



## Berta Jean "BJ" Williams

January 20, 1937 - August 27, 2022

Graveside Funeral Services For Berta Jean "BJ" Williams, Age 85, Of Cookeville, Tennessee, Were Conducted On Friday, September 2, 2022, At 11:00 AM At The Cookeville City Cemetery. Rev. Jim Rogers Officiated. Berta Jean "BJ" Baisley Walker Williams Entered This World On Wednesday, January 20, 1937, In The Plateau Community Of Cumberland County, Tennessee, To The Late Horace And Mable Wyatt Baisley. Her Father Passed Away When She Was Three Days Old And She Was Raised By Her Mother And Stepfather, Talmadge Reed. Mrs. Williams Passed Away On Saturday, August 27, 2022, At Cedar Hills Senior Living In Cookeville, Tennessee. She Was A Graduate Of Monterey High School Class Of 1955. She Worked At Monterey Hospital As An Aide On Second Shift Saving Her Money To Buy A Wedding Dress For Her Marriage To Billy Carl Walker On November 14, 1954. They Had A Son, John Baisley On February 14, 1973. Berta Later Was Married To Estes "Rooster" Williams From 1978 Until His Death In April 2001. She Was Of The Methodist Faith. A Beautiful Lady Herself, "BJ" Had Explicit Taste For Beauty In Fashion And Home Decorating. She Is Now Dwelling In The Beautiful City Of God. She Was Survived By Her Granddaughter, Holly Elizabeth Roberts; Twin Great Grandchildren, Riddik Mark And Baisley Jean Daly; Sister, Wanda Reed Thurmond-Balsley; Sister-In-Law, Ima Reed; Nieces, Valerie (Tom) Sergio, Robin (Rubens) Matos, Kelly Long, Tammy (Dan) Doyle, Madge (Omar) Faroog, Diane (Dave) Harvey, And Jan Reed; And Nephew, Gordon (Julie) Hutchinson. In Addition To Her Parents, She Was

Preceded In Death By Husband, Estes Williams; Son, John Baisley Williams In 1993; Brother, Dr. Larry D. Reed; Sister, Brenda Talene Reed; Several Step Siblings; And Special Friend And Housekeeper, Lucy Grant. The Family Received Friends At Goff Funeral Home On Thursday, September 1, 2022, From 5:00 PM Until 7:00 PM And At Cookeville City Cemetery On Friday, September 2, 2022, For Graveside Funeral Services. Arrangements And Care Provided By D.M. Goff Funeral Home, Inc., 205 East Cleveland Avenue, Monterey, Tennessee 38574, Phone, 931.839.2311.

# Cemetery Details

## Cookeville City Cemetery

241 S. Walnut  
Cookeville , TN 38501

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

D.M. Goff Funeral Home, Inc.  
205 E. Cleveland Ave.  
Monterey, TN 38574  
(931) 839-2311  
<http://www.gofffh.com/>

## Graveside Funeral Services

SEP 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Cookeville City Cemetery  
241 S. Walnut  
Cookeville , TN 38501

# Tribute Wall



“ *Berta Jean "BJ" Williams*

October 08, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *My Aunt Berta was truly one-of-a-kind. As far back as I can remember, Aunt Berta was bringing the elegance.*

*She introduced me to classic Hollywood movies. We admired the costumes, the glamour, the dancing and the movie stars – especially Aunt Berta’s namesake Jean Harlow. Aunt Berta, with her poise and panache, could have starred in any of them.*

*It was always fun to visit Aunt Berta. Once, she let me drive her brand new Jaguar around the neighborhood and encouraged me to put the pedal down so I could experience the power.*

*Aunt Berta was an influential presence at many points in my life. She was always eager to talk and listen. She insisted on having a pre-wedding photo shoot for me at her beautiful home in Cookeville. One of my favorite pictures of me in my wedding dress is one she took. She enthusiastically danced to Afghan music at my wedding in Washington, DC. My “something borrowed” was a beautiful pearl and diamond ring of hers. I will always remember that.*

*Thank you, Aunt Berta, for all you did for me. I will miss you.  
Niece,  
Madge Reed Farooq*

Madge Farooq - September 01, 2022 at 10:19 AM

MT

“ so sorry, Berta and I started first grade together and graduated together, we had some great times staying overnight with each other and just enjoying the time together, she was a great friend and schllmate. she will be missed my condolences to the family

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**Mildred Hawkins Turner** - August 31, 2022 at 03:46 PM

VW

“ BJ was such a true friend to me. I have so many wonderful memories with her. She took me to West Palm Beach and showed me the hot spots. She let me and my daughter stay with her for several months when I was going through a rough patch in my life. She was always so much fun. She had such an eye for fashion and her home looked like it should be displayed in a prestigious magazine! She had such exquisite taste. I will never forget all the wonderful things I experienced with her. She was such an elegant lady. She called me Bib just like my family does.  
Vivian Morrison

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**Vivian Ward** - August 30, 2022 at 08:30 PM

JR

“ Aunt Berta – “BJ” -- my super cool aunt!  
*In the 60s and early 70s – we lived in Memphis, TN at the same time A.Berta did -- and as I became a teenager I was fortunate to get to spend a lot of time with her.  
She was a couple of decades older than me, but I always found her to be very youthful and fun.  
We went to the movies, shopped until we dropped, went out to dinner, and laughed ourselves silly while we learned the latest dance crazes while listening to music on her awesome stereo and record albums.  
I was in awe of her attention to detail for the latest fashion and home décor – and I know that those early influences affected the fashion and home décor choices that I have made throughout my life.  
She was always stylish in the latest fashions – and since we were both a very thin size 6-8 it was fun raiding her many closets!  
Her homes were always decorated in different and interesting styles -- and I think that she intuitively used the principles of Feng Shui (flow of energy) before the USA knew anything about it!  
Aunt Berta will be missed – and I know that she will give dad a hug from us.  
Niece, Jan Reed*

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**Jan Reed** - August 30, 2022 at 01:39 PM

TD

“ *I met this beautiful Lady at Ceder Hills. I had the honor of taking care of her and becoming her friend for a year. We had some good times and another true lady gone. Love ya BJ and I will see you again tell Art I said hi 🥹*

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**Theresa Dyer** - August 30, 2022 at 12:59 PM

ED

“ *I went from 1st through 12th with Berta. We were besties. We walked home together every day from school. We used to stop by Bowers store and get a bag of donuts! By the time we walked the other half they were gone!! Both skinny as rails!!! She was the best!! God rest her soul.....*

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**Elaine Dunn** - August 28, 2022 at 08:13 PM