



Betty Cook Clayton

January 17, 1932 - December 22, 2018

Through sparkling eyes and an easy smile, Betty Cook Clayton brightened our world and lifted our spirits. She was one of four children raised in the small town of Radford, Virginia to hardworking George and Julia Cook, a carpenter and his school teacher wife. Nicknamed “Dick” and “Cookie” and proclaimed “Spunky, Energetic and Tomboyish” in her yearbook, Betty was an irresistible combination of her father’s warm humor and her mother’s devotion to school and family. Her parents’ love and the fun relationships with her siblings, Elaine (Cookie), Jane and Tommy were central to Betty’s life.

Betty graduated from Radford College with an Early Education degree at age 20 (Legend is, this smart Cookie skipped the 4th grade). Betty soon met the love of her life, Curtis Abbitt “Buck” Clayton with an explosive start in the ballistics lab of Hercules Powder Company. That fuse continued to burn for the 64 years of their marriage, radiant for all to see. It was Betty who encouraged Buck towards his Master’s in Hospital Administration from the Medical College of Virginia, and she supported them as a teacher as he finished his degree. Buck's long career brought them to hospitals in Virginia and Florida where they loved swing dancing to Big Band standards and were known as the standout couple on a dance floor. Her children recall Betty’s beautiful alto voice and fearless stage presence as she practiced for the Lions Club Minstrel show in Charlottesville. Those entertainment talents (which included a Marilyn Monroe rendition) were later reserved for the gathering of caring, fun-loving friends, the Trinity Methodist Sunday School group in

Alexandria, Virginia, the MOGS. The MOGS heavenly gathering, with friendships enduring over 50 years, has just become a little more lively as Betty rejoins their group.

Betty was a devoted wife, mother, friend and church leader, becoming an accomplished seamstress, yarn-crafter, Girl Scout leader, activities' taxi-driver, bridge, tennis, and ladies' softball player, and even T- Ball coach. She had a strong mother's instinct (eyes in the back of her head) that came in handy when raising two teenagers and a toddler in her early 40s. For leisure time with the children and friends, Betty and Buck enjoyed their cabin at Lake of the Woods, Redskins games, and bridge parties. Later in life, the two took golf lessons and served as volunteer Standard Bearers for several golf tournaments in South Carolina, walking the courses and interacting with the professionals up close. One of Betty's favorite memories was meeting Greg Norman.

All who knew Betty recognized that family and home were everything to her. She provided the strongest example of love, unselfishness, and unconditional loyalty, which carried over to her faith. Rarely did she miss a Sunday attendance at their Methodist Church or, in recent years, Pawley's Island Community Church. She knew God's blessings, especially the joy of her twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Each received the ultimate encouragement from their Grandmom/Mimomma, who, with every word, communicated that she believed the best in them. Most of all, she inspired them with her personality — her strength, her spunky determination, and her fun-loving spirit.

Betty was grateful for each chapter of her life. It was the perfect day when she could gather her family for Sunday brunch at Lakes at Litchfield, her retirement community. Earlier in December, she hosted family for brunch, danced to the piano music with her grandchildren, took photographs with her three children, and guessed the answers to televised Wheel of Fortune. Betty would tell you life doesn't get better than this.

Betty is survived by her three children, Debbie, Mark and David; daughters-in-

law, Pat and Lisa; her grandchildren, Lindsay, Elizabeth, Amanda, Matthew, Keith (Bud), Meagan, David, Laurin, Noah, Sydney, and Chelsea; and her great-grandchildren, Georgia Rea and Clayton. We will all miss her positive, supportive presence but will be comforted by memories of her remarkable love and appreciation for family.

A celebration of her life will be held at Pawley's Island Community Church on Saturday, January 5th at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Save the Children, 501 Kings Highway East, Suite 400, Fairfield, CT 06825. Please designate on your check the Stephen Patrick Clayton School built in Mali, Africa in memory of Betty and Buck's grandson.

Sign an online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty Cook Clayton.*



January 03, 2019 at 09:48 AM



“ *This picture is how I have always seen my Aunt Betty. She showed she loved me so much in our personal moments together. I cherish each of those encounters. She always made me feel so special. She is in the comfort of her Savior now and with Uncle Buck. May God's Spirit be with those missing her now. My prayers are lifted for you all. Love, Shari*

Shari - January 02, 2019 at 10:42 PM



“ *What an inspiration...she taught me so much about how to be kind to others, appreciation of family and friends, love of god. This woman was one in a million always ready to help anyway possible. I will never forget her infectious laugh and endless energy. My life has been so blessed by having Betty in my world. I smile and feel comforted knowing that she is in a better place. I will always love this lady to pieces.*

Keith Miller - January 01, 2019 at 08:11 PM



Prayers for peace and comfort. God's blessings.

Benjy Simmons - January 02, 2019 at 08:31 PM

DK

My Prayer is for Our Heavenly Father to give you his sweet peace at this time. Take comfort in reading in his word John 14: 1-4

Dan Kay - January 02, 2019 at 10:19 PM

DA

sorry for your lost David. A mother can never be replaced. Sounds like a wonderful lady who raised wonderful children

david - January 03, 2019 at 09:43 PM