



Betty Jean McMurrans

May 4, 2026

Betty Jean Russell McMurrans, wife of Retired Judge Dennis F. McMurrans, died on May 4, 2026. She is the daughter of Charles Bradford Russell and Evelyn Russell, deceased.

She is survived by her husband of sixty years, her children, Mary Russell McMurrans (David Lauthers), Robert Ferebee McMurrans, II (Andrea) and Dennis Bradford McMurrans and her grandchildren, Ann Archer Callis, Catherine Alston Callis, Robert Ferebee McMurrans, III, and Dennis Fletcher McMurrans.

Betty Jean is a graduate of the class of 1960 of Woodrow Wilson High School and the class of 1964 of Longwood College, now University. She served as President of the Girls Club of Portsmouth, President of the Portsmouth Service League and the Williams Collins Hill Memorial Horticultural Library.

She would like to be remembered for her loving to laugh, her beloved family and friends, literature and beautiful flowers.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Loving Funeral Home, 3225 Academy Avenue, Portsmouth, Virginia.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 2 p.m. in Olive

Branch Cemetery, Portsmouth, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Piland-Russell Scholarships & Sciences, Longwood University Institutional Advancement, 201 High Street, Farmville, Virginia 23909.

Cemetery Details

Graveside - Olive Branch Cemetery

Clifford St. & City Park Ave.2 CPL James
Williams Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Previous Events

A Visitation Celebrating Her Life

MAY 12. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Graveside Service

MAY 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Graveside - Olive Branch Cemetery
Clifford St. & City Park Ave.2 CPL James Williams Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Tribute Wall

PD

“ *In my memories Mrs. McMurrans was a dynamic English teacher! She was kind hearted even in her having the entire class go to the board for definitions and sentence DIAGRAMING! Bless her family. Harry Hunt Jr. High '67*

Paula Williams Druash - May 17 at 06:26 PM

EB

“ *I remember Betty Jean Russell from Woodrow Wilson High. We both graduated in 1960. Betty Jean was wonderful and i remember Betty Jean's best friend was Betty Dearing. We always had lots of fun hanging around those pretty girls. My condolences to the McMurrans family. Eddie Brinkley*

Eddie Brinkley - May 17 at 03:33 PM

CM

“ *I'm writing this for my sister, Margie Ann Twilly Thomy who no longer accesses FB, etc. Betty Jean & my sister were friends & stayed in touch since high school along with several others. She loved Betty Jean's laugh & their time together. There are so many memories my sister continues to remember. Blessings to the family & remaining friends. Love you Betty Jean (from Margie Ann). Carol Twilley Maness*

Carol Twilley Maness - May 16 at 05:24 PM

SM

“ Hello, Dennis , I was so sorry to hear of Betty Jean’s passing. When I was a brand new, slightly bewildered judges wife, she set a standard of welcome I have never forgotten. I know you will miss her greatly, as I do Lee.
Be blessed. Susan Morris (Judge Morris’wife.)

susan morris - May 13 at 05:01 PM

EV

“ Betty Jean McMuran was a one of a kind sweet Lady. Betty Jean and Dennis “” I called him judge””. Yes he was actually a judge in the CITY Of PORTSMOUTH VIRGINIA. Where a fixture! I heard they were married for 60 years. Yes I said 60. Jesus sure was at the alter when They got Married! That’s for sure 🙏❤️ I think the last time I saw that sweet lady was a year or so ago. I was over her house in churchland Va. where her son ROB has his BOAT PARKED in their horse shoe driveway. I was helping ROB, doing something on one of His two monster out bored engines. “” I don’t think ROB heard me stay. STOP Next thing I know, it caught my finger. WHEN I YELL THE. Not so nice word ! LOUD BETTEY JEAN heard me. AND CAME RUNNING OUTSIDE. ARE YOU OK. EMIL. CAN I GET YOU a bandage or some water. Other than on the phone. I think that might have been the last time I TALKED TO HER IN PERSON. Thank you for that ROB EMIL DALLAVILLA 🙏🙏❤️❤️

emil dalla villa - May 12 at 09:47 AM

MG

Betty had class she treated me like a person her and her husband was always kind and understanding ill never forget REST IN HEAVENLY PEACE ...

Michael Gillikin - May 17 at 11:55 AM

RE

“ *My prayers and condolences to the McMurrans family.*

Rhett Epler - May 12 at 06:16 AM

BW

“ *Betty Jean and I were born on the same day and had some memorable bdays.. she was always like a sister to me, especially in these later years..*

We shared many phone calls, posts, and love of music...Hugs to Dennis and her sweet family that she cherished..BJ, you are sooo missed. ❤️

Betty Ruth



Betty Ruth Whitener - May 11 at 10:27 PM

EW

“ Dennis, I was so saddened to learn of Betty Jean's passing. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you bid farewell to Betty Jean for now. I'm sure your heart was broken to have lost Betty Jean, but you can take comfort knowing she did not go alone, for part of us went with her when God called her home. Betty Jean will surely will always hold a special place in your heart and the hearts of your family, that no one else can ever fill. You can also take comfort in knowing that you'll be together again someday...I know in a better place. Until then you can continue to thank God every day, that He made Betty Jean your wife and sole mate, for so many years. Dennis, one of God's greatest gifts to us is "HOPE." I believe Betty Jean knew that and always held onto the belief that destiny will not be written for us, but by men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is, but by those who have the courage to remake the world...as it should be. I'm sure Betty Jean supported that belief through the love she held for her family. So, Dennis as you remember Betty Jean today...continue to hold her in your heart, until you can hold her again in your arms in Heaven. She knows how much you love and care for her...that you always have ... and you always will. May the love of your family and friends soften your grief, as Betty Jean continues to live in each of your hearts forever. In time the memory of her life will give you the strength you will need to continue to share your own, Ed Woodard
Edward J Woodard Jr

February 26, 2025 | Norfolk, VA | Friend

Ed Woodard - May 11 at 12:35 PM

EA

“ Betty Jean was such a beautiful woman, inside and out. My relationship with Betty started when we were both in the Portsmouth Service League. I was in awe of her ability to lead and make things happen. Unfortunately I have not been in touch with Betty Jean of late, but she has and will always be an inspiration to me and I'm sure hundreds of others. I will not be able to attend her service for which I am quite distressed. Rest well, Betty Jean. You will be missed.

Elizabeth "Betty" Axson - May 11 at 09:50 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Betty Jean McMurren.



May 11 at 08:30 AM

MC

“ Margaret & George Massey (NJ cousins) purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Betty Jean McMurren.



Margaret & George Massey (NJ cousins) - May 10 at 07:22 PM

MC

“ Margaret & George Massey (NJ cousins) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jean McMurren.

Margaret & George Massey (NJ cousins) - May 10 at 07:22 PM

DB

“ Dear old buddy Dennis, you know my heart is with you. Having lost Peggy so recently I know what you are going through. I am sorry I will miss the services as I will be at granddaughter Leah's honors and graduation in Harrisonburg on those days. My prayers are with Betty Jean. with all my love to you Dean Burgess

Dean Burgess - May 10 at 03:47 PM

LC

“ Love, Michael K. & Stephanie C. purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Betty Jean McMurren.



Love, Michael K. & Stephanie C. - May 10 at 12:32 PM

LC

“ Love, Michael K. & Stephanie C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jean McMurren.

Love, Michael K. & Stephanie C. - May 10 at 12:32 PM

CL

“ Betty Jean was one of the most genuinely welcoming, personable, loving people I have ever known. I am grateful to have known her over the last 20+ years. She was truly unique, in every good way. A very special lady. I will miss her. I already do.
To Dennis and the family, you were all Betty Jean's greatest, most treasured people in her life. She loved you all beyond measure, and was so very proud of each of you.
Much love to you all. My heart hurts for each of you.
Connie Lewis

Connie Lewis - May 09 at 11:49 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Betty Jean McMurren.*



May 08 at 08:59 PM



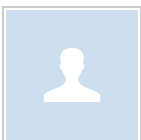
“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Betty Jean McMurren.

May 08 at 08:59 PM



“ *Betty Jean and I grew up together in Prentis Park. Joyce Smith, Connie Bell, Betty Ruth Smith, Joan Bush, Sammy Golightly, Johnny Cagle, Rosalind Gardner and so many more! Those were the best times and I cherish those memories. Betty Jean was a friend to all. Rest in peace my friend. And to her family, you know how blessed you are to have had her.*

Sylva Gilbert Ryder - May 08 at 05:31 PM



“ *Anything for You was purchased for the family of Betty Jean McMurren.*



May 08 at 03:14 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Betty Jean McMurrin.*



May 08 at 11:32 AM