



Betsy Lee Gateley Dinkins

November 17, 1940 - September 22, 2023

Betsy Lee Gateley Dinkins, 82, of Champaign, IL passed away at 9:38 p.m. Friday, September 22, 2023 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL.

She was born on November 17, 1940 in Paragould, AR, the daughter of Roy and Elizabeth (Douglass) Gateley and grew up in the magical town of Senath, MO. She married James A. Dinkins on August 14, 1993 in Cape Girardeau, MO.

Betsy is survived by her daughter, Lilabeth Norton (David) Frye, and step-daughter Laura Dinkins (Brian) Norman. She is also survived by her eight grandchildren: Timothy (Paige), Lucas, and Dustin Frye; and Caleb, Lillian (Nathanael Renaud), Joseph, Samuel, and Elisha Norman. She has one great-grandson, Knox Frye. Betsy is also survived by many long-time friends too numerous to list, but whose support and love are not forgotten.

In addition to her parents, Betsy was preceded in death by her husband James A. Dinkins, daughter Laura Dee Norton-Dye, son-in-law Curtis R. Dye, step-son Jonathan Dinkins, and step-daughter Rebecca Dinkins Hargrove.

Betsy received her bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University and was a passionate Cape Girardeau Public School teacher for 25 years at Jefferson Elementary School. She was an active member of the

Humane Society of Southeast Missouri and is happily on the Rainbow Bridge with all the dogs that passed before her: Lucky, Rusty, Mandy, Bandit, Shadow, Mallory, Ginger, Chloe and Lacey. She was an avid reader and shared that love with her grandchildren.

Ford and Sons of Cape Girardeau, MO is in charge of the arrangements. Visitation will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 7 at Ford and Sons Funeral Home on Mt. Auburn Road with the funeral following at 3:00. Burial will be at the Senath Cemetery in Senath, MO at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that any memorial donations be made to SEMO Pets (formerly the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri) or the Cape Girardeau Public Library.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Memorial Service

OCT 7. 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

SH

“ *Such a sweetheart!*

sharon Hardin - October 28, 2023 at 03:28 PM

CG

“ *Carol G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betsy Lee Gateley Dinkins.*

Carol G. - September 28, 2023 at 12:19 PM

CG

“ *Carol G. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Betsy Lee Gateley Dinkins.*



Carol G. - September 28, 2023 at 12:05 PM

CW

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss! She was my kindergarten teacher in 1976. I loved her so much and have thought about her often since then. She was one of my favorite teachers!*

Chrissi Wright - September 28, 2023 at 08:18 AM

SH

“ I didn't meet Betsy until Dec 2019. I moved to Evergreen Place Assisted Living in Champaign Il where Betsy was a resident. It didn't take long before we were best friends. We enjoyed many of the activities & meals together. We folded newspapers for the Champaign Cty Humane Society to use in their kitten & puppy cages. She & I made many & various holiday gifts for the other residents & employees. That was one of the last things we talked about & how much she enjoyed those times. She always gave us a laugh talking about the Senath water tower. Something else she enjoyed - going shopping at Goodwill! We had a lot of fun together & Betsy will always be in my heart. Thoughts & prayers to Lilabeth & family.

Sally Hearnley - September 27, 2023 at 05:46 PM

CP

“ To the family of Betsy: She was my kids kindergarten teacher (Amy and Jeff Priest). They were so fortunate to have a good caring teacher in kindergarten. So sorry to hear of your loss. Clairene Priest

Clairene Priest - September 27, 2023 at 04:32 PM

CP

“ iene Priest.

Clairene Priest - September 27, 2023 at 01:41 PM