her. she was the sister I never had wow she almost married my brother. That would have been great. I will miss her for the rest of my life something I knew would happen she was 10 years older than me. RIP my beautiful sister.*

Renee Powers - May 18 at 10:44 PM



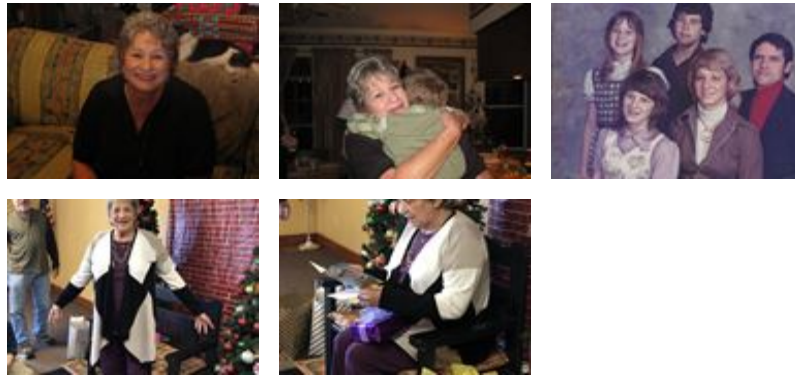
“ *Love Carla Bellucci and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.*



Love Carla Bellucci and Family - May 18 at 08:09 PM



“ 90 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - May 18 at 05:05 PM



“ *Glenda and Robert Connors purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.*



Glenda and Robert Connors - May 18 at 04:55 PM



“ *I always knew I was in trouble when I walked into the office and she met me with the greeting "Ronald K." She and I started the Aircraft Acquisitions Department at Federal Express and she was such an integral part of that from day 1. I loved Betty very much! May she rest in peace. Ron*

Ron Anderson - May 18 at 04:39 PM



Aww. That is so sweet. She loved you so much and loved working with you.

Terri Frey - May 21 at 05:35 PM

RA

“ *Ron and Carmen Anderson purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Betty Jo Rutherford.*



Ron and Carmen Anderson - May 18 at 04:33 PM