



Betty J. Lyles

May 11, 1941 - January 16, 2026

Betty J. Lyles, daughter of the late Robert Lyles and Mary (Troxler) Lyles, was born on Sunday, May 11, 1941, at Harrisburg Hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Betty received her education at Steelton-Highspire Senior High School in Steelton, Pennsylvania. She then began her clerical career at Olmsted Army Base in Middletown, Pennsylvania, later working at the U.S. Army Depot in New Cumberland, and ultimately retiring from the Pennsylvania State Government in Harrisburg.

Betty was a faithful member of Monumental A.M.E. Church, where she participated in the Young Adult Choir and the Young People's Division (YPD). Her church involvement reflected her commitment to faith and fellowship within her community.

In her youth, she was a gifted piano player and a passionate music enthusiast. She and several of her girlfriends formed a singing group that performed locally, and she occasionally sang backup for gospel singer Gloria Spencer at area shows. Her love of music remained a constant throughout her life.

As a member of the Steelton Elks, Betty enjoyed bus trips to various cities to

attend live gospel, soul, and blues concerts. An avid reader, she delighted in perusing many types of publications, whether fact-based or tabloid in nature. In her retirement years, she became more of a homebody, devoting herself to caring for her beloved cats and neighborhood strays. She loved watching classic black-and-white television shows, especially “Shoot ’Em Ups” and Ironside.

Though she appeared shy and reserved, Betty greatly enjoyed laughing and having fun with those close to her. Her dry, wry sense of humor often left others laughing until they cried, and when something truly amused her, she would laugh until her shoulders shook and exclaim her signature phrase, “No! Stop the madness!”

On Friday, January 16, 2026, at the age of eighty-four, Betty peacefully transitioned into eternal rest at UPMC Community Osteopathic Hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by those who welcomed her into eternal peace.

She leaves cherished memories and her love to her sister, Lisa L. Lyles; her brother, R. Michael Lyles (Angela); her cousins, Nadine Palmer Brown and Charles E. Palmer (Toni); her loving and devoted caregiver, Sandra Golden; along with a host of friends and neighbors who will forever remember her kindness and spirit.

Memorial contributions can be made to The Kidney Foundation in honor of Betty Lyles’ life. <https://www.kfcp.org/>

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

Tribute Wall

NC

“ *Lisa, please accept my condolences on the passing of your sister.*

Nichelle Chivis - February 18 at 06:07 AM

DR

“ *My condolences to the family. I met Ms Betty when I was around 9 years old when my mom, Ms Marathon would hangout to sell dinners for church*

A very kind woman, I believe she remained the same kind and helpful person until her health began to decline. God bless.



D Ramsey - February 17 at 11:59 PM

LR

“ *To the family, Betty was my neighbor for years, she always minded her own business once she came home from work. She may be gone but never forgotten !!*

Lucille Ray



Lucille Ray - February 16 at 12:30 PM

GB

“ Betty, I miss our phone calls, the laughter when trying to remember a persons name. You were the only one who would remind me of my anniversary every single year. Of course it passed and I forgot (2/7). You were the only one that John would talk to and he loved calling you "Spaghetti Betty" just to get you riled up. Then you two would go at it. Yes, we Loved You and you will remain in our hearts always. Rest In Power Friend!

GERRY L. BROWN - February 14 at 09:54 AM

CH

Betty lived next door to me on Christian Street and was good friends with my brother, Joe. I remember her and her friends rehearsing at the house. Always admired her. Rest in Peace Betty ☐ ■

Christine Headen - February 16 at 07:18 PM

VD

Betty was one of my moms, Ida Mae Drayton Brown oldest friend. I'm sure my mom was there to welcome Betty as she joined many from the Westside asking "what took you so long Betty we've been waiting for you"?

Vikki Drayton - February 20 at 09:31 AM