



## Bettie Sue McHaney Talbert

November 14, 1934 - October 4, 2020

Longtime Cape Girardeau resident Bettie Sue McHaney Talbert, age 85, returned to the arms of God on Sunday, October 4, 2020 after a long term battle with autoimmune pulmonary interstitial disease. The daughter of George and Lois McHaney, born on November 14, 1934 in Marmaduke, Arkansas grew up in Kennett, Missouri where she played basketball in high school and played several musical instruments. She was the drum majorette of her high school band, a member of the National Honor Society and the first of her family to attend college. She graduated from the University of Missouri in 1956, where she was one of the original members of the Mizzou Golden Girls, a drum majorette and twirling squad for the University of Missouri Band. She joined Alpha Delta Pi sorority and in 1953, she led only 14 other members in recruiting 34 new members ,rejuvenating the sorority to great growth and success. In 1955, she was elected as a finalist in the "Savitar" Yearbook contest. After College in 1956, Bettie married her high school sweetheart, Dr. C.R. "Tim" Talbert while he was attending Washington University Medical School in St. Louis.

After graduation from the University of Missouri, Mrs. Talbert taught home economics at Ladue High School in St. Louis, Missouri. There she developed and supervised the majorettes and flag corps. Arriving in Cape Girardeau, she established a training program for the majorettes at Cape Central High School.

Bettie has been loyal to the Greek Community and is credited with founding the Delta Nu chapter of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority at SEMO University, from which over 1700 have graduated over the last 52 years.

Bettie and Tim moved to Cape with their young family in 1965. They joined Centenary United Methodist Church, began a medical practice and have spent the last 55 years as active members of the community.

In 1968, she was named "Outstanding Young Woman of the Year" by the Cape Girardeau Jaycees.

In the 1970's Bettie recruited the local medical auxiliary (consisting of physician's wives) to become certified CPR instructors. Together the 12 women trained the local fire department, police, and members of the general public, ultimately resulting in over 1,000 people certified to administer CPR all across Cape County.

Bettie was the chairman of the Education Committee of the community betterment project "Cape Go", an officer of the local medical auxiliary, a member of PEO and a member of the SEMO symphony board.

In the 1980's she developed Plaza Galleria with an Ice Rink and a skating program for the local youth groups in Cape, producing many skating shows, and winning many competitions with local kids skating in the shows.

She established a scholarship fund for the "Outstanding Pledge at Alpha Delta Pi Sorority" and served as Rush Advisor for more than 25 years. In 1970 she was appointed as the sole officer for recruitment for the national ADPi sorority.

In 2018, in recognition of her lifelong contributions, she and her husband were named recipients of the Friend of the University Award, the highest honor

bestowed by the Southeast Missouri University Foundation.

Bettie's life-long passion was landscape gardening at her home in Cape, drawing inspiration from famous gardens world-wide. She currently has over 50 species of plants presently growing at her home.

Bettie Talbert is survived by her husband of 64 years, Dr. C.R. "Tim" Talbert of Cape Girardeau; three sons, Tim (Michelle) of Chattanooga, TN, Chris (Shelby) of New York City, NY and Lewis (Kelly) of Austin, TX; as well as five grandchildren, Thomas, Ryan, Susanna, Trace and McHaney Talbert. She is also survived by her niece, Marsha Thompson (Ed) of Cape Girardeau; nephews, Jim McHaney of Atlanta, GA, Dennis McHaney of Austin, TX, and Kenneth McHaney of Memphis, TN; and multiple great nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are encouraged to Centenary United Methodist Church, American Red Cross or American Heart Association.

A private family graveside service will be held Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at Fairmount Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## **Fairmount Cemetery**

835 Caruthers  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Bettie Talbert was such a wonderful lady. I treasure the years that I worked with her. My condolences to the Talbert family for your loss.*

Christie Webb Shivelbine - October 09, 2020 at 10:50 AM

NE

“ *To the Talbert family, so sorry for your loss of Bettie. Bettie was a great lady, wife , mother and an asset to all lives she touched. R I P Bettie you will be missed. Nelson E. Eaker*

Nelson E Eaker - October 07, 2020 at 01:20 PM

BP

“ *Memories Dear classmate and friend all our High School years in Kennett, Mo. We had lots of fun and memories I will always cherish.*

BarbaraMouser Parmenter. - October 07, 2020 at 11:04 AM

JB

“ *Bettie,*

*You gave us the gift of The Ice in an otherwise slow and stereotypical Midwest town. You also gave me my first job, the gift of Hockey, coaching not to mention everyone's dream of driving the Zamboni and driving the plow on Doc's Bronco when it snowed. You and Doc were a very important part of my youth and young adult life.*

*- Jeff Byrne*

Jeff Byrne - October 07, 2020 at 03:30 AM

RY

“ I knew Bettie through her son Chris who is my age and through my many years of working with her as an advisor of the SEMO Delta Nu Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi. We also shared the bond of both having our initiating chapter be the Alpha Gamma Chapter at the University of Missouri. I was so inspired by her dedication, knowledge, and high standards concerning the Alpha Delta Pi Sisterhood. She poured so much into so many young women's lives. I often was able to spend time alone with her after sorority preference parties which were for many years held at her beautiful home. In those special conversations, I often thought to myself how sad that she didn't have a girl-no offense guys! She had so much "Girl Advice" that she shared with me! She was the perfect example of a woman of real class.

When she opened the ice rink, she asked my mother to be the director of the skating classes. My son loved playing hockey there for several years as well. Of course, "The Fantastics" was also a favorite place to find that special unique gift.

I will miss her very much, but will always think of her fondly for the many lessons she spoke into my life.

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**Rhonda Young** - October 06, 2020 at 07:41 PM

MC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Bettie's passing. I had the opportunity to meet her on a few occasions and she was such a pleasant lady. My sincere condolences to the entire Talbert family.

Mike Conrad

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**Mike Conrad** - October 06, 2020 at 06:27 PM

JB

“ *Bettie was the reason there is an Alpha Delta Pi chapter at the university. She was an inspiration to so many. I'm pleased to say that I am a charter member of the chapter. I truly treasure our friendship. Thank you to her family for sharing her with her Alpha Delta Pi sisters.*

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**Jane Boyle** - October 06, 2020 at 03:46 PM

KS

“ *Kelly, Patrice and EP lab staff purchased the Encanted Cottage for the family of Bettie Sue McHaney Talbert.*



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**Kelly, Patrice and EP lab staff** - October 06, 2020 at 01:29 PM

JD

“ *The women of Alpha Delta Pi are heartbroken over the loss of Mrs. Talbert. We send the Talbert family our deepest condolences. Mrs. Talbert was an amazing women that we all admired so much. She established our local chapter and impacted the lives of many women. There are so many fond memories of her..to many to list. Please let us know if there is anything we can do. Flowers have been sent to Ford and Sons Funeral home. We will begin working on a scholarship in Mrs. Talbert's name.*

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**Jessica Dorris** - October 06, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bettie Sue McHaney Talbert.*



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October 06, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bettie Sue McHaney Talbert.*



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October 06, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ *Dr. Talbert,  
We are remembering you and your sons and the family in our prayers. Bettie was a special friend to us.  
Love & Prayers,  
Dr. Ron and Carol Robinson*

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**Carol Robinson** - October 05, 2020 at 10:14 PM



“ *Keeping you close at heart and in my prayers!  
With Deepest Sympathy,  
Brenda L. Hanle*

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**Brenda L. Hanle** - October 05, 2020 at 08:43 PM



*So Sorry for your loss!!! Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Cheri Beauchamp** - October 05, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bettie Sue McHaney Talbert.*



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October 05, 2020 at 08:38 PM



“ *Prayers from my family to yours. Bettie was one of a kind. A very special lady.*  
*Rosalie and Allen Haney*

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**Rosalie Haney** - October 05, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ *The Burrows Family purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Bettie Sue McHaney Talbert.*



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**The Burrows Family** - October 05, 2020 at 06:05 PM