



## Bettie Ward Thornton

July 16, 1948 - January 13, 2010

Portsmouth – Bettie Ward Thornton, 61, of the 800 block of Arnold Palmer Drive, Portsmouth, Virginia, was called home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. She was born on July 16, 1948 in Nansemond County, Virginia to the late Lena and Harold Ward.

Bettie was a dedicated member of Little Grove Baptist Church, Suffolk for over 50 years where she served on many ministries. In 1966, she graduated from I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth. She was employed in the banking industry for 41 years.

Left to cherish her loving memory is her husband, Wallace Thornton; one daughter, Iris Cheeks (Tony); two sons, Linwood Williams, Jr. (Vernetta), Shawn Faulks ; two sisters, Lila Hambrick-Hale, F. Renell Johnson and one brother, Harold B. Ward (Barbara). She also leaves five grandchildren.

Viewing will be held on Saturday, January 16th from 5-7 p.m. and Sunday, January 17th from 2 until 7 p.m. at J.T. Fisher Funeral Services, 1080 N. George Washington Hwy., Chesapeake. A life celebration service will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010 at 12 noon at Little Grove Baptist Church, 6320 Town Point Road, Suffolk 23435 where the pastor is Ralph Richardson, III. Interment will be at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens Cemetery. The family has entrusted J.T. Fisher Funeral Services to handle the final care

arrangements.

Condolences can be offered to the family at [www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com](http://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com)

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Little Grove Baptist Church  
6320 Old Townepoint Road  
Suffolk, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Bettie Ward Thornton



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Oh, how I hurt when I received the news of such a wonderful person, sister, friend leave us. Bettie was a true sister to me, even in the miles between us. Your smile will ever be remembered an imprinted in my mind and heart. Nell, Butch, Bruce and entire family, know that I love you all and miss you. May the God of peace ever be with you all Amen. Lil Bubba, love you baby.##imported-begin##Cynthia Boone Williams##imported-end##

February 15, 2010 at 09:57 PM



“ To: Mr. & Mrs. Linwood Williams, Jr., and Family

*From: Dr. & Mrs. Archie Earl and Family*

*We were deeply sorry to hear about the passing of your loved one, Bettie Ward Thornton. She was a wonderful person. We all loved her. May God continue to strengthen you during your time of loss.##imported-begin##Dr. & Mrs. Archie Earl##imported-end##*

February 14, 2010 at 01:36 AM



“ To the family of my friend: I'll miss Bettie Ann dearly. We've been close since Jr. High. I'mm very sorry that I missed the Home Going Services. I had a previous engagement that I could not rearrabged. Please accept my love and sympathy.##imported-begin##Essie B> Matthews##imported-end##

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February 07, 2010 at 01:12 PM



“ Linwood and family, i am truly sorry to hear of the passing of you mom. She was such a wonderful person. May God continue to bless and heal your heart during this timee. Joe and I are hear if ever you need us! Luv Ya!! LaSean and Joe Gray##imported-begin##LaSean Gray##imported-end##

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January 22, 2010 at 08:52 AM



“ My heart felt sympathy go out to the family,i know you will miss her deeply,but all the treasured memories you have of her,will help you through those "rainy days",you all are in my prayers that the Lord Jesus Christ will comfort now and always.##imported-begin##Carolyn Gary Glover##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 12:38 PM



“ WE LOST A GOOD FRIEND WHEN BETTIE WENT HOME TO GLORY, BUT WE KNOW THAT SHE IS IN GOD'S PRESENCE, AND WE ARE ALL SO GLAD. TIME WILL HEAL OUR WOUNDS AS LONG AS WE BELIEVE THAT SHE IS RESTING AMONG THE ANGELS AND OUR GOD OF WHOM WE HOPE TO SEE SOON. BLESSINGS FROM THE GILES.SR. TO THE FAMILY WE WILL ALWAYS BE NEAR. WE LOVE YOU ALL.##imported-begin##WINDELL,SR. & ZETHLYN GILES##imported-end##

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January 20, 2010 at 10:08 PM



“ To Wood and the entire family - My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Andrae J. Marable##imported-end##

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January 19, 2010 at 10:07 PM



“ To the Ward, William and Thorton Family: I am so saddened to hear of Aunt Bettie Ann's passing. I pray God's comfort and peace is felt by her loved ones and please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love you all,  
Trenace Elliott##imported-begin##Trenace Elliott##imported-end##

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January 19, 2010 at 06:57 PM



“ To the Ward Family - I offer my deepest condolence to you. Your family has been very near and dear to me for many years. As a teenager, Bettie Ann was a role model to me, and I am so saddened that she is no longer with us. May God bring you comfort through these difficult times. I will keep you in my prayers.##imported-begin##Cathy Livermon Saunders##imported-end##

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January 19, 2010 at 07:06 AM



“ I am so sorry that Bettie has passed on. She was beautiful on the inside as well as the outside.

LYNETTE

CLASS OF 66##imported-begin##Lynette Robinson  
Thompson##imported-end##

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January 18, 2010 at 11:11 PM



“ To Linwood and your family extended our prayers are with you at this difficult time in your life may God bless and keep you is our prayer. Walter Ratcliffe and Family##imported-begin##walter ratcliffe##imported-end##

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January 18, 2010 at 11:21 AM



“ My prayers and hearts go out to the family of Bettie Anne. This is an act that we may not understand at this time, but God says "And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." The McIntyre Family.##imported-begin##Billy D. McIntyre##imported-end##

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January 18, 2010 at 10:07 AM



“ Our hearts go out to you in your time of sorrow.

Love,

Doug & Nita##imported-begin##Doug & Nita##imported-end##

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January 18, 2010 at 09:54 AM



“ It is with heartfelt sympathy extended to the Ward/Thornton families. Alton and I want you to know that we share in your grief. During this most difficult time, please accept these words of comfort to help you through this period. Bettie was a very sweet person who always had a smile.

Sincerely,

Alton & Regina (Long) Southall

I.C. Norcom High School 1966 Classmates##imported-begin##Alton and Regina Long Southall##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 10:47 PM



“ To Lila and Neil, so sorry to hear of your lost, my prayers are with you, I just saw Linwood about two weeks ago and I told him to tell his mom hello, God knows best keep the faith and I will always love all of you. Hope to see you soon. Sonja Rountree, your former Organist, Betty Ann had a beautiful soprano voice, and she was a devoted choir member when I was at Little Grove, Love you##imported-begin##Sonja Rountree##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 08:56 PM



“ Dear Wood,

The Brown's send sincere condolences to you and to your family.

May God bless and keep you during your time of grief.

Sincerely,

Miss Cheryl##imported-begin##Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Brown##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 08:15 PM



“ To Linwood and the entire family - At this time of sadness, may you find strength in God. Bettie Ann was a light to all she knew and touched, this world is a little dimmer without her here among us. I am so sorry for your loss. You all are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Gwen Majette Haynes (Bowie, MD )##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 08:10 PM



“ I send my Love and Blessing out to the Ward-Thornton Family..##imported-begin##Yolonda Y Henderson ##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 08:04 PM



“ Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of Bettie Ann. We were in the same class at I.C. Norcom. The last time I visited Virginia, we said that we were going to have lunch or dinner together. I regret that this could not happen. But I am happy that she is resting in the arms of Jesus.

Willia##imported-begin##Willia Horne Cooper##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 08:00 PM



“ To the Thornton/ Williams Family,

*I was saddened to hear of Bettie's death. As a member of the I. C. Norcom Class of 1966, I knew Bettie in high school. Please know that my prayers are with you and I know that God's love will sustain you as you grieve and find a way to go on without her.##imported-begin##Linda J. Jones##imported-end##*

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January 17, 2010 at 07:40 PM



“ TO THE WARD AND THORTON FAMILY, BETTY ANN WILL BE SADLEY MISS, AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET HER LOVING SMILE, ALWAYS A LOVELY PERSON. WE ARE SORRY FOR YOUR LOST,BUT SHE IS A ANGEL OF GOD, MAY GOD BE WITH YOU IN YOUR TIME OF NEED AND SORRY.##imported-begin##MAE AND ODELL WHITE##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 05:14 PM



“ BETTY ANN AND I GREW UP TOGETHER,SHE WAS A VERY SWEET PERSON AND A GOOD FRIEND, AND SHE WILL BE SADLEY MISSED. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU IN YOUR TIME OF NEED.  
CLESTINE CASH PRICE##imported-begin##clestine cash price,  
virginia beach va##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 04:49 PM



“ To The Family of Bettie Ward Thornton

*Bettie Ann was a treasure and had such a good spirt. She will be truly missed and we will always love her. We know for sure that she loved the Lord and that she is resting in His arms.##imported-begin##Duane and Jackie Fisher##imported-end##*

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January 17, 2010 at 04:41 PM



“ To The Family of Bettie Ward Thornton

*" Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted"  
Matthew 5:4  
It is our heartfelt prayer to let you know that you shall receive comfort in the arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are constantly in our prayers. We love you.##imported-begin##The Women's Fellowship of Little Grove Baptist Church##imported-end##*

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January 17, 2010 at 04:36 PM



“ Nate my prayers go out to you and your family. I pray that in this time of sorrow you can feel Gods presence.##imported-begin##ofelia##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 04:30 PM



“ It was such an honor to know your Mrs. Bettie Thornton. I met her while banking with RBC on 21st Street. She was such a pleasant lady, who always had a warm smile on her face.

She loved speaking of traveling with her sisters and grandchildren.

Deepest condolences to the entire family of Mrs. Bettie Thornton from the staff of Riddick Funeral Service in Norfolk.

Sincerely,

Phelecia Riddick-Debnam

Riddick Funeral Service, Norfolk###imported-begin###Phelecia Riddick-Debnam###imported-end###

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January 17, 2010 at 03:21 PM



“ To the Ward & Thronton families, my prayers go out to you at this time of sorrow. I will miss Bettie's pretty smile. Please be sure that she is in a better place now and we will always have the wonderful memories that we all shared with her.###imported-begin###Frederick(Freddie) Blow###imported-end###

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January 17, 2010 at 03:17 PM



“ Ms. Bettie was a kind and sweet lady at the bank, she was always pleasant and concern about the my little life stories that I would share.

When I learned of her going home on Thursday at the bank , my heart was saddened.

To all the family I know you will miss her, remember she is resting in place of peace. God picks the flower He wants. Prayer and time will comfort you.

You have my deepest condolences. God bless you.

Lana Pressley##imported-begin##Lana M. Pressley##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 01:53 PM



“ I know that Bettie Ann is in a better place and in the loving arms of God. I will remember Bettie Ann always. I think of our young days at I. C. Norcom High School, and will remember her beautiful smile and amazing happy spirit. I thank God that I was able to be with Bettie Ann since my return to Portsmouth. Her family are in my thoughts and prayers today.

Love, Marionette##imported-begin##Sylvia Dean##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 10:46 AM



“ It is with a very sad and heavy heart that I type this. My mentor and long time friend has left this earth and gone to be with all of God's family. I am blessed to have known Ms Betty and all the love she had shown me and my family. She will live forever in all of us because of who she was and who she will always be...an angel.##imported-begin##Carol Granger##imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 11:48 PM



“ Aunt Bettie's life was an amazing ministry. I will endeavor to live as she, holding tight to God's joy--which is our strength--even in the midst of suffering. It lifts my heart to think of her now showing our Savior the beautiful smile she perfected here on earth. Thank you, Uncle Leon, for loving her into our family and giving us the privilege to know this sweet, funny, brave lady.##imported-begin##Nikki (Thornton) Williams##imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 09:00 PM



“ To the Ward @ Thornton Families  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. Betty  
is resting with the Lord now. "Well done, thy good and faithful servant.  
Love,  
Willis and Bessie Hardy##imported-begin##BESSIE  
HARDY##imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 07:32 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at your time of bereavement

*Moses and Bessie Evans##imported-begin##Moses and Bessie Evans##imported-end##*

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January 16, 2010 at 05:40 PM



“ To the Thornton and Ward Family

*My prayers are with you. I will miss Bettie's beautiful smile and her wonderful sense of humor.##imported-begin##Dellareese Wilson##imported-end##*

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January 16, 2010 at 03:43 PM



“ To:Leon and family,

*Dickie and I share condolences in the passing of your lovely wife, Bettie. She will be remembered for the sweet spirit she exhibited to everyone she met.May God comfort your hearts with His peace,and pour out His love toward you and the entire family. Our prayers and good thoughts are with you all,although separated by distance, God is not restricted by time nor space. Peace be multiplied to you all,  
Richard & Liz Caple  
Macon, Georgia##imported-begin##Liz & Richard Caple, Jr##imported-end##*

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January 16, 2010 at 02:45 PM



“ We so sadden for the loss of our dear cousin bettie Ann. we will miss her. trust in the Lord with all thine heart, lean not to you own understanding. and God shall keep you in perfect peace. To The Thornton & Ward Family###imported-begin###john & carolyn Bailey###imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 10:14 AM



“ To Betty's family: May you sense the Lord's loving presence ... keeping you close to his heart, assuring you of His tender care, and covering you with His grace.###imported-begin###Gladys Bailey Dixon - Houston , Tx.###imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 10:10 AM



“ To the Thorntons and the rest of our extended family. We would like to let you know in your time of sorrow we are in sorrow also. Betty was one of our favorite cousin too. May GOD bless all of us###imported-begin###David Ward Jr & Family###imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 08:01 AM



“ My condolences to the entire family. Death has a way of putting all things in perspective, and so it is and so it shall be.....

AMEN

P.S. See you when I get there Bettie!###imported-begin###Lynnette Richardson###imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 11:16 PM



“ We were so sad to learn of Bettie's passing. She was such a special person to all those who knew her. Please know that you are being lifted up in prayer during this difficult time. Her love for our Lord just reflected on her face and in her actions. I pray that the same love will come to comfort you in the days ahead.##imported-begin##Mark & Liz Ragsdale##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 11:03 PM



“ To the family,may God continue to give you strength and bless you, from a long time resident of Huntersville,who knew her family. God Bless you all##imported-begin##Audrey R. Porter##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 07:53 PM



“ Love and Blessings are extended to the entire Ward-Thornton Family.##imported-begin##Arminta Richardson Harris##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 01:31 PM



“ I am truly saddened by Bettie Ann's passing. Please know that I'm praying for you during this difficult time. She will always be remembered as a loving & caring person with a heartwarming smile. I loved her dearly and am grateful for the many chats we had over the years. I know Bettie & Grandma Lena are having a grand time in heaven - 2 beautiful angels watching over their family! Be blessed!##imported-begin##Tanisha Jackson##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 10:29 AM



“ To Linwood and the Ward Family:

*Please know that you are indeed in my thoughts and prayers. Aunt Bettie Ann was a beauty inside and out, and I will forever cherish the memories and her legacy. God is good, and Auntie knew it! Be blessed cuz.*

*Love, Sherae and Family (Dallas, TX)##imported-begin##Sherae Harding##imported-end##*

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January 15, 2010 at 12:27 AM



“ With much love to you, Thornton and Ward families:

*We were so sad to hear of Bettie's passing. She was not only a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and auntie, but she was one of our favorite cousins. Bettie Ann directed our wedding directress a little over 30 years ago, and whenever she saw us, she would say "look at the lovebirds". She always had a way of making all that she knew feel special.*

*In Bettie's case, earth's loss is certainly heaven's gain! Although we are sad, we rejoice in knowing that she now lives with our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ -- a Savior that she loved with ALL OF HER HEART.*

*Our prayer is that God will continue to comfort you, and that her legacy of life and love will forever live in you.##imported-begin##Romero & Tish Johnson##imported-end##*

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January 14, 2010 at 11:13 PM