



Ms. Betty Joe Neal

October 27, 1944 - April 7, 2026

Betty Joe Neal, age 81, passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026, at The Crossing at Riverside in Searcy, Arkansas.

Born and raised in Joplin, Missouri, Betty was the daughter of Joe and Birdie Opal (Clawson) Neal. She dedicated 36 years of her life working in food service at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin. She was a hardworking and dependable woman who took great pride in providing for her family.

After retiring at the age of 65, Betty moved to Searcy, Arkansas, to be closer to her daughters. She became a member of First Baptist Church in Searcy and made her home in a retirement community, where she built many meaningful friendships. Betty loved playing cards and was known for her kindness and willingness to help others—often driving fellow residents wherever they needed to go.

Betty was a strong and determined woman who sacrificed much for her children. Her children shared that she would often remind them, "We may not have had what we wanted, but we had everything we needed." Betty worked tirelessly to provide for her family, always putting their needs before her own. Her life was marked by dedication, strength, and an unwavering commitment to those she loved.

It was after retirement that Betty began to truly enjoy the simple things in life. She found joy in music and dancing, especially at the senior dances in Heber Springs. Those moments became some of her happiest times—when she could simply relax and be herself.

Her children remain deeply grateful for all the sacrifices she made and the foundation she built for them.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Kimberly Sloan; and her brothers, Raymond Neal and Billy Neal.

Betty leaves behind a family who will carry her memory forward with love: her children, Tracy Sanders of Celina, Texas; Justin Sloan of Modesto, California; and Kelly (Michael) Merrell of Searcy, Arkansas; her grandchildren, Cole Sanders of Celina, Texas, Jeremiah Sloan of Modesto, California and Jacob (Hailee) Sloan of Modesto, California; her great-grandson, Leevi Jackson Sloan; and her brother, Sam Neal and wife Joanna of San Antonio, Texas.

Private family services will be held at a later date so expressions of sympathy should be sent directly to the family.

Tri-City Crematory Funeral Home is honored and privileged to serve the family of Betty Neal. Online condolences may be expressed at www.Tri-CityLLC.com

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Tribute Wall

NI

“ Tracy, I am here if you need anything at all and know that I am praying for peace and comfort in the days ahead. Nikki

Nikki - April 08 at 02:25 PM

BR

“ Tracy- I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. I am praying for you and your family.
-Brooke Rogers

Brooke Rogers - April 08 at 02:02 PM

CB

“ Tracy, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your Mom. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Courtney Bright

Courtney Bright - April 08 at 12:46 PM

PU

“ Betty, you will be missed but not forgotten.
You have always had good in your heart. God bless.



Punkindew - April 08 at 09:43 AM

DL

“ *Tracy, we are so sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom. Please know that we will be keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.*

Dave & Rose

Dave and Rose Lindberg - April 08 at 09:05 AM

CH

Sorry for your loss! Betty will be missed here at The Villa's

catherine Henson - April 09 at 11:22 PM

BP

Tracy and Family, so sorry for your loss, your Mom was a good friend and will be missed by all that knew her. Good memories. Prayers for you all and God Bless!

Barbara Phillips - April 10 at 07:37 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Tri-City Crematory Funeral Home. ~ Serving for over 10 Years - April 07 at 11:38 PM