



Betty Mamie (McKinney) Rush was born on September 16, 1927 to Ora Earl and Mamie (Kitchen) McKinney in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Following the death of her mother when Betty was six years old, she and her brothers, Art and Jack, spent most of their early years living with their maternal grandmother, Grandma Garrison, while her father worked on the road as an earth-moving contractor. Betty attended Lincoln High School, where she was active on the swim team.

Upon graduation, Betty worked at Cushman Motors Plant, where she met her future husband, John Carter Rush. John and Betty were married in a ceremony in Lincoln on May 9, 1948. They welcomed their first daughter, Jeanne', in 1949.

With the declining health of John's mother, John, Betty, and baby moved to the Loren Carter farm in Loup County in 1950. Betty, who had never lived outside of Lincoln, adapted to country living. She worked alongside John, raising cattle, cleaning chickens, canning from her large garden, and even, eventually learning to rake hay. The family now included three more daughters, Robyn, Vicki, and Nancy. Betty took great pride in keeping the home, which John had remodeled, clean and comfortable for her family. Until a fall forced her to move to the Burwell Memorial Health Center in 2017, Betty was never one to sit down when there was work to be done.

Betty enjoyed the time spent with friends and neighbors. She was a member of the Taylor VFW, both the Madison Square and Cummings Park ladies' clubs, and was a 4-H club leader. She and John always enjoyed helping construct booths and floats for the Taylor Fair. Betty loved having neighbors over for a visit, attending community card parties, and quilting with friends. She was happy to furnish help and food whenever the need arose.

Betty was a loving Mother to her daughters, Jeanne', Robyn, Vicki, and Nancy. She and John made many trips over the years to Nebraska City, where Nancy was enrolled in the Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped; and later to Kearney, where Nancy attended college and worked. They devoted their lives to providing Nancy with every educational and career opportunity possible. Betty was proud of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She looked forward to family gatherings and visits, and loved getting pictures.

John and Betty retired and moved to Burwell in 2007, where they lived with Nancy and took care of each other, just as they had always done. Betty lost her husband of 67 years when John passed away on January 22, 2016. Four months later, on May 13, 2016, Nancy succumbed to a lengthy battle with cancer.

On January 16, 2018, Betty Rush passed on to her eternal home. She leaves to mourn her daughters, Jeanne' (Lee) Stout of Burwell, Robyn Gray of Sherman, Illinois; and Vicki (Jim) Walter of Chambers; nine grandchildren: Laura Packard, Ronda Weber, Scott Stout, Jeff Stout, Ryan Gray, Jayme Bugner, Matthew Walter, Justin Walter, and Bryan Walter; twenty-two great grandchildren, one brother, Jack McKinney of Lincoln, 5 nieces, and 2 nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, John, daughter, Nancy, parents Earl and Mamie McKinney, step-mother, Fanny McKinney, brothers, Lawrence and Art McKinney (and wife, Maxine), step-brothers Remie (Doc) and Curtis Kadlick, and brother-in-law/sisters-in-law Royce and LaVonne Ferguson and Jean McKinney.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 on January 20, 2018 at the Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska, Pastor Alan Petersen officiating, with burial in the Madison Square Cemetery west of Taylor. Memorials are suggested to the Madison Square Cemetery.