



Betty Bentsen Winn

January 25, 2025

A child of the Valley passed peacefully in her sleep the morning of Saturday the 25th of January, 2025.

Betty Bentsen Winn, a Valley native, spent her life enjoying a rich cultural tapestry. She gave of herself and her homeland gave back many times over.

She was born in Mission, Texas to the parents of Lloyd and Edna Ruth "Dolly" Bentsen on November 22nd, 1931. Her three older brothers, Lloyd, Donald and Kenneth, completed her family circle.

She attended elementary school in Mission and graduated from McAllen High School as salutatorian and Lady of the Mirror where her children and grandson also graduated. She married Robert Daniel Winn after graduating from The University of Texas at Austin and proceeded to build a family of three children, Ellen Ruth, Robert Daniel, Jr., and Susan Elizabeth. Her faith and family were tantamount to all else.

Betty gave her time to improve her community and church for her children and others. She was a Girl Scout leader, a Cub Scout leader, a Sunday School teacher, a Vacation Bible School volunteer and the leader of Acteens at First Baptist Church for many years.

As her children grew older, her philanthropy and volunteerism expanded. Betty was a founder and board member of the Texas Committee for the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. and a founder and board member of the International Museum of Arts & Science in McAllen, Texas. Betty was also instrumental in bringing the Bolshoi Ballet to McAllen whilst being involved with the McAllen Performing Arts. The Easterseals Rio Grande Valley also held a special place in her heart as a volunteer and board member.

She is survived by her children Robert Daniel Winn, Jr. and Susan Winn Lowry (William David Lowry, III), grandchildren Carrie Johnson Fiorito (Ted) and William David Lowry, IV (Vanessa), and great-grandchildren William David "Liam" Lowry, V, Lilia Ruth Fiorito, and Luke Anthony Fiorito. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Lloyd and Edna "Dolly" Bentsen, her brothers and sisters-in-law Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Jr. (Beryl Ann Longino), Donald Bentsen (Nell McCarter), and Kenneth Bentsen (Mary Bates), her daughter Ellen Ruth Johnson, and former husband Robert Daniel Winn.

Betty took great pride in showing people from other parts of the United States and around the world her Valley home. The burgeoning life, culture, flora and fauna never ceased to delight her and she shared that enthusiasm with multiple individuals. They all came away with an awe and new appreciation for the Southern Tip of Texas.

She will be missed and forever loved.

A memorial service will be held at First Baptist Church of McAllen, Texas on Saturday, February 22nd at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Memorial contributions may be given to The Gideon's International, c/o Ray Moore, 301 Kerria Avenue, McAllen, Texas 78501 or give flowers to a loved one.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **22**. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church - McAllen
1200 Beech Ave.
McAllen, TX 78501

Tribute Wall

MF

“ I am truly sorry for your loss. Betty was my devoted client in the Escada Boutique in NYC. She shared many wonderful stories about her history. We often spoke about our families. Betty gave me a copy of her book and wrote a lovely paragraph to me. I will never forget her
Sincerely
Margaret Forbes

Margaret Forbes - February 21, 2025 at 02:56 PM

TZ

“ She was a very classy lady and always charming and kind. She and Dan were in charge of the College and Career Sunday School class at FBC when I was in my early 20s. She was one of the first to admire my new engagement ring. There are many sweet memories of her but the one that sums up her penchant for service is when she was a guest at my wedding and Dan was an usher. At the reception in the gym, we had planned for dishes to be washed by a couple of girls that we hired for that purpose. For whatever reason, they didn't show up. I was busy being a bride and posing for pictures but mom told me later that she was on the verge of panic--but then Betty Winn and Betty Patterson took over dishwashing duties. Such sweet ladies and great role models for serving others and I was blessed to have them both in my life. My prayers and condolences go to the family.



Terri Zavaleta - February 19, 2025 at 08:12 PM

MB

“ *Myles Beeching*



Myles Beeching - February 04, 2025 at 04:09 PM

KH

“ *Betty, brought light and grace to every occasion. Our first acquaintance, Fbc McAllen, Sunday School Class. Traveling to the ranch to a Sunday School Party, I got to know Betty better. While coaching Susan on UIL Music, spent delightful moments in their McAllen home. Each time I ran into Betty, she greeted me warmly, touching my heart. Heaven, now, more special to me, knowing I can visit with Betty once again. To Susan and Daniel, may our Savior comfort your hearts.*

Kay Harper Hunnicutt - February 01, 2025 at 06:15 PM

KH

“ *Kay Harper Hunnicutt lit a candle in memory of Betty Bentsen Winn*



Kay Harper Hunnicutt - February 01, 2025 at 06:04 PM

PS

“ Met with a remarkable lady that reminded me of the saying 'when you have the pull, you don't need to push.' Mrs Betty Bentsen Winn humbles you with her kind spirit. Here is a woman with real power and when the receptionist informed her of my arrival, she comes out to welcome me.

Spent a delightful afternoon showing her pictures of her family home and her home that I had taken and listening to intriguing story after story. She is the sister of late renowned architect Kenneth Bentsen. 80 , she is razor sharp, ultra witty, manages the family empire, and travels extensively. It was a joy visiting with the beautiful soul. And yes, she walked me to the front door at my departure.



Pino Shah - January 31, 2025 at 08:34 PM

KB

“ 3 files added to the album Aunt Betty



Karen Bentsen - January 29, 2025 at 03:58 PM

DH

“ Mrs. Winn was a beauty. When Susan and I attended college, she would include me on family trips to New York City and Charleston, to name a few. It was always an adventure because of her sense of etiquette and knowledge of the arts. It was a joy to experience her "teachable" moments; and, she was always so kind to me. I will forever miss her.

Deborah G. Higgins



Deborah Higgins - January 29, 2025 at 03:27 PM

RR

“ Oh.. I just adored Betty. She was one of my mother's closest and truest friends, and always a delight to be around. My condolences on your loss.

Ruth Moore Roberts

Ruth Moore Roberts - January 29, 2025 at 11:31 AM

JO

“ My favorite Sunday School partner leaving many memories. Precious memories how they linger. Our talks over the phone will not be forgotten. A person who not only talked the talk, but also walked the walk.

James B. Odom - January 28, 2025 at 09:58 PM

KB

“ 3 files added to the album Aunt Betty



Karen V. Bentsen - January 28, 2025 at 04:46 PM