



## Betty Ann Parish

January 7, 1937 - April 18, 2026

Funeral services for Betty Ann Bibb Parish will be held at 2:00 pm, Friday, April 24, 2026, at First Methodist Church Gilmer with Rev. Matthew Smith officiating. Interment to follow at Sunset Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at 1:00 pm before the service. Arrangements are under the direction of McWhorter Funeral Home.

Betty Ann Bibb Parish, known by her family as “Dadaw”, was born on January 7, 1937, in Marshall, Texas, to Joseph Hall Thompson Bibb, Jr. and Louise Sherrod Bibb. She passed from this life on April 18, 2026, at the age of 89.

Betty married Welby K. Parish on November 22, 1957.

She was a 1955 graduate of Marshall High School and a graduate of East Texas State University with a degree in History. She taught English and World History in the Gilmer school system for a number of years and then later served as a Title Examiner for Upshur County Abstract Office.

Always a generous spirit, Betty devoted much of her life in the service of others, volunteering and helping those in need. She organized and was instrumental in creating the Upshur County Chapter of the American Cancer Society and served as its president for 2 years. She was a member of the Upshur County Hospital Auxiliary, serving in excess of 1500 hours

volunteering. She also helped train candy strippers back when Gilmer had its very own hospital. During that time, she also helped install lifeline units and assisted individuals in their homes in the use of those units. Betty received 4 certificates for her dedicated service as a volunteer at Leisure Lodge nursing home.

She became active in the Meals on Wheels program and spent many hours delivering food to folks who quickly became her friends.

She was a president for the Dahlia Garden Club and worked to beautify the downtown Gilmer area by placing plants and flowers in planters around the square.

Betty volunteered as a tutor through the Upshur County Literacy Council, where she assisted numerous individuals in receiving their GEDs. She was also a member of Friends of the Library and served as its secretary. Betty was also a member of the Upshur County Juvenile Board as well as the board of Sabine Valley Center.

An accomplished artist, Betty received numerous awards for her paintings, including an award from the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1990, she received the Beta Sigma Phi First Lady award.

In her later years, she became actively involved in the Upshur County Community Theater, acting in numerous productions and even directing one of the plays. She was always a "ham" and loved acting and singing. One of her most notable performances in her later years was that of "Daisy" in "Driving Miss Daisy". She was in her 80's at the time and wowed the crowd with what her kids would describe as an award-winning performance.

Betty was a devoted member of the First Methodist Church and over the years

served on the Administrative Board, taught Sunday School, taught Vacation Bible School, and sang in the choir. She also served on the Council of Ministries as the education chairman and the library chairman. In her library service she did a complete inventory of the church library and catalogued each volume and reorganized the card catalogue. Later in life, she enjoyed volunteering at the Clothes Closet with many of her good friends. But, perhaps the service she loved the most, was her dear exercise class, which she began at the Church. Originally, she led the class, but over the years, all the ladies learned all the routines, and the class no longer really needed a leader. Still, the group fondly referred to themselves as "Betty's Girls". She "led" this group of ladies for over 20 years, several times a week and it was literally one of the highlights of her life.

Reflective of her generous nature, she and her late husband quietly donated the land that is now the site of the Gilmer Intermediate School, requesting that no publicity of this gift be made known at the time. This was a true testament to her benevolence and her love for education.

She loved her children, worshipped her grandchildren, and was absolutely smitten with her great grands. Perhaps her strongest calling in life was that as a "Dadaw" and she wrote the book on that.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Welby Parish, and her brother Bob Bibb.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children; Lauren Parish (Sam Baxter), Todd Parish (Sheri) and Blyenne Powell; grandchildren, Keaton Box, Garrett Parish, Welby Douglas Powell, and Logan Traylor; great grandchildren, Adeline Parish, Aubri Parish and Eden Traylor; Nephew, Sherrod Bibb and Nieces, Charlotte McCollum, Belinda Drennan and Cindy

Stewart.

The family wishes to extend their love and deepest appreciation to the following ladies for the love, care, and tenderness they showed to Betty during her illness; Rose Hayden, Mary Allen, Karen Hopson, Alma Easley, Lindsey Beasley, and Rhonda Wall.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to the East Texas Food Bank, 2900 Signal Hill Drive, Longview, Texas 75602, or Newgate Mission, 207 S. Mobberly, Longview, Texas 75602.

Please visit Betty's online registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Park

1582 US Hwy 271 S  
Gilmer, TX 75645

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 24. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church  
105 N Montgomery St  
Gilmer, TX 75644  
(903) 843-2610

## Service

APR 24. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church  
105 N Montgomery St  
Gilmer, TX 75644  
(903) 843-2610

# Tribute Wall

GS

“ *What a beautiful and gracious woman!!! She was certainly a special member of our community and gave so much of herself to our town. She will be missed!!! Prayers for the family....*

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**Glenda Sustaire** - April 27 at 11:12 PM

LA

“ *My prayers are with you. Mrs. Parish was one of my favorite teachers. She will be truly missed. My condolences to you and your families.*

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**Latrell Hagan Alexander** - April 26 at 07:19 AM

PW

“ *A wonderful lady who was active even late in life and beautifully played the role of Miss Daisy in the play "Driving Miss Daisy" here several years ago in Gilmer. She lived less than a block from me. Her late husband, Welby, was a dear friend of mine as well. Laurie, to you and your siblings, I am sorry she passed, but glad she had a long and productive life. PHILLIP WILLIAMS*

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**Phillip Williams** - April 24 at 01:04 PM

DA

“ *Heartfelt prayers for the family. Deepest condolences.*  
*Darlene Hunter Barber*



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**Darlene** - April 24 at 12:35 PM

RJ

“ Sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Roy Jones - April 24 at 10:42 AM

CH

“ A very sweet Lady and one of my favorite Teachers , I know you will miss her dearly , prayers for the family with deepest sympathy



Cindy Hall - April 23 at 06:48 PM

BC

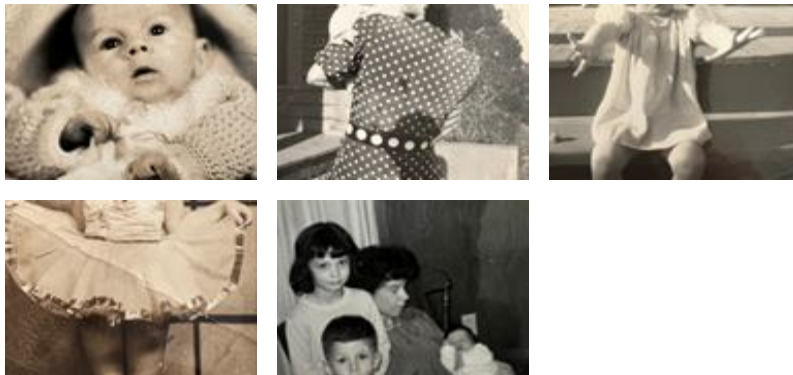
“ Belinda, Cindy Jo and Charlotte purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Betty Ann Parish.



Belinda, Cindy Jo and Charlotte - April 23 at 04:09 PM



“ 235 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - April 23 at 01:53 PM

TF

“ *The Mata Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Betty Ann Parish.*



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**The Mata Family** - April 23 at 12:50 PM

BL

“ *Lauren, Newgate Mission sends love and prayers to you and your family.*

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**Brenda Liverman** - April 23 at 12:46 PM

EC

“ *Eduardo & Maria Mata- Castaneda purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Betty Ann Parish.*



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**Eduardo & Maria Mata- Castaneda** - April 23 at 12:17 PM

GH

“ *May God be with you in the days to come. I am sorry for your loss.*

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**Ginger Hester** - April 23 at 11:27 AM

WB

“ *With love always, Gary & Rhonda Box purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Betty Ann Parish.*



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**With love always, Gary & Rhonda Box** - April 23 at 11:17 AM

WB

“ With love always, Gary & Rhonda Box planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Ann Bibb Parish.

With love always, Gary & Rhonda Box - April 23 at 11:17 AM

BE

“ I was so sorry to hear of Betty's passing. She was always such a kind and classy lady. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.

Blake Erskine - April 23 at 10:27 AM

SL

“ Although I have not known Mrs. Parish for a long time I feel privileged to have had dinner and an opportunity to talk with her last Christmas. I so enjoyed meeting her. My thoughts are with all the family at this sad time.

Suzanne Lynn

Suzanne Lynn - April 23 at 09:55 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Betty Ann Parish.



April 23 at 09:46 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Ann Parish.*



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April 23 at 09:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Parish will be missed by all. She was a kind and gentle lady loved by all. God Bless her beautiful family.*

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**Angie Shaw Tippen** - April 23 at 09:16 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Betty Ann Parish.*



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April 21 at 09:07 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear this news. I admired miss Betty so much. She was so kind and Lauren that's where you get your kind and loving heart .I pray that your family finds peace in knowing your Mother made a difference in everything she poured her heart into. What an amazing women she was. She will always be remembered and missed by so many people who loved her.*

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**Vicki Gibbs** - April 21 at 04:03 PM

LB

“ Ms Betty was a very sweet Christian lady who will be terribly missed. May God grant peace and comfort to all her family and friends during this very difficult time.



Linda Shaw Bond - April 21 at 12:56 PM

PS

“ Sad news this morning about Betty Ann. I have known her since we were around 8 years old in Marshall, Texas, and tap danced in a trio called "The Three Queens". As teens, we were cheerleaders together, in musical programs and really good friends. As I read her obituary I see she did some really wonderful things for her community. She was outstanding in Marshall high school, too. As I look through the 1955 Maverick yearbook, her honors were Homecoming Queen, Most beautiful, Most Popular, cheerleader and everyone's friend. She was Miss Marshall representing Marshall in Miss Texas pageant . Yes, a sad day indeed. Patsy Gilstrap Snow, MHS, class of 1956.

Patsy Gilstrap Snow - April 21 at 10:56 AM

RD

“ Regina Johnson Duffey lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Parish

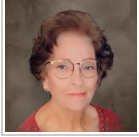


Regina Johnson Duffey - April 20 at 07:57 PM

PP

“ My prayers are with the entire family at this time.

Pamela Pyeatt - April 20 at 07:44 PM



“ *Amanda Gibson Hawley lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Parish*



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**Amanda Gibson Hawley** - April 20 at 04:50 PM



“ *What a gracious and remarkable lady she was—leaving behind a legacy of kindness, service, and love for both her family and the Gilmer community. Her impact will be felt for generations. Prayers of comfort and peace for her family during this difficult time.*

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**Alise Nolan** - April 20 at 04:50 PM



*What a privilege to have called Betty my friend. I observed first hand her kindness and compassion for others when she was a teacher at Gilmer Junior High. She sincerely loved her students and was committed to their success. Her humble, unassuming manner and that little sparkle in her eyes endeared her to all who knew her. I pray that God's loving grace will bring comfort and peace and the wonderful memories of Betty will only multiply and bring you joy.*

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**Paula Mathis** - April 23 at 10:19 AM



“ *She was the sweetest lady. I'm so sorry for your loss.*  
*Karen King*

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**Karen King** - April 20 at 04:09 PM

DB

“ *Dianna Bryant lit a candle in memory of Betty Ann Parish*



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**Dianna Bryant** - April 20 at 03:46 PM