



## Betty Collins

September 27, 1931 - November 28, 2021

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - Betty Amy Collins, 90, went home to be with her heavenly Father on Sunday, November 28, 2021. Born September 27, 1931 in Stratford, New Zealand, she was the daughter of the late Douglas Melville and Grace Phipps Melville. Betty married Jack H.R. Collins on December 9th, 1950. The family emigrated from New Zealand to America in 1965 with their five children.

Betty loved her family, and especially her grandchildren. She was always excited to see her grandkids and always made them feel loved. She was feisty, funny, cheeky, and full of joy!

She had the gift of hospitality; just about every Sunday after church, different families were invited to her home for a New Zealand leg of lamb and her famous trifle. Betty was an excellent seamstress; she made all her children's clothing when they were growing up. She enjoyed decorating cakes for her church. She also enjoyed growing vegetables and different plants, especially plants native to New Zealand. Betty was a dedicated and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Jack Collins; son, Sean (John) Collins; great-grandchild, Emery Jackson-Roy McDougald; brothers, Maurice Melville, Harry Melville and John Melville; and sisters, Olive Blampied and Violet Hobdell.

Survivors include four children, Rosalie Collins of South Bend, IN, Pauline Collins of Gillette, WY, Marcus (Anna Lise) Collins of Wauwatosa, WI and Jacquie (Alfred) Templeton of Terre Haute, IN; 13 grandchildren, David (Kim) Midkiff, Tony (Melissa) Midkiff, Lance Midkiff, Julie (Eric) Baker, Grant Midkiff, Shawn (Jeana) McIlroy, Angel McDougald, Michael (Amber) Collins, Boysen (Vicki) Collins, Heidi Collins, Amy (Jeff) Carlson, Phillip Templeton and Tim (Jillian) Templeton; 30 great-grandchildren, Kelcey Midkiff, Kayla Midkiff, Brittnei Cain, Gavin Hazelleif, Levi Midkiff, Angel Midkiff, Aiden Midkiff, Tesla Midkiff, Alyssa Baker, Ariana Baker, Gracey Midkiff, Bailey Midkiff, Dale McIlroy, Brandi Chandler, Jason Sprague, Paige Massey, Lane McDougald, Cole McDougald, Samuel McDougald, Samuel Collins, Emma Collins, Elskede Collins, Chloe Carlson, Elijah Carlson, Abigail Carlson, Gabriel Carlson, Judah Carlson, Naomi Carlson, Isaac Carlson and Shiloh Carlson; 10 great great-grandchildren, Clayton Rucker, Logan Rucker, Dallas Hardee, Stella Midkiff, Saed Couch, Briella Cain, Paisley Hazellief, Greenly Hazellief, Princeton Hazellief and Moriah Jeane Sprague; sisters, Ethel Pope, Ruth Keoghan, Hazel Booth and Noeline Rose; and brother Bruce Melville.

A celebration of Betty's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11, 2021 at Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton with Reverend Alfred Templeton officiating. Interment will follow at the family cemetery on Pinoak Road in Lashmeet.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 11, 2021 from noon until service hour at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.bailey-kirk.com](http://www.bailey-kirk.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home  
1612 Honaker Avenue  
Princeton, WV 24740  
(304) 425-8176  
info@bailey-kirk.com  
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

## Celebration of Life

DEC 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home  
1612 Honaker Avenue  
Princeton, WV 24740  
(304) 425-8176  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Collins*

December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *The first memory where Aunty Betty made a huge impact on me was when I was about four. Rosie and myself were about the same age and Pauline was a couple years younger. I went down a driveway and there was a black humber parked to the side. People began to gather and I was whisked off and put into the most gorgeous dress I have ever seen. It was soft and delicate, sort of bubbly ( embossed seer-sucker) with gentle shades of pink on a neutral background. It had the softest edging on the sleeves, just like velvet. Aunty Betty had made identical flower girl dresses for the three of us and we had our hair tied in bows. I didnt know then about princesses. It went beyond that for me. I was transported to a wonderland Walt Disney would have been envious of..I had never felt so special. That was for Aunty Ruth's wedding with Aunty Hazel as the bridesmaid. I seem to recall Aunty Hazel had the same fabric but in a different design. Oh the wonder of it all. It didnt stop there. She continued to make 'twin' outfits for Rosie and myself at different times of our childhood. She was so beyond trend to me she beat any designer in the world. And that was just the beginning of many joyous memories of my beloved Aunty Betty.*



Shaadi - December 10, 2021 at 01:09 AM



“ One memory that I hold very dear to my heart was when she came over to NZ for a family reunion when I was about 5 years old. Grandma (Olive) her sister and Aunty Betty called me into a private room and there were lots of presents in there from America. I was so excited being 5 years old. I knew what ever was going on was very heart felt and special. She gave me the prettiest dress that I had ever laid eyes on. It was red and white with red polka dots on the frilly white skirt. In fact it's the dress I wore to the family reunion which there are photos of today. She made me feel so special and incredibly loved I always think back to that memory as if it were yesterday. I also remember her cheeky comments afterwards. Your cruising for a bruising! She made me laugh. Those sisters really knew how to make you feel special and I can imagine how amazing it would have been being her Grandchild since my Grandmother was her very own sister. We are so very fortunate to have experienced such exceptional Grandparents and they leave a huge hole in the world. But I have comfort in knowing that they are together now. It's a blessing and a privilege to be part of this lineage. God bless you Aunty Betty and thank you for your love, kindness and humour.  
Rest In Peace. Xxx

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**Kristian Anna Warren** - December 09, 2021 at 10:03 PM

AC

“ *Fond memories*

*Whenever Mom had received a letter "from home" she had me to sit down and read it at her kitchen table while she buzzed around (making dinner, feeding a baby a bottle, spoon feeding a toddler, making cups of tea, yelling at one the kids or "Jack" now and again). When I was done reading the letter, Mom would always elaborate and tell me more about NZ. This is how I got to know all about her sisters and the family in NZ. I would also write and receive letters from my family in Denmark. We had a common bond sharing news "from home"... the kind that only arrives via snail mail. Letters that were read more than once and were tucked away like a treasured keep sake. This went on the 15 years we lived in Lakeland, FL*

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**Anna-Lise Hansen Collins** - December 08, 2021 at 11:13 PM

MH

“ *Brilliant and energetic, KIND woman of God. We missed her being in Florida.*

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**Melanie Hoover** - December 07, 2021 at 09:51 PM

AM

“ *Arlene/Buddy Midkiff sent a virtual gift in memory of Betty Collins*



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**Arlene/Buddy Midkiff** - December 07, 2021 at 07:44 PM

JT

“ A favorite childhood memory is sitting on the counter watch mum can pears. We loved eating her canned pears with her hot custard poured over them. Yum yum. She never stopped moving, she was our Eveready battery momma, always taking care of her family! Love you sweet momma, Jacquie 🍌💕

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**Jacquie Templeton** - December 07, 2021 at 02:53 PM