



Bettye Jean Cates

October 1, 1928 - June 25, 2015

Bettye Cates, "Mawga", "Mrs. Make-do", "Bet", took flight on Angels Wings from her temporary home in Tennessee on June 25, 2015. Bettye Jean Cates, 86 years young, was born to Arthur and Maudie Seagle on October 1, 1928, in the Smoky Mountains at the right-hand fork of the Little Pigeon River. On May 30, 1948 she married Rev. Clarence E. Cates and they were founders of Christian Fellowship Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Together they pastored for 62 years, built 5 churches and renovated 6 others. Through their mission program they helped to build churches and Bible schools in several countries around the world and both traveled extensively and visited more than 70 nations. In the 70's, she became employed at W.E. Browns Interior Design Company in Atlanta, GA and was the lead designer on the decorating team that redecorated The White House for the wedding of Patricia Nixon. She also was on the team that decorated The Governors Mansions in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition, she also designed and tailored dresses and suits for 50+ choir members. After losing her daughter, Patricia Diane Moore, Bettye founded The Shepherd's Staff, a ministry of volunteer caregivers seeing to the needs of the elderly and handicapped. Many lives have been touched through her hands and heart. She was a true matriarch and one-of-a-kind First Lady. She is preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Clarence E. Cates; daughters, Patricia Diane Moore, Silva Anne Cates; parents, Arthur and Maude Seagle. She is survived by sons, Michael (Lynn) E. Cates and Samuel (Melissa) G. Cates; daughter,

Constance (David) A. Herring; beloved grandchildren, Eric and Tonya Dantin, Erika Herring, Samantha Cates, Jaicee Cates, Joshua and Stacy Herring, Bronson and Stacy Gilbert; twelve great -grandchildren. Graveside services will be held Sunday, June 28th at 3:00pm at Fairview Memorial Gardens with Rev. David Herring and Pastor Marvin Williams officiating. The family will receive friends Sunday, June 28th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at the funeral home. Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Rd., Conyers, GA, 770-483-7216.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Memorial Gardens

164 Fairview Rd.
Fairview Memorial Gardens, GA 30281

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 28. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Service

JUN 28. 3:00 PM (ET)

Fairview Memorial Gardens
164 Fairview Rd
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Tribute Wall

GW

“ Dear Connie and Sam.. Words cannot express the sorry I feel in my heart for you, especially you Connie.. You were her care giver, her hands, her eyes, and her heart. She might not could have said much to you in the last few weeks, but she knew you were there caring for her. You never get over losing your Mother.. My Mother went to Heaven in 1996, but I still go places and see things and think, Mother would love to see this or Mother would have liked that dress or that special dish of the new casserole.. She will always live in your heart and that is a treasure that you hold on to as you heal. Love and prayers to you Love Geraldine Welch

geraldine Welch - July 01, 2015 at 07:50 AM

CO

“ Today Daddy received the best Birthday gift of his life - Mom! Happy Birthday Daddy! I love you both more than anything in the world!
WHW

Connie - June 29, 2015 at 08:57 AM

SC

Indeed Sis. He was the most difficult person to buy for on special days. I kinda think this gift was perfect. Too great legacies together FOREVER!

samuel cates - June 29, 2015 at 01:37 PM



“ 147 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Scot Ward Funeral Services - June 28, 2015 at 08:40 AM

LC

“ *Mike, Lynn, Sam and Connie, I know on the 25th of June Heavens gates opened extra wide and the angels sang extra beautiful that day, there are never enough words to express how very sorry we are for the loss of your mother, but always know that through your thoughts and memories of her she will always be with you forever and a day, may God bless and keep you always! Larry and Wanda Cooley*

Larry Cooley - June 28, 2015 at 06:57 AM

HL

“ *Our sincere condolences to you and your family on the loss of Ms. Cates. Praying for peace and comfort. May God bless you.*

Heather and Christopher Leslie and Rebecca and Jonathan Dawn and Rob Green

Heather Leslie - June 27, 2015 at 02:18 PM

MT

“ *My sincere condolences to you and your family on your loss of Ms. Cates. Our Loving Creator, Jehovah, promises that soon our tears of grief will turn into tears of great joy when he brings back to life again the ones we love so dear (Isaiah 25:8; 26:19). What a wonderful time this will be! May such thrilling promises, soon to be a reality, bring you much comfort in the days to come.*

Mrs. Thomas - June 27, 2015 at 11:38 AM

CH

“ *I'm deeply sorry for your loss. I hope the words found in the bible at Isaiah 25:8 brings comfort. God promises to "swallow up death forever". No more will we have to suffer heartache for God says he will "wipe away the tears from all faces". Such a joyous time it will be; reunited with our dead loved ones!*

cheyenne - June 27, 2015 at 08:59 AM

LC

“ *Connie, Mike, and Sam:
Your mom and dad were like my second parents. Patricia and I were best friends and spent a big portion of our time together. I will never forget the love and graciousness of your mom. She will always be remembered as a very quiet, gracious and beautiful lady. My love, prayers and condolences to you all.*

Linda Wilson-Cobb and my wonderful husband, Jearl

Linda and Jearl Cobb - June 26, 2015 at 08:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bettye Jean Cates.*



June 26, 2015 at 07:53 PM



“ *You were Loved & you will be missed. May you find comfort in knowing that Heaven is her eternal home.*

Woody & Faith Wilson

Woody Wilson - June 26, 2015 at 06:41 PM



“ *R.I.P. Sister Cates.... You were loved by many and you will be missed!!!! Heaven just got sweeter.....*



Tonya Beasley (Smith Family) - June 26, 2015 at 05:06 PM

JC

“ We will never forget Pastor and Sister Cates. As kids we grew up under their ministry. They taught us how to love and serve God. Sister Cates was an example of a Pastor's wife, and was always willing to lend a helping hand when needed. She is now in Heaven, where she has longed to be. May God be with the family and give them peace during this time.

Larry & JoAnne Clark
McDonough, GA

Joanne Clark - June 26, 2015 at 03:38 PM

PB

“ We have great memories of Pastor & Sister Cates and the time they worshiped with us while we were serving as the pastors of the First Assembly of God, McDonough, GA. It had to be exciting beyond words when Sister Cates entered the celestial city and was greeted by Pastor Cates and precious loved ones awaiting her homecoming! May the God of all comfort be especially close to all of the family as we await that grand and glorious day, "When We All Get to Heaven!"

Pastor Michael & Margie Branson
Nederland, TX

Pastor Michael & Margie Branson - June 26, 2015 at 02:43 PM

DP

Sam...I have never met you... but I am praying for your family at this time...your mother was a beautiful lady....May the memories of the love she brought to you and your siblings.... be forever embedded in your hearts....and just knowing you will see your precious MOMMA again one glorious day....is worth the wait...

Friend of you and Melissa
on Facebook.....
Debra E Hewell Peppers

Debra E Hewell Peppers - June 29, 2015 at 02:09 AM

GB

Such a lovely lady I have very fond memories of the conventions we attended and her gracious hospitality. She and Brother Cates were loved by the HARRIS family from Waycross Georgia. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Glenda (Harris) Bennett Valdosta Georgia.

Glenda Bennett - June 29, 2015 at 07:21 AM