



## Beatrice Bruce

July 27, 1922 - October 17, 2019

Nellie Beatrice Johnston Strickland Bruce

July 27, 1922 – October 17, 2019

Beatrice Strickland Bruce, 97, known as Bea by all her friends, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in Crossville, Alabama after a short illness. Beatrice was born in Crossville on July 27, 1922. Although she was raised in Kilpatrick, she lived most of her life in Crossville where she met and married her first love, Bobby Strickland. Bobby's career as a quartet singer and their desire to share the Gospel led them from Sand Mountain to Knoxville, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and eventually to Birmingham. She was a born entertainer herself -- singing, telling stories, and even yodeling at every chance. After losing Bobby tragically in 1953, she worked hard to provide for her young family. Bea eventually moved with the children back to Crossville for the love and support that only family and close friends can provide. Several years after her move back, she married childhood friend, D.B. Bruce, in 1967. They were married over 40 years before his passing in 2007. She was a devoted member of Crossville First United Methodist Church her entire life and active in the Crossville community.

Beatrice was preceded in death by her parents, Robert B. and Florence Missouri Jones Johnston; brothers, Boyce, Thurston "Skin", Charles, Johnny Mack, and Benjamin Johnston; husband, Bobby Strickland; husband, D.B. "Junior" Bruce; daughter, Rita Strickland Gilbreath; son-in-law, Joe Hawkins;

and step sons, Terry and Jeff Bruce.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Strickland Hawkins, and son, Bobby Jim Strickland; son-in-law, George Gilbreath; special daughter, Judy Abercrombie; step sons, Shan Bruce (Connie) and Stephen Bruce, Sr.; grandchildren, Suzanne Schaufelberger, Nancy DeShazo (Jason), Marsha Gilbreath, Jennifer Sampson (Steve), John Hawkins (Michelle), Allison Soriano (Asuncion), Beverly Robinson (Jimmy), Wendy Amos, Crystal Pugh, Lance Bruce, Aprella Bruce, Michael Bruce (Angela), Eric Bruce (Misty), and Stephen Bruce, Jr.; great-grandchildren Ben Word, Jesse Watson (Cynthia), Wesley Watson, Will Watson (Kali), Julio Watson, Devin Watson, Shakira Watson, Raven Watson, Katelynn Watson, Joanna DeShazo, Rachel DeShazo, Amberly Sampson, Levi Hawkins, Lily Hawkins, Taylor Wilkes, Jason Hubble, Spencer Hubble, Kevin Robinson, Brooke Lawson (Jonathan), Sidney Trussell (Seth), Colby Strickland, Brick Pugh, Shalee Pugh, Ali Bruce, Tyler Bruce (Mindy), Bailee Bruce, Brody Bruce, and Isebela Bruce; great-great-grandchildren, Oliver, Dyson, Emmett, Milli, and Talya; sisters-in-law, Wanelle Johnston and Jo Bruce; numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

The visitation will be held Sunday, October 20th 1:00 until 2:00 at Crossville First United Methodist Church, with the service to follow at 2:00, followed by interment in the church cemetery.

Special thanks to the ladies of Morning Glory Meadows Assisted Living Facility for their kindness and care over the past few years.

Crossville Memorial Chapel Directing

# Cemetery Details

## Crossville Cemetery

Hwy 68  
Crossville, AL 35962

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **20**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Crossville Methodist Church  
Hwy 68  
Crossville, AL 35962

## Service

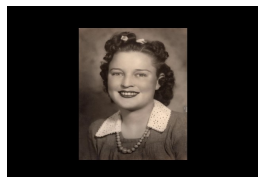
OCT **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Crossville Methodist Church  
Hwy 68  
Crossville, AL 35962

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album

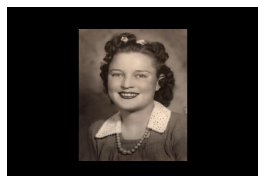


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**Beverly Robinson** - October 19, 2019 at 10:10 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Beverly Robinson** - October 19, 2019 at 10:09 PM

BR

“ *Sending prayers your way from South Carolina. I wish we all could be there because we loved Aunt Bea. I know my grandmother (Sara Jones) loved catching up when they would talk each day before grandmother passed in 2008 but now they are catching up in heaven. We are so blessed to know we will see them again and we can catch up with all our family in heaven. I know Bobby, Jake Hess and the Listers probably welcomed her to heaven by singing some quartet music. Stay in touch as we are here if you ever need us.*

*Blane Jones Raley & Mallory Raley*

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**Blane Raley** - October 19, 2019 at 04:18 PM

SD

“ my mother, Frances Hunt, always loved Beatrice and her family. I believe she was the last of their graduating class at Crossville. She always wanted mom to ride in the homecoming parade with her to represent the class but mama always declined. Miss Bea was the last of a generation of great women.

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**Sandra Darnell** - October 19, 2019 at 11:38 AM

AT

*Aunt Bea was one of the most amazing people I've ever known. Her grace, kind heart and humor was loved by everyone who knew her. I admired her most for her strength, faith and courage through the years. She has been my hero for a long time and I will miss her dearly. Sending our thoughts and prayers to the family. Ann & Hollis Todd*

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**Ann & Hollis Todd** - October 19, 2019 at 04:56 PM