



# Bettie P. Huntington

AUG 5, 1946 - AUG 7, 2017



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## **Bettie P. Huntington**

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**T**o the world, Bettie Ree Phillips-Huntington was simply a devoted wife and mother. But, to her family and close friends, she was so very much more than that. Bettie began her amazing journey on August 5, 1946 in Bienville, Louisiana. She was one of 11 children born to the late Carl and Allie B. Phillips, however, when she arrived, she did not arrive alone. Bettie and her twin brother, Bobby, came into the world together and remained extremely close throughout her life. As a youngster, Bettie was out-going and fearless. She sought out excitement and the very best life could offer at every opportunity. Many of her youthful adventures and escapades are now both humorous and legendary, as many of her siblings will attest.

Eventually, however, she grew up to become a stunningly beautiful young woman who would go on to live a remarkable life. In 1952, Bettie, along with her parents and siblings, relocated to San Diego, California. She graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1965, and continued her education at San Diego City Community College. During this time, she met Frederick McCoy and they were married in 1972. The young couple lived in Chicago, Illinois for a short period of time before relocating to Oakland, California. To this union was born the pride and joy of Bettie's life, their son, Jelani McCoy. It would be impossible to honor Bettie's memory without mentioning her love and adoration for Jelani, in whom she held so much pride – not only because of his career accomplishments, but because he grew up to become a wonderfully devoted father and husband. In that, she held immense pride and admiration. After several years, her marriage to Mr. McCoy ended, however, they continued to remain friends and supportive co-parents of their son. Soon thereafter, Bettie and Jelani rejoined her family in San Diego, where she would soon meet Charles Huntington. Bettie and Charles were married in 1999 and their love for each other was readily apparent. Bettie was also a career woman, having worked for numerous companies during her life, including the California Department of



## Obituary

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Motor Vehicles, Home Fed Bank, Sweetwater Water District, Avanir Pharmaceuticals and the San Diego Convention Center. She was a very active member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church; she sang in the Sanctuary Choir, attended Sunday School, was a member of the Usher Board, and served on the Pastor's Appreciation Committee. Bettie was also very active in sports for many years. She loved playing softball and was a very talented player who often found herself on the winning team. Everyone who knew or loved Bettie also knew that she was a passionate defender of her beliefs and loved ones, and did not hesitate to "right any wrong" she perceived by speaking out against it. She was always honest and genuine; if she was happy with you – you absolutely knew it, but if she was not happy – you soon found that out too. Her laughter was hearty and contagious, and she had a wonderful sense of humor. On Sunday, August 7, 2017, Bettie was unexpectedly called home. She leaves behind to cherish her memory: husband, Charles Huntington; son, Jelani McCoy (and his wife, Joana); stepchildren, Charles, Jr., Terrell, Kenya, Terenice and Anjanlyn (she is preceded in death by stepson, Kwame); grandchildren, Jelani, Jr. and Keiko; sisters, Dorothy (and her husband, James Arthur) and Johnette; twin brother, Bobby (and his wife, Darlene); sister-in-law, Clara; her lifelong sister/friend, Judy Johnson-Clark; numerous nieces and nephews, and many other loving family members and friends to celebrate her legacy of life. Bettie was taken from us too soon. We, her family and friends, grieve deeply for her loss, but we will always be grateful for, and will never forget, the time and incredible experiences we shared with her.



## Tribute Wall

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JP

**Johnette Phillips** posted:

August 5, 2025 Happy Heavenly Birthday My dear sister it's been 7 years but to me it was just yesterday that you got your heavenly wings. I miss you so much but I know that you're watching over me for I sense your presence at times. You're forever in my thoughts and the fun memories that we shared are embedded in my heart. Love forever and always, Baby Sis ❤️❤️

August 4 at 7:35 PM

SV

**Spacetta Vann** posted:

Mrs. Betty, thank you for encouraging me and your kindness throughout the years; especially my teen years. You have and will always hold a special place in my heart. I was blessed with having you in my life! Spacetta

August 26 at 10:33 AM

LJ

**Lorraine Jackson** posted:

Our love and prayers to the family. Bettie was always so pleasant, had a beautiful smile!! Her kind and encouraging words will never be forgotten. Phillip, Lorraine Jackson Family

August 24 at 5:05 AM

JR

**Jessie Ramsey** posted:

I had the tremendous privilege of knowing Bettie for a few years while serving together for a few years at Mt Zion Baptist Church. She was so friendly and so honest. We sang in the choir together along with brother Charles. She always had a warm smile, and my heart is truly sad that she has left us to mourn. To Charles and her brother Bobby, I send my sincerest condolences. She will be sorely missed.

August 22 at 12:42 PM



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CP

**Carl Phillips** posted:

Whenever I would see my Aunt Bettie, she would have this big beautiful smile on her face. She would give me the biggest, warmest, loving hug anyone could ever give and she would say, "You know I love you, right?" To which I would reply, "Yes...and I love you too!" Then she would proceed to tell me how handsome I am. I wish I could have one more hug and one more conversation as I truly miss my Aunt Bettie. I read this poem recently and it really has helped me through this time of mourning and I want to share it. The Dash by Linda Ellis copyright 1996? I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end. He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time that they spent alive on earth. And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth. For it matters not, how much we own, the cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged. If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real and always try to understand the way other people feel. And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before. If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile, remembering that this special dash might only last a little while. So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash... would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent YOUR dash? I hope this poem helps you remember the good times we had with my Aunt Bettie while on earth and it brings a smile to your face. I love you Aunt Bettie. Rest in Paradise.

August 18 at 5:58 AM

JG

**Janice Gabriel** posted:

Bettie was one of the most sweetest and loving people I know. To those of us that was blessed to be a part of her life, our lives have been made the better. To those that weren't as fortunate, you have my sympathy. Our loss is heaven's gain but it doesn't ease our pain. To the family, my heart hurts for you because I KNOW how close you all were. Let's not say "goodbye" but instead let's say, "we'll see ya later, Bettie!"

August 22 at 4:59 AM

YT

**Yvette Ceasar-Thomas** posted:

I am going to miss my Auntie dearly our trips to the car dealer when I wanted a new car she was there. The talks we had the rode trips the laughed we shared and the times the family got together for fun times. I love you Aunt Betty Rest In Peace

August 21 at 4:01 PM



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JP

**Johnette Phillips** posted:

God blessed me with a beautiful sister. My remarkable sister I admire the grace you perfected and the wisdom that you shared. Embedded in my heart forever will be warm memories to look back on for smiles and happiness to get me thru my days. I love you more than words can express. Missing you, Baby Sis

August 21 at 3:24 PM

YC

**Yvonne Ceasar** posted:

Someone is missing from our very presence. Someone is missing from the other end of the couch, kitchen. Our beloved companion, sister, auntie and friend. Someone is missing from the church pew, usher board and choir stand. Someone is missing from our presence sad but true. Someone is missing with a heart filled with love and glitter on her shoes. May her love forever abide with each and everyone of you. Lovingly submitted from my heart.

August 21 at 2:24 PM

CG

**Cardie Gold** posted:

My deepest sympathies the family

August 19 at 11:43 AM

WA

**Wayne E. Allison** posted:

My deepest condolences to the entire family and friends. From the Allison family.

August 19 at 9:39 AM

RA

**Ronald & Phyllis Allison** posted:

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CONDOLENCES ON THIS SAD OCCASION.

August 18 at 5:58 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Bettie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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