



## Betty Ruth Bremer

June 10, 1921 - April 14, 2020

Betty Ruth Bremer, nee Reeves

June 10, 1921 – April 14, 2020

### A Farewell to my Grandmother

I once heard it said that the way to know if someone truly loves you is whether they let you eat first. It always made me think of my grandmother and the stories my mother would tell of the difficulties they faced growing up in the 40s and 50s in poverty. Grandma worked so hard throughout her entire life and her entire life was her children. Often, when there wasn't enough food for all, Grandma would fake not feeling well—so her children could eat instead. I always thought that was such a remarkable sacrifice and yet it's only one example of a lifetime of selfless giving to her family. There are many more stories of the things she would give up so that Pat could have a new dress or Sonny a pair of shoes. Betty Ruth was born on June 10, 1921, in Royalton, Illinois, to Jesse Warren Reeves and Bertha Mae Bounds Reeves. Her father was a coal miner, a farmer, and in later years, a bus driver.

Considered a “puny” child, Betty once heard a neighbor say to her mother that she would probably not live a long and healthy life. Betty proved that assessment false as she was only months away from her 99th birthday when she passed away on April 14, 2020, at Denali Center Nursing Home, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

From a very early age, Betty had a love of singing. She had fond memories of gathering on the porch after family meals where her Dad would play the harmonica, Uncle John would play the violin, Uncle Marion played the guitar, and she would sing. Uncle Marion had a band and if she had not been so young, she would have loved to travel with them and sing. I remember the singing. She did have a beautiful voice and you could hear her sing classics like: Let Me Call You Sweetheart, You Are My Sunshine, and Sleepy Time Gal—to name just a few. And when she sang, she broke into a smile that made those blue eyes just twinkle—and she was just beautiful.

Betty's life was a difficult one. She lived through the depression and found herself out on her own and supporting herself as a waitress at the young age of 14. At age 16, in 1938,

she met and married Harry O'Connell and had two children. Betty devoted her life to raising and loving her children. They were her greatest treasures. After raising them, she worked in a chemical factory until her retirement at age 62. In the first year of her retirement, she met and married her second husband, Kenneth Bremer.

She was generous with compliments. She believed that to give three compliments, every day, were the perfect amount. I always knew when I greeted her that some compliments were coming my way. "Your hair is so pretty, your eyes are so blue, and I just love your smile."

After Ken's death in 1986, Betty lived alone for the next 28 years, in a home in the countryside, in Cedar Hill, Missouri. She was very proud of her beautiful Bremer Pines. She was never happier than when she was cleaning, tidying up, and decorating her home. One of her favorite memories was that of entertaining and hosting people at her home and her beautiful pool. She kept a beautiful yard and cut and maintained it herself up into her 90s.

She was incredibly talented--a gifted writer and author of hundreds of poems and letters. She had the most beautiful handwriting (which my mother inherited) and she crafted hundreds of beautiful, personal, cards that she sent to her family and which they still treasure. She crocheted afghans for her grandchildren and great grandchildren and friends. She made beautiful handmade dolls with perfectly sewn clothing. Grandma was classy. Whether pinching pennies or living on a more comfortable budget, she always had pride in her appearance. She coordinated her clothing, right down to her socks, and she always had a fancy necklace to top it off.

In 2014, Betty moved to Fairbanks to live with her daughter Pat, after her son Harry, passed away in 2013. She entered Denali Center in 2016. (Betty had previously broken both hips and was now unable to walk.)

Betty had a keen sense of humor and loved to tease. At 98, time had begun to erase some of her treasured memories and recollections, but you'd always catch a glimpse of them in her wit and humor and sparkling blue eyes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jesse and Bertha Reeves, her 1st husband, Harry O'Connell, her 2nd husband, Ken Bremer, her son, Harry "Sonny" O'Connell and his wife Vicki O'Connell, her son-in-law, David Welborn, her siblings, Virginia Reeves Kapper and husband Leslie, Kathleen Reeves Maly and husband Steve, Pauline Boyer Martin and husband Charles, Robert Reeves, and John Boyer.

She is survived by her daughter Pat Welborn, 12 Grandchildren, 30 Great Grandchildren and 14 Great-Great Grandchildren.

She was a giver of both time and talent. She was a wonderful grandmother and mother. She passed away peacefully holding Mom's hand, on April 14th, at Denali Center. She was incredibly loved by her family and the staff. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

Memorial Visitation will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 12:00 noon until time of service at 2:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill Mortuary, 6300 Hwy 30 Cedar Hill, Missouri 63016. Betty was laid to rest At Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, on April 22, 2020, in Cedar Hill, Missouri Due to COVID 19 restrictions. In lieu of flowers and in honor of the wonderful care she received from staff, nurses, and doctors, donations in Betty's memory can be made to Denali Center, 1510 19th Ave, Fairbanks, AK. 99701.

# Cemetery

---

## Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens

6300 Highway 30

Cedar Hill, MO, 63016

# Events

---

**OCT 24** **Memorial Visitation** 12:00PM - 02:00PM

---

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Cedar Hill

6300 Highway 30, Cedar Hill, MO, US, 63016

**OCT 24** **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

---

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Cedar Hill

6300 Highway 30, Cedar Hill, MO, US, 63016