



## Betty Jane Frels

March 17, 1939 - October 14, 2016

Betty Jane Minten Frels, 77

Betty Jane Minten Frels, 77, of Rockport, Texas, formerly of San Antonio, Texas, entered Heaven's gates on October 14, 2016, her daughter (Judy) and son (Donnie) were at her side. Betty endured a long battle with cancer and a subsequent episode of pneumonia that took her life. Betty was born March 17, 1939 in Falfurrias, Texas, the daughter of Albert Edward Minten and Ruby Asalee Holman.

Betty was born in Falfurrias, Texas into a cattle ranching family. The family moved to San Antonio when Betty was a small child. She attended Harlandale High School in San Antonio where she was a cheerleader and also Duchess of the Ganges River in the Court of Enchanted Waters during the Harlandale High School Coronation. Betty obtained her GED from Lee College in Baytown and went on to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Houston at Clear Lake (Cum Laude) and her Masters Degree in Special Education from Texas A & M University at Corpus Christi. At that time, Betty also earned her Educational Diagnostician Certification and became a Diagnostician for Aransas County ISD. During her career Betty was an elementary school teacher, special education teacher and diagnostician. Betty loved children and teaching.

Betty enjoyed bike riding, painting, playing piano, reading, going to the beach and teaching. Mom was a lifelong learner. She taught herself to paint and play piano.

Betty was previously married to Don Brandon Frels. Together they raised two children (Judy and Donnie). Together they supported each venture Judy and Donnie embarked on. Be it sports, school activities, or after school activities. We have many wonderful family memories.

Betty loved the Minten family. She looked forward to our family reunions. Mom always brought her movie camera and captured many wonderful memories. The Minten family and it's heritage were her joy.

Betty is preceded in death by her parents, Albert Edward and Ruby Asalee Minten; brothers Albert Edward, Fred Allen, Robert Everett, and Jimmie Vernon (Sambo); sisters Frances Paralee, Virginia Lee, and Gracie Mae.

Betty is survived by her sister (Pauline) Genevieve Minten Necker; daughter Judy Frels Ward; son Donnie Frels; daughter-in-law Suzanne Frels and grandchildren William Frels Ward, Tara Frels and Victoria Frels.

My brother and I wish to extend our appreciation to Care Regional Medical Center, Aransas Pass, Texas. Specifically to Dr. Sheila Zanoria and ICU nurses Natalie, Donna and Crystal for their support in mom's final hours. Words cannot convey our heartfelt gratitude.

There will be a private graveside service celebrating her life at Mission Cemetery South, San Antonio, Texas on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 10:30 AM.

# Tribute Wall

Emily  
Khalil

“ Aunt Betty had the gift of making everyone in her presence feel cherished. She always fascinated me with her kindness and willingness to pay attention to even the youngest family member. Aunt Betty was adamant that we stay connected as a family and I hope we can continue her tradition. My thoughts and prayers are with Judy and Donnie and their families. We love you and we are here for you.

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**Emily Khalil** - October 22, 2016 at 07:54 AM

WG

“ With lot of love, Annie, Justin, and Gavin purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Betty Jane Frels.



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**With lot of love, Annie, Justin, and Gavin** - October 21, 2016  
at 07:10 PM

JW

“ I remember how much Mom loved her family. She loved the Minten family reunions. Mom would let the cousins (and there were a lot of us) borrow her movie camera and film our own 'movie'. Movie cameras back then didn't have sound, so there were homemade posters and a lot of overacting.

I remember Mom making my clothes and my dolls clothes. She made me and my best friend (Terri Neau) matching jumpers and a matching purse. She made my piano recital dresses, tap and ballet costumes and softball shirt (we were the Peppermint Patty's - from the Peanuts cartoon).

When we moved to the WMA in east Texas, we lived 3-4 miles down a red dirt road. One afternoon Donnie and I had a lemonade stand outside our house. We were selling lemonade right and left! Later, when I was an adult, Mom told me that she had called and ask dad's office and their friends to come out and buy lemonade. Mom loved to document our lives with pictures. I remember Mom taking Donnie and I to Sears to have our Easter pictures made with Daisey and Peter (our pet duck and rabbit).

Mom loved to learn. She taught herself to paint and then taught her grandson(Will) to paint. She also taught herself to play the piano/keyboard. Her grandchildren (Tara, Tori and Will) fondly remember her love of learning.

Mom use to come and stay a week or so at a time with Will and I. I loved coming home from work to see what shenanigans they had been up to. One time they put on a 'dinner show' for me. ❤️ When I got home, Will escorted me to the table and he was my waiter. He had written up a menu for me to order from and mom was the chef. Luv this... So, as I enjoyed a home cooked meal, Mom and Will put on a ZZ Top show. Yes, Will had taught Mom to play air guitar and the classic ZZ Top guitar moves. Priceless. And of course, the crowd went wild!

Another time, Mom and Will built a bridge over the small creek by our house. They picked wildflowers and made an arrangement too. Mom was Will's (my son) biggest fan. She was proud of his involemt in Boy Scouts and band. Will's band teacher allowed Will to take his nice school tuba with us when we went to see Mom. She

*never tired of hearing him play for her or listening to his scouting adventures.*

*Mom was very private about her battle with cancer. She was bedridden, very short of breath and had lost a lot of weight. It has been difficult not sharing her battle openly with the family. However, it was her wish to keep this private. She truly loved each of you and spoke fondly of family times. She mourned the passing of each brother and sister. Many years ago, I specifically remember how upset Mom was when Randy died in a car accident and how she admired his roller skating. ... Mom was only 2 yrs old when Grandpa Minten died. So, along with Grandma Minten, Mom was raised by her older brothers and sisters.*

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**Judy Frels Ward** - October 20, 2016 at 10:56 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Betty Jane Frels.*



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October 20, 2016 at 06:09 PM

JA

“ I have a million or more memories of my precious Aunt Betty Jane. Way too many to share in this small space. I remember her always being there for family celebrations. I remember her taking my little sister and me to the drive in movies and fixing us up with scarves and pony tails and sunglasses to look like 50's teenagers. I remember her organizing and being the greatest helper in all the family reunions. I remember her being the keeper of the Minten memorabilia and displaying it at all the family reunions for all of us to view. I remember her going on vacations with us to the coast when I was a little kid. I remember her pushing me and my sister Rhonda on the swings on the playground. I remember her helping us build a snowman at my grandma's house on Beldon street when I was a little kid. I remember her dressed up for Halloween and taking me Trick or Treat in my Grandma Minten's neighborhood. I remember her sweet spirit and willingness to help whenever she could. She came to my teenage parties and was the record deejay for us. So many memories come flooding back to me as we bring her to her resting place. I've never been able to tell my beloved aunts and uncles goodbye as they go to their resting places. I can't even imagine that. However as we lay her to rest I will tell her like I did parents and aunts and uncles who have gone to heaven before her; see you later. So Aunt Betty I won't say goodbye. I know without a doubt I will see you later. May you rest in perfect peace in the arms of Jesus.

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Janice - October 20, 2016 at 05:14 PM