



Betty Anne Spruill Gillingham

June 17, 1926 - March 9, 2022

Betty Anne Spruill Gillingham transitioned from this earthly sphere in Davie, Florida on March 9, 2022. She was born in Knoxville, TN to Victor Hugo Spruill and Mabel Alenza McAllister. She wasn't one to count years, but she mentioned how many times she had traveled around the earth since her birth in 1926. She also enjoyed telling people that she preferred juicy, ripe watermelon to a birthday cake.

Betty Anne maintained contact with her two sisters, Martha and Ethelyn, who live in Maryland, and other family and friends via letters and phone calls, often sending poems she composed to celebrate different holidays.

Betty Anne trained as an elementary teacher at Towson State College in Maryland and went on to earn a master's degree from University of Wisconsin. She taught in the early elementary grades in Maryland and Wisconsin before moving to Hawaii. There she met and married her beloved husband, Robert (Bob) Gillingham, Jr. After Bob retired, the couple decided to leave Hawaii to make Knoxville, TN their home. Both were active members of the Knoxville Christian Science church. Betty Anne continued to live in Knoxville after Bob's passing in 2009, eventually deciding to move to Florida in 2013 for the warmer weather. She left behind many friends in the Knoxville community and at her church, including numerous students from her Sunday School classes. At Daystar, Inc., a Christian Science facility in Davie, FL, she

began the next phase of her life. Through the picture window of her apartment at Daystar, she enjoyed the tropical plants and watched a peacock and peahen raise their chicks. She enjoyed walking outside to enjoy the sun. She was always thrilled to receive letters from former students from the elementary schools and Sunday School in which she taught, remarking that these little ones had grown up and now wrote of their children and grandchildren.

Betty Anne considered the residents, administrators, nurses and staff at Daystar as special friends and expressed gratitude for the loving, supportive atmosphere in which she lived. Her family requests that any donations made in Betty's name be given to a charity that she would like, in lieu of flowers. Please visit Betty Anne's guest book now available at <https://www.wilcoxffh.com/obituaries/Betty-Gillingham/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Anne Spruill Gillingham*

January 25, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *From a note sent 4/9/2022 after Betty Gillingham had passed:
Please forgive my lateness in sending my condolences. I only
learned about her passing yesterday. I have no words to express
the honor of having known her for many years. She was/is a gem!
I'm sure that people will miss her holiday notes and letters and the
constant expressions of gratitude for every little thing she
encountered each day. She was the personification of gratitude!
We can simply say we loved her!*

Sincerely

Beverly Luttrell

Recently retired administrator of Daystar, Inc.

Judith Hector - May 01, 2022 at 10:19 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Beverly Hess - April 01, 2022 at 05:36 PM

DS

“ I am a nail tech that worked at the Daystar one day a month. Betty Anne was one of my clients once a month. It was such a pleasure to be in her presence even if it was doing her manicures and pedicures. We had some of the best talks about life and love and God. I will never forget Betty Anne Gillingham... She made a deep impression on me in the 8 years that I knew her at Daystar. I will always love her. She gave me the gift of friendship that was authentic and precious to me.

Shimi (nail tech)

D. Lanier aka Shimi - March 29, 2022 at 07:44 PM

ER

“ Miss Betty was so full of life and joy! I have such fond memories of her in the couple years we overlapped at the Church in Knoxville before she headed south. I remember her sharing so much inspiration and Truth that blessed all of us on Wednesday evenings, as well as a warm and welcoming Spirit.

<3 Erin B

erin - March 29, 2022 at 05:44 PM

MA

“ I was certain that I took many years off of Ms. Gillingham's life when she was teaching Tommy, Bailey and me in Sunday school when I was a "challenging" teenager. So glad to know that I was proved wrong on that. I can't even imagine having the amount patience that must have taken. What a lesson to look back on now - giving patience to those who didn't earn it or probably deserve it. I think Ms. Eddy calls that Love.

Mark - March 18, 2022 at 04:36 PM

JG

“ Betty's sitting around a small table with her Sunday School class of pre-school-age students is a precious memory-picture of her love for the little ones! Her testimonies of love and healing at our Wednesday church meetings provided inspiration as well as a lovely example of dedication, devotion, and gratitude. Betty's friendship was a blessing we will always treasure. John & Cicely Gallagher

John & Cicely Gallagher - March 18, 2022 at 04:16 PM

SS

“ Mrs Gillingham will forever be my boys' Sunday School teacher. Always kind and supportive and ferociously a defender of right thought. We have been blessed to have her as part of our family. Love, Shannon

Shannon Stafford - March 15, 2022 at 10:11 PM

NS

Mrs Gillingham will forever be my favorite Sunday School teacher. She was always so gentle, loving, caring and so beautiful. I was blessed to have her in my life and help me become the woman I am today. I will always hold a special place in my heart for you. I love you always and forever Mrs. Gillingham. Love, Nicole Sanchez

Nicole Sanchez - March 18, 2022 at 11:06 AM

JH

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Judith Hector - March 15, 2022 at 06:28 PM