

OBITUARY

Betty Jean Claypool

May 28, 1924 ~ February 7, 2017

Betty Jean Claypool passed away Feb. 7 in Prineville. A service will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. at Juniper Haven Cemetery.

Betty was born in St. Helens on May 28, 1924, to parents Ernest Samuel Sr. and Florence Esther Engstrom.



Betty's family moved to Prineville in 1940 before she was a sophomore at Crook County High School, from which she later graduated.

Betty met Lawrence Claypool, her future husband of 69-plus years, and were married June 6, 1942. Shortly after marrying, Lawrence left to attend basic training for the Seventh Army Air Corps. Betty followed Lawrence to different bases as he completed basic and advanced training. As a military wife, Betty stayed and helped out in boarding houses and always found employment as a telephone operator and/or secretary on the bases.

Soon afterward, Betty and Lawrence found they were pregnant with their first child. Betty returned to Prineville to live until Lawrence came back from serving in World War II. Son Robert "Bob" James was born in 1944; daughter, Helen Marie, was born in 1946; and daughter, Esther Jean, born in 1948. The family was complete.

In addition to being a loving wife and excellent mother, Betty worked over the years as a grade school cook, medical receptionist, and grade school secretary. She loved her home and family but enjoyed working in the public serving others. Betty was sweet, personable and outgoing with a continuous smile for everyone. While serving as the secretary at Crooked River Grade School, Betty was known to give out hugs to the students.

Betty, along with Lawrence, was active in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, serving as a member of the Altar Guild and Vestry. A high point of her public service was the Crook County Historical Society, where she served as president.

She is survived by her sister, Shirley Ann Gerke (Jerry); three previously mentioned children, Bob (Diane), Helen (Al) and Esther (Mike Gowrylow); five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence; parents, Ernest, Sr. and Florence Engstrom; sisters, Mary Millsap, Maxine Robnett and Beryl Landers; and brother, Ernie Engstrom, Jr.

Memorial contributions can be made to Partners in Care/Hospice.

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