



Pruett, Betty Opal Williams

By [Wise County Messenger Staff](#) | Published on February 23, 2019

Betty Opal Williams Pruet's birth was celebrated at her Grandmother Pegram's home in Claude, where she was born Jan. 24, 1917. On Monday morning, Feb. 18, 2019, at 3:13 a.m. after a lengthy illness, she took flight to meet her Lord and Savior and be reunited with friends and family.

A celebration will be held in her honor at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24 at First Baptist Church in Slidell with Todd Stevens and Matthew Weathers officiating. Visitation for family and friends will be 6:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23.

Pallbearers include Matthew Weathers, Jimmy Meyer, Stephen Pruet, Slayton Pruet, Stanley Pruet, Cody Wilson and Kenneth Tipton.

Honorary pallbearers are Tim Fletcher, Strike Franklin and Bert Pruet.

She grew up in Ponder, attending school at Ponder, Greenwood and Slidell. In 1944, after her junior year in high school she married Charles Elmer Pruet. They lived in Gainesville where he guarded German POWs and she worked in the Army camp's laundromat. After the war, they moved to Slidell and ran the Slidell General Store.

In 1959, she became a single parent. With two kids to raise and no high school diploma, she found a job candling eggs at Wilson Egg Farm in Decatur. Two years later, she found a job working at M&B Sewing Room in Denton.

In 1972, she got her GED, went to Cooke County College, earning her associate degree. She worked 64 hours per week and went to school at the same time. She worked at Slidell ISD as the superintendent's secretary/business manager/tax assessor and collector and the dispatch for TWU Security Police. During those 20 years at Slidell, she worked for nine superintendents: Jimmy Horn, Willard Aston, J. Coleman Stanfield, James Copeland, Rosie Rosebure, Tommy Hudspeth, Charles Larson, Dan Jones and Elizabeth Treadway. She helped countless students and faculty members every day for those 20 years.

In her young days, she wanted to be a race car driver and her grandchildren said she practiced often on FM 1173, setting the cruise control and never touching the brake as she went around Schulter's corner. Her favorite sport was Slidell basketball; watching her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren wear orange and blue. Her favorite song was Amazing Grace; and her favorite Bible verse was John 3:16.

While going through her belongings, a list was found of 28 thoughts: Never stop dreaming; always love; collect moments and memories not things. One thing that wasn't on the list was something she practiced: "Always eat dessert first." But this is a close second: "A party without cake is just a meeting."

Her quick wit, Biblical wisdom and generous love will be missed by all who knew her. Just remember, if you knew Betty Opal you were loved.