



Bette Bridges

February 23, 1935 - May 20, 2025

Bette Jeanne Ivey Bridges, 90, of Greer, South Carolina passed away on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, surrounded by family. Born on February 23, 1935, in Roanoke Rapids, North

Carolina to Ellen Luvenia Clary Ivey and Clinton Elmore Ivey. After graduating from Roanoke Rapids High School, she worked for the Office of Special Investigations in Washington, D.C., where she met her husband, Dr. Byron Kent Bridges. Bette and Kent would be married for 62 years, first living in Houston, Texas before settling in Greer, South Carolina where they built a home and raised their three daughters.

Bette was critical to the success of Kent's dental practice, managing the administrative affairs for his office in downtown Greer and helping him open a second office in Marietta, SC.

Bette was the consummate host frequently entertaining friends and family in her home. Whether it was a celebration or one of her famous Gourmet Club dinners, Bette made sure every detail was perfect.

In her younger days, Bette enjoyed participating in Bridge Club and the Azalia Garden Club. She was an avid volunteer at Memorial UMC, and in the community. She was active with Greer Community Ministries helping to

organize the annual Big Thursday fundraiser. Bette was a talented interior decorator and had a flair for fashion. With her keen eye, she created beautiful home interiors and stunning wardrobe ensembles.

One of Bette's greatest joys was spending time with her grandchildren. "Bebe" showered them with time and attention. She made each one feel special, and they all looked forward to being with her. Bebe had a knack for finding unique birthday and Christmas gifts, often sneaking in extra treats in between these occasions. She proudly attended school programs, athletic events, graduations and weddings.

She was the epitome of South Carolina culture and tradition, and took great joy in the many memorable summer family gatherings at her beach house on Kiawah Island, SC. She treated her grandchildren to endless applications of sunscreen lotion, lazy days making sandcastles, boogie board surfing, alligator spotting, catching crabs, biking the winding island trails and discovering secret lagoons. One of her favorite ways to end the day was with a Low Country Boil.

It's an understatement that Bette knew how to make an impression, and the memories of her bigger-than-life personality will live on with her family and friends forever.

Special thanks to Sherrill Robbins and Savannah Reeder. Sherrill and Savannah spent many hours with Bette taking her to her hair appointments, out for fun lunches, and shopping – one of Bette's favorite activities, providing consistent companionship while she was still in her home, and later when she was in assisted living. Thanks also to the loving caregivers at Clemson Downs. They provided a safe, joy-filled environment that made Bette feel comfortable and cared for.

Bette is survived by her daughters, Miriam Pugliese (Tim), of Dallas, Texas, Robin

Bridges (Patti) of Liberty, South Carolina, and Melanie Kristinik (Larry) of Columbia, South Carolina; a sister, Miriam Nicholson of Gaithersburg, Maryland; six grandchildren, John Pugliese (Lauren), Tim Pugliese, Jr (Jenna), Laurel Thrash (Andrew), Katherine Kristinik, Robert Kristinik, and Camille Kristinik; two great grandchildren, Bear Pugliese and Ford Thrash; a special niece; and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents Ellen and Elmore Ivey, and husband Dr. Byron Kent Bridges.

A memorial service will be held 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at Memorial United Methodist Church conducted by Rev. David Smith.

Visitation will be held after the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to Memorial United Methodist Church, 201 N. Main Street, Greer, SC 29650 or online <https://onrealm.org/MemorialUnitedM/-/form/give/now> or to Greer Community Ministries, P.O. Box 1373, Greer, SC 29652 or online <https://www.greercommunityministriessc.com>

Condolences or your favorite memory of Bette may be left for the family by visiting www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Memorial United Methodist Church
201 N Main St
Greer, SC 29650-1924
(864) 877-0956

Tribute Wall



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Bette Bridges.*



July 07, 2025 at 03:52 PM



“ *I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. Sincere prayers for peace and comfort for all of you. Martha Taylor*



Martha Taylor - July 07, 2025 at 03:30 PM



“ *Bill Myrna Paige Jim and family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Bette Bridges.*



Bill Myrna Paige Jim and family - July 06, 2025 at 11:03 PM



“ *Bill Myrna Paige Jim and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bette Bridges.*

Bill Myrna Paige Jim and family - July 06, 2025 at 11:03 PM

SB

“ Shirley Sue and Dennis Brown purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bette Bridges.



Shirley Sue and Dennis Brown - July 03, 2025 at 07:29 PM

BS

“ Miriam, Robin, and Melanie:
I'm so sorry to learn of your mom's passing. She was a gracious lady and I have many fond memories of her. My thoughts are with you and your families. Bryna Stokes Seay

Bryna Stokes Seay - May 29, 2025 at 09:43 PM

LD

“ Loved Betty, she was a sweet lady. So sorry for your loss. Heavens gain.

Linda Dillarf - May 23, 2025 at 07:33 PM

AA

“ To the Bridges Family, We are sending heartfelt condolences during this difficult time and keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Angie Ashmore Kruse and Allison Ashmore Kellum



Angie AshmoreKruse - May 23, 2025 at 04:58 PM

GM

*Ahh, Ms Bette, what a beautiful lady and delightful neighbor. Ken and I had the privledge to live across the street from Kent and Bette for over 20 years. Bette adored her home and our Burgiss Hills Subdivision. She and a cabal of her friends would burn up their phone lines with ANY perceived threat to the continuity and safety of Burgiss Hills. Then Bette was placed in charge to rope me into the mix to execute their plan of action. It was a hilarious few years to keep all The Burgiss Ladies calm and peaceful. Bette was just always there to lend a hand or a listening ear into any of life's situations. I do so miss my Bette! My prayers for her eternal rest with our Lord are ever present in my heart. She was forever expressing her pride in 'her girls' with a gleam in her eye that told of true love. My prayers for peace of heart are with Bette's Girls.
May the love and grace of God cover all of us.
Ginger Michalek*

Ginger Michalek - June 01, 2025 at 07:24 AM

MH

“ Praying for peace and comfort. The Allender's

Meg A Hinds - May 22, 2025 at 10:34 AM

AB

“ Allison Burnett lit a candle in memory of Bette Bridges



Allison Burnett - May 21, 2025 at 08:36 AM

RB

Thank you, Allison.

Robin Bridges - May 21, 2025 at 09:06 AM

PG

Bette was a wonderful friend and neighbor to me. Miriam, Robin and Melanie, wonderful memories of your childhood with my children can never be erased. My heart sings praises for Bette being in her new place but she will be missed.

Pat Gibson - June 13, 2025 at 11:47 AM