



Mrs. Betty Jean O'Kelley McCloud

January 25, 1939 - July 6, 2025

Betty Jean "O'Kelley" McCloud was born on January 25, 1939, at Grady Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the daughter of Willie James and Christine "Davison" O'Kelley, and comes from the family line of Howard Johnson and Gussie "Bowens" O'Kelley and Howard C. and Leila "Ridgeway" Davison, respectively.

Betty Jean married Samuel Hill Jr. in the early 1950's. That union was blessed with seven children.

She was later united in holy matrimony with Warren McCloud on July 3, 1985, and they remained married until her death. .

Betty Jean completed her 12 years of education, concluding with John Hay High School in Cleveland, Ohio. She furthered her education by earning her broadcasting license from IBA Broadcasting School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

During her lifetime she was employed by Oster Company, Eagle Knitting, Briggs and Stratton, Masterson Company, Milwaukee Public Schools as a cook at Riverside,

American Family Insurance, and Milwaukee Public Library. She was promoted to Union President during her tenure with Masterson Company. In her leisure, she showed up as a humanitarian through a wide array of interests, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She lived life to the fullest whether it was picking up the trash in her neighborhood, working with charities, chatting with visitors at the library, or being with her church family exercising her faithful service.

Betty Jean was a local legend as the first female DJ in Milwaukee. She was known for her personality and charisma, and her love of music made her an in-demand radio personality. Her stage name was Lady BJ at popular clubs around town (Upstairs Downstairs, Torans, Mr. Jays Taps, Scruples, Rumpus Room, and Geno's). She also had a short stint with WNOV. Her legacy of creating the Saturday event called the Casual Affair will be continued through DJ Sandra Silk (radio announcer) with Lady BJ's blessing.

She held a cherished and life-long membership with the CAYA (Come as You Are) Book Club.

This group has a strong culture of loving and living life. They were Betty's "Divine Nine" eternal friends.

Betty Jean accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior at a youthful age in Georgia. She renewed her commitment to the Lord at Northside Church of God in Milwaukee, WI, where

she served for over 15 years on the usher board, choir, food and clothing pantry, and audio/visual team. She was honored as one of the inaugural "Legends" of Northside Church of God at the age of 80.

Betty Jean "O' Kelle/" McCloud passed peacefully from this life on Sunday, July 6, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. She was preceded in death by her: father, Willie James O'Kelley; mother, Christine Davison O'Kelley; sister, LaRuth Scott; brother, Guy King; former husband, Samuel Hill; and daughter, Christella Hill.

She leaves behind a loving and devoted family, including her: husband, Warren McCloud; daughters, Jacqueline Hill, Sherry Yusuf (Dr. Bayo), Leslie Hill, and Deborah Hill; sons, Keenan Hill and James Parris Hill; nieces, Shawntelle Shropshire (Anthony) and Deleasa Hickembottom; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family, friends, and a loving church community.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Northside Church of God
4858 N 19th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53209-5757
(414) 372-6612

Funeral Service

JUL 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

Northside Church of God
4858 N. 19th Street
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

SA

“ from Prentice and Diana "Savoy's" - Lady B J worked for us at one time. She and Kenny would ensure a good evening of great music. A very classy lady. May you rest in peace.

Savoy's - July 26, 2025 at 01:15 PM

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“ -- purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mrs. Betty Jean O'Kelley McCloud.



-- - July 25, 2025 at 04:13 PM

FS

“ From The Allen Family on First Street. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Betty Jean O'Kelley McCloud.



From The Allen Family on First Street. - July 22, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Betty Jean O'Kelley McCloud.

July 17, 2025 at 12:32 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Betty Jean O'Kelley McCloud.*



July 17, 2025 at 12:32 PM



“ *Sandra Hyler Parish lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Betty Jean O'Kelley McCloud*



Sandra Hyler Parish - July 14, 2025 at 07:42 PM



“ *I had the opportunity to meet a sweet person at the library we would talk and laugh all the time, one thing she didn't play about that library am going to miss you Mrs Betty RIP*

Trudy Jones - July 14, 2025 at 04:30 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Betty Jean O'Kelley McCloud.*



July 10, 2025 at 02:59 PM

LH

“ I will dearly miss Ms. Betty AKA “DJ Lady BJ” McCloud. I have many memories of laughing with her and enjoyed strolls down her memory lane as a young female DJ. I admired her strength of character as a pioneer in that field. She was ripping and burning CDs of music that she loved up until close to the end. I’m relieved that she is not suffering anymore. Rest in Power, Ms. Betty.

Liz Humphrey - July 09, 2025 at 03:37 PM

KT

I don't know where to even begin, we're cousins, our Dads were brothers. There's so many family memories, family reunions, holiday gatherings to mention....

We really got close when I came up with a idea of people being able to come hear good music, dance to the jams (she was already a popular DJ), get the best chicken or shrimp dinners in the city between the hours of 3PM to 7PM called the Casual Affair at Torans, it went on for many years after I left the city. She actually taught me how to DJ and we would take turns at the turn table.

But the biggest and best memory is on one visit to Milwaukee from Atlanta where I was able to sit with her explain God's plan of salvation and she chose to ask Jesus Christ into her life as her personal Savior & Lord. No longer just the religious thing where we believe in God.

It wasn't long she got back into church consistently, went to bible study and in the choir, we talked often, prayed together and kept one another encouraged until the end when she could no longer respond to my calls or texts, so although I'm grieving, I'm excited because I know we will see one another in glory in our glorified bodies seeing Jesus face to face. I love you BJ, always have and always will. I wish I could be at the homegoing ceremony but we'll celebrate together later.

Karen Triplett

karen triplett - July 21, 2025 at 03:03 PM



Sending condolences to Warren and the family. Lady Bj will be deeply missed, May her legacy live on.

*Love,
Tapp family.. Nashville TN.*

Jennie Tapp - July 25, 2025 at 03:04 PM