



# Betty Lee LaPrelle

SEP 15, 1928 - JAN 16, 2019



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## **Betty Lee LaPrelle**

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**B**etty Lee LaPrelle passed away Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at the age of 90 in Plano, Texas where her final care was provided. Betty was born September 15, 1928 to the late Clifford and Aileen Jones in Dallas, Texas. She spent her childhood in Jackson, Mississippi. She often fondly recollected that her family's home was so close to the zoo that she could hear the lions roaring. As a teenager, she belonged to E.N.C., which stands for "Entre Nous Coquettes" or "Among Us Flirts." Betty graduated from Central High school in 1945. After high school, she attended The Mississippi Southern College where she studied education and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1950. After college Betty's work was varied and exciting. She was employed by Southern Pacific Railroad as a railroad hostess. She also worked as a hostess at The Zodiac Room in downtown Dallas during Helen Corbitt's tenure. Additionally, because of her height and natural beauty, she modeled for advertisements for Neiman Marcus. In the summer of 1956, at a volleyball game sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Dallas, she met her future husband, James LaPrelle. They married three months later. Betty and Jim were long-time residents of Lake Highlands in Dallas and raised their three children there. In addition to caring for her family, Betty was a dedicated teacher. She began teaching in Dallas ISD and spent the majority of her career teaching in Garland ISD. During her career she belonged to numerous committees and completed graduate coursework at Texas Women's University and Southern Methodist University. While teaching and raising her family, Betty was a caregiver for her mother and numerous relatives. After retiring in the late 1980s, Betty and her husband worked for the Dallas Convention Center. Betty especially enjoyed the glitz and glamour of the Mary Kay Seminars that took place annually at the Convention Center. In her spare time, Betty enjoyed shopping for bargains at Horchow, walking her dogs, chatting with her neighbors, having lunch at The String Bean Restaurant, and spending time with her family. Betty was an



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energetic, intelligent, flirtatious person with a sly wit who will be missed by all who knew her. Betty was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of fifty-six years, James Porter LaPrelle, her sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Ed Rankin, and her nephew, Richard Rankin. She is survived by her children, Tim (Tanya) LaPrelle, Doug (Tonja) LaPrelle and Liz (Jeff) Rooney; niece, Jeanette Rankin; grandchildren, Amber (Kevin) O'Reilly, Alexander (Tien) LaPrelle, Casey (Phillip) Nowell, Dallas (Allison) LaPrelle, Dakotah LaPrelle, Eric (Kristy) Rooney, Philip Rooney, Natalie Rooney; great-grandchildren Sophia O'Reilly, Abigail O'Reilly, Colson Rooney, Isabella LaPrelle, and James LaPrelle. Betty's family would like to thank the staff at Harbor Chase, Alicja Kuskowska, and Gilda Johnson for their care and kindness. A Graveside Service will be held Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 11:00 am at Restland Memorial Park, Garden of Last Supper.



## Tribute Wall

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PR

**Pat Russell** posted:

I LOVED Betty! She taught me so much about being a kind and FUN teacher like she was. One of the most valuable lesson in teaching that she shared with me was the creation of "Miss Somebody". Her students and then my students, got to sit in the special "Miss Somebody" chair and share with the class their important news of the day. This was the most valuable seat in the classroom. Each child felt as if they were the most important person in the world while they sat in "Miss Somebody's" lap. Betty always thought that "Everybody" was "Somebody" important. My Dad and I even constructed a "Miss Somebody" chair that looked like a person. That special chair was a part of my classrooms for 25 years and I still have it at my house and I always think of Betty when I look at my special chair and think...Betty truly was a very Special "Miss Somebody" in my life.

January 22 at 3:07 PM

AM

**Ann Murphy** posted:

Betty has certainly been missed in the neighborhood here in Estates West since she moved away. She loved her dogs, her yard and her neighborhood and the neighborhood loved her! You never saw Betty when she was not dressed very stylish. Betty was very faithful in putting out flags on her street on the patriotic holidays. So glad I knew her!

January 22 at 7:24 AM

BH

**Bob And Dusty Hamilton** posted:

Ms Betty was our neighbor and special friend. She had a heart bigger than life. She took care of the whole neighborhood and live to stop and chat on her daily walks. I'm sure she's looking down at all of us and smiling as she's at peace and wrapped in the arms of the Lord. She is a lady who will not be forgotten. She and Mr. Jim are probably walking arm and arm and telling stories to all.

January 20 at 3:05 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Betty by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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