



## Bessie L. Curry

September 21, 1940 - September 8, 2018

Bessie L. Curry (aka Betty Gibson Curry Baskets) of Salem, Missouri passed away September 8, 2018 in Salem, Missouri at the age of 77. Betty was born September 21, 1940 in Hartshorn, Missouri to the late Robert Hiram and Virginia (Lewis) Smith.

Betty was united in marriage to Mr. Roger Curry on September 7, 1973. They shared much love through making baskets. They enjoyed traveling place to place teaching others their love of basket weaving. Betty has been making baskets for over 45 years. She also enjoyed caring for her flower gardens; she had a green thumb and could grow anything. She had great love for her family and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Michelle Watkins and companion Tim Oshel of Salem, Missouri; grandchildren, Lala Griffith, Rachel Bennett, Kimberly Griffith, Joseph Griffith Jr. and wife Janice; great grandchildren, Noah, Joseph, Abigail, Jeren, Taylor, Addisin, Jacey, Lindsey, Kaitlyn; a host of extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her husband Roger; brothers, JD Smith, Stanley Brown; sister, Judy Meekins.

A memorial service for Betty L. Curry will be held 2:00PM Saturday, September 15, 2018 at the Salem Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary with Pastor Jeff Fulk officiating. A visitation for family and friends will be held prior

to services from 12:00PM until services at 2:00PM. For online condolences  
please visit [www.jamesgahrmortuary.com](http://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **15**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem  
103 West Center  
Salem, MO 65560  
(573) 729-3117  
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com  
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

## Memorial Service

SEP **15**. 2:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem  
103 West Center  
Salem, MO 65560  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Bessie L. Curry*

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January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *Bessie L. Curry*

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January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ *Love and Light to all of Betty's family and to everyone whose life she touched. She was one of a kind and she seriously was a wonderful teacher. Much Love- Sarah Sims-Royer*

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**sarah royer** - September 22, 2018 at 09:25 AM

RB

“ Betty will be missed by many....including us! What an impact she made in the basketry world! We were deeply saddened to hear about this. Michelle, we send our love to you and your family. Hang on to those treasured memories with your mom. Jim and I have talked often of the many times we headed down to Camp MoVal for a long weekend of weaving white oak baskets. Loved those classes!! Our house is filled with Gibson-Curry baskets and we love every single one....those we made and those we bought! Also we have great memories of the week we took our whole family to Shannondale on Betty's suggestion which turned out to be our first camping experience...tent camping! We 7 had a blast with all the classes and the yummy meals they served there. We will forever remember Roger and Betty and all the colorful stories and jokes they shared with us. It's a comfort to know they are together again.

*Jim & Ronda Brugh, Rochester, IN*

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**Ronda Brugh** - September 18, 2018 at 11:17 AM

RB

“ Loved Betty & her baskets, both are beautiful and sturdy. God bless her family in their loss.

*Rosemary Bowden of Olathe, KS*

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**ROSEMARY BOWDEN** - September 15, 2018 at 07:01 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bessie L. Curry.



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September 14, 2018 at 12:54 PM

DS

“ *Diana Raynor Sbanotto lit a candle in memory of Bessie L. Curry*



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**Diana Raynor Sbanotto** - September 13, 2018 at 08:02 PM

Dixie  
Link

“ *Betty's basket classes were such fun, and the baskets I've made in her classes are treasured and full of memories of the fun times. Dixie Link*



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**Dixie Link** - September 12, 2018 at 02:53 PM

CV

“ *Heaven has gain another angel! Betty was such and inspiration! Loved to hear her stories! My house is full of her baskets, some I purchased and some I wove with her. Peace be with!*

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**Celeste Voyles** - September 12, 2018 at 11:37 AM

EM

“ *May you rest in eternal peace Betty!  
I was fortunate to have met you and you taught me how to make oak splint baskets at St. Louis Basketry store.i will treasure that memory.*

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**Eddie Romvari, St. louis, MO** - September 12, 2018 at 11:23 AM

DM

“ Betty was thoughtful and full of encouragement when you made a basket in any class she taught. She shared her knowledge and made you glad you took her class. She was a generous and caring person, she will be missed. My sympathy to her family.  
Doris Malone

Doris Malone - September 11, 2018 at 09:28 PM

BH

“ I loved making baskets with Betty. Love and Light. Benita Hendrickson



Benita J Hendrickson - September 11, 2018 at 02:51 PM

PM

“ Betty was a true friend who always had a smile for everyone and will be greatly missed. I have probably 20 white oak baskets that I wove with Betty and Roger and I treasure them all. I wish I could be there in person to pay my respects but I live in NC now so I pray for the family and know that Betty is enjoying Roger's company once again.



Pat Moritz - September 11, 2018 at 01:32 PM

DS

*Betty had a huge impact on my life through her faith and caring spirit. I made many oak baskets with Betty, Eric and Michelle and always looked forward to our basket weaving classes in Eolia and Shannondale with my friends Kathy and Charlotte. I always looked at it as my yearly retreat and always left feeling so refreshed and renewed! She will be greatly missed but Heaven now has another Angel. Rest In peace Betty. Love and Light! Diana Raynor Sbanotto*

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**Diana Raynor Sbanotto** - September 13, 2018 at 07:53 PM

SA

“ *I certainly remember Betty on the basket weaving circuit. She was a very nice lady and I am proud to say I have one of her baskets!!*  
*Sandy Atkinson of Michigan*

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**Sandy Atkinson** - September 11, 2018 at 12:17 PM

 Paula Gulley

“ *I saw Betty many times at basket conventions. She was always the first person to greet you with a smile and big hug. What a warm, genuine person she was. Betty loved what she was doing and it showed. She will be missed. My condolences to her family. ❤️*

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**Paula Gulley** - September 11, 2018 at 11:03 AM

MH

“ *I will always cherish my white oak baskets woven with Betty, and the memory of weaving bare footed in her classes! She was so fun and such an icon in the basket making world. She will be missed by many. Mona Hartzler, Grandview, MO*

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**Mona Hartzler** - September 10, 2018 at 11:13 PM

BM

“ *Miss Bessie will be missed very much by many. She always made my day brighter when I'd see her smile and I pray I did the same for her. RIP my dear friend, until we meet again.*

*Thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. I'm so sorry for your loss.*



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**Bobbi McCall** - September 10, 2018 at 09:01 PM

 Debra Schilling

“ *Clifford Ray Brown is also her brother! He was left out of her obituary!*

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**Debra Schilling** - September 10, 2018 at 08:29 PM

 Janice Griffith

*Our sincere apologies. We were not as thorough as we should have been.*

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**Janice Griffith** - September 15, 2018 at 12:08 PM

MH

*Thoughts and prayers go out to Michelle & all of Betty's family. She will be in my heart forever, especially when I am holding one of my Betty Baskets! What a beautiful, loving, and thoughtful woman she was, and I am so grateful for the knowledge she shared with all of us in her White Oak classes.*

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**Mary Hasken** - September 22, 2018 at 05:01 PM