



Betty Chambers

August 6, 1946 - December 13, 2021

Betty Joyce Chambers Obituary

August 6, 1946- December 13, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Betty Joyce (Cunningham) Chambers, 75 of Lexington, Kentucky, on December 13, 2021, in Anderson, Indiana after a valiant battle with cancer and other illnesses. Betty Joyce (Cunningham) Chambers was born in Lexington, Kentucky to the late James Cunningham and Hattie (Smith) Cunningham on August 6, 1946. She was the third of six children and was a graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington, Kentucky. After high school, Betty decided to take on the responsibility of working to help support her younger brothers and sisters, working several jobs until she took on the position of Receptionist/Secretary at WKYT-TV, Channel 27, a CBS affiliate in Lexington. During her over 30 years with WKYT-TV, Betty was always a friendly face and voice on the phone, who made everyone feel special and welcomed at the station. Whether they were a celebrity or her co-workers, she always had a kind word and a funny joke to tell, sharing her radiant smile and laugh with all who met her. Betty was also very devoted to her family, especially her daughter Kimberly. Betty put a high priority on education, even though she did not attend college. She did everything she could to support her daughter in her educational pursuits, from being a no-nonsense Band Parent Chaperone for the Bryan Station High School Marching Band with her sister, Veronica, to

participating with the YMCA Black Achievers. Her devotion even extended to writing a letter to the President of Tuskegee University twice to ensure he knew how special and deserving her daughter was to initially attend the University and to receive a prestigious University Scholar scholarship to attend the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. Later in life, Betty enjoyed being with and assisting family in any way she could, being a listening ear, a place to stay, or someone who could always cheer you up with a piece of candy, or her favorite gummy bears. She was always the one who would talk with her sisters daily, check on her brothers, and could be counted on to always sing "Happy Birthday" to you on your birthday. She loved children, and those in the family or those she met always wanted to see and be around "Aunt or Ms. Betty". She was also very proud of her grandchildren and traveled all over the world to see them, traveling to the United Kingdom, France, Egypt and several states in the US with them and her daughter and son-in-love. Though she developed several illnesses over the years that could have weighed her spirit down, she always shined her light and had a kind word for everyone she met, including the doctors and nurses that took care of her during her final months living with her daughter and family in Fishers, Indiana. Betty was truly a blessing to all who knew her, and her light will continue to shine forever in our hearts.

Betty is preceded in death by her mother and father, her oldest brother James Clayton Cunningham, and her nephew Orlester Pernelle Tichenor. She is survived by her daughter, Dr. Kimberly Cunningham Simmons and her son-in-love, Anthony Simmons of Fishers, Indiana, her sister Veronica Tichenor, brother Jackie Cunningham and sister-in-love Pauline Cunningham, all of Lexington, Kentucky, brother Freddie Cunningham of Maysville, Kentucky, sister Elaine Evans of Charlotte, North Carolina, her grandchildren Kira Ayanna Simmons and Anthony Kamari Simmons, her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and their families, her beloved cat Wendy, and countless others whose lives she touched.

Funeral services will be held on December 29, 2021 at 1 pm with the viewing

at 11 am at Unity Worship Center, Lexington, Kentucky. The Interment service will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Lexington and arrangements are by Smith and Smith Funeral Home. To send flowers of sympathy for the family of Betty Joyce Chambers, please send to Smith and Smith Funeral Home, or donate to the Humane Society of the United States or the American Cancer Society as a memorial gift.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

2089 Versailles Road
Lexington, KY

Previous Events

Service

DEC **29**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Unity Worship Center
1975 Haggard Court
Lexington, KY 40505

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Chambers*

February 01, 2023 at 11:02 AM



“ *Betty had a way of brightening up a room. Always smiling, laughing and joking around. Our condolences to her family.*

gene hamm - December 31, 2021 at 03:53 PM



Betty was one of the sweetest person I have ever met. She was always smiling, telling jokes, and loved to page you on our system. She will be misses. Condolences to her family.

Phyllis Little - April 12, 2025 at 12:20 PM



“ *She was amazing. I first met Betty at WKYT in 1978 and would occasionally run into here for In Charlotte as she visited family members.*
Betty was the first face you would see or first voice that you would hear at Channel 27 over the phone.
I remember her as kind, giving, and compassionate. Rest well and continued prayers for you and your family.

Steve Crump - December 29, 2021 at 12:07 PM



I met Betty when I started working at WKYT in 1993 as Ralph Gabbard's assistant. She always made me feel welcome, and I can hear her laughing now at Ralph's jokes. Lovingly remembered by many.

Pat Thomason - December 29, 2021 at 06:06 PM

JM

“ So sad that Betty has left us. She brightened my world!

Jamie Millard - December 29, 2021 at 09:00 AM

CN

“ I will always remember Betty with a smile! Whether speaking to her on the phone when calling Channel 27 or visiting with her in person in the lobby of the TV station, she was warm and joyful - A real treasure - Rest In Peace, Betty - Sincerely, Carl Nathe

Carl Nathe - December 29, 2021 at 07:54 AM

BD

“ I worked with Betty at WKYT from 1989-1991. She was a kind, generous friend and full of grace and beauty. May God's Magic heal her family's hurting hearts. Rest In Peace my friend

Beverly Davies

Beverly Davies - December 28, 2021 at 06:23 PM

BS

“ I first met Betty when I came to interview at WKYT in 1981. As on that that day, she always had a smile and a kind word when I came in to the station while running the News Bureau in Morehead and thereafter when I moved to Lexington to anchor the morning inserts. Betty was a lovely individual.

Brad Sprayberry - December 28, 2021 at 05:01 PM

RB

“ Betty was a wonderful person! Uplifting and caring.... Suddenly her voice would come over the PA singing Happy Birthday. Everybody loved her... never forget her.

Rob Bromley - December 28, 2021 at 04:59 PM

BB

“ Betty's smile and smooth voice were what greeted folks at WKYT for many years both in-person and over the phone. For those of us at the station every day she was fun to be around with an infectious laugh that made everything a little lighter. Her birthday songs were a special treat for those who were celebrating. Condolences to Betty's family of whom she was very proud.

Bill Bryant - December 28, 2021 at 03:01 PM

MH

“ Betty was a joy and a true treasure at WKYT. I am so saddened to hear of her passing.

Michele Hill - December 28, 2021 at 02:40 PM



“ Betty was a beautiful soul whose love of life was evident and cherished by all who knew her. She was always one of the best parts of my days at WKYT. Best wishes to all who loved her.

Tammy Sprague - December 28, 2021 at 02:27 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Betty Chambers.



December 28, 2021 at 02:15 PM

WM

“ Betty Chambers was the person you first met when you entered WKYT ! She was then courteous and efficient . As a fellow employee , she taught me a lot . Which I greatly appreciate. Condolences to all the family that she loved so much. Wayne Martin

Wayne Martin - December 28, 2021 at 02:14 PM

JG

“ Betty was a shining star at WKYT! I always loved her cheerful voice. She was much loved. My sincerest condolences to her family. Jackie Gabbard

Jackie Gabbard - December 28, 2021 at 02:08 PM

DC

“ Betty brought so much joy to her coworkers at WKYT. She sang for us all of the time and always made us smile. Betty, thank you for being a bright light at all times. You will be missed.

DeLaina Crutcher - December 28, 2021 at 11:19 AM

BB

“ So sad to hear this..we had so much fun at WKYT working together..Yes she was so proud of her family...RIP sweet lady you will be missed

Beverly Begley - December 28, 2021 at 10:43 AM