



Betty Louise McDowell

July 1, 1945 - April 9, 2026

Betty Louise McDowell, of Lakeland, Florida, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, at the age of 80.

Betty was born on July 1, 1945, in Maryville, Missouri, to the late Samuel and Hazel Hicks. She was raised in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and later moved to Lakeland, Florida, where she made her home for 42 years.

Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Timothy McDowell Sr., who passed away on May 26, 2025.

Betty was a feisty and spirited woman who never backed down from a challenge and always stood up for what she believed in. She loved deeply and fiercely, especially when it came to her family, who meant everything to her. Her heart was always full, and she delighted in sharing laughter, stories, and special moments with those she loved. She was known for her caring nature, resilience, and the deep bonds she shared with those closest to her.

She is survived by her seven children: Tambra McDowell; Phillip ("Cookie") McDowell; Dianne (Nicholas) Rose; Timothy McDowell Jr.; Meshel Strickland; Shawn (Holly) McDowell; and Jonathan (Toni) McDowell. She also leaves behind 20 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren, all of whom brought her immense joy. Betty especially loved playing with her grandbabies and

cherished every visit, hug, and story shared.

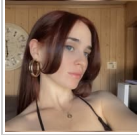
Betty was also a cherished sister, survived by Barbara Warren, Phyllis Brink, and Brenda (John) Way. She was preceded in death by her siblings Beverly MacCallum, Lindi Daniels, and Gary Hicks.

Betty dedicated 25 years of her life to working at Kmart, where she was respected and admired by her coworkers for her diligence, friendliness, and dependable nature. She had a creative spirit and loved writing stories, poems, and songs. She never knew a stranger, always greeting everyone with warmth and kindness.

A service to celebrate Betty's life will be held at a later date in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Betty Louise McDowell will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved her.

Tribute Wall



“ *This beautiful, confident, fierce, hilarious and generous woman is someone I will remember for the rest of my life.*

Grandma and Grandpa welcomed me into their family with zero hesitation and no awkwardness, most of the time, I forgot I hadn't always been blessed with a piece of their hearts, and it made my heart three times bigger when she would forget that I hadn't always been theirs.

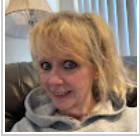
Since I received the news that she had gone to be with grandpa, it's been a hard reality to grasp. I had gotten so close and so attached to them in such a short time but, I am thankful for it. There was so much more I should've said, apologies I wish I offered, so much I wish I asked but the lessons I received are ones that I hold close at this time.

I will cherish every moment - from meeting her for the first time, taking her shopping and then eating at waffle house to digging through her collection of jewelry she purchased from some place or another because "something could be of value", and especially when we would all just sit in the living room crowding them both - listening to their family talk with the most love and content anyone could imagine.

I hope she knew how much I loved her, how thankful for both of them I am. My heart and thoughts stay with their children, their grandchildren, their great grandchildren and the people who got to experience the light that she brought into a room by just simply entering it. She loved her family more than words can say and I hope there is comfort in that undeniable fact.

I love you grandma, I hope it's as beautiful as you wondered. See you later <3

Rebecca Graham - April 21 at 10:40 PM



“ My mom, Betty Louise McDowell, was a force.

She was strong, feisty, and never afraid to stand her ground. She loved deeply and fiercely, especially when it came to her family. If you were hers, you knew it. She didn't always show love in quiet ways. She showed it in protection, in loyalty, in the way she fought for the people she cared about.

She raised seven children, and her love extended far beyond us. It extended to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so many others who came into her life and ended up calling her “Mom.” She had a special place in her heart for babies and children, and she gave them a kind of love that made them feel safe and seen.

She loved music, especially Santana, and she had a creative spirit that lived through the songs and stories she wrote. There was always more depth to her than people saw at first glance. She felt things deeply. She lived passionately.

She also loved her husband in a way that was real and unfiltered. They didn't have a perfect love story, but it was a true one. Full of fire, loyalty, and years of shared life that mattered.

My mom wasn't easy. She wasn't meant to be. She was real. She was strong. She was ours.

And she will be missed more than words can ever fully capture.

I love you, Mom. Always.

Shelly Strickland - April 21 at 05:58 PM