



## Bettye Louise Ford

September 7, 1940 - October 24, 2025

Bettye Louise (Brooks) Ford, age 85, of Shelby, Indiana, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2025, at Franciscan Health Lafayette.

She was born on September 7, 1940, in Paradise, Kentucky, the daughter of George and Nina (Harlen) Brooks. On April 28, 1956, she married her high school sweetheart, Ernest J. Ford. Together they shared more than 67 years of marriage, building a life rooted in love, family, and faith.

For 32 years, Bettye dedicated her career to serving as a bus driver for Tri-Creek School Corporation. She safely transported thousands of students to and from school, creating cherished memories and lasting friendships along the way. Her patience, warmth, and care left an indelible mark on generations of children and families in her community.

Bettye had a beautiful voice and joyfully shared her gift of song in her church choir. She also found great happiness in reading, birdwatching, caring for her pets, and nurturing all of God's creatures.

She is survived by her husband, Ernest; her six children: Stanley (Patti) Ford of Ashland, WI, Donna Cooper of Rensselaer, IN, Michael (Shirley) Ford of Vernon Hills, IL, Phillip (Roberta) Ford of East Chicago, IN, Jeffrey (Peggy) Ford of Camby, IN, and Gregory (Tracy) Ford of Wheatfield, IN; siblings: Mary

(Gene) Richmond and Ovada Richmond, both of Russellville, KY, and Charlotte Roush of DeMotte, IN; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Friends are invited to visit with the family on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. CT at Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer. A funeral service will follow at 1:00 p.m. CT with Pastor Phillip Ford officiating. Interment will be held at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Rensselaer.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Bettye's honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (<https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>).

# Cemetery Details

## Memory Gardens of Rensselaer

Memory Gardens  
Rensselaer, IN 47978  
(219) 866-5125  
info@jacksonfuneral.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer  
250 N. McKinley Avenue  
P.O. Box 70  
Rensselaer, IN 47978  
(219) 866-5123  
info@jacksonfuneral.com  
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT **29**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer  
250 N. McKinley Avenue  
P.O. Box 70  
Rensselaer, IN 47978  
(219) 866-5123  
info@jacksonfuneral.com  
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>



# Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Bettye Louise Ford*



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**Jackson Funeral Chapels** - October 28, 2025 at 03:28 PM

CG

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Bettye's passing. She and Ernie were always good to us, especially when our good friend Wally was in poor health and needed help and companionship. Our sincere condolences to Ernie and his family.*

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**Chris Robinson and Dan Garcia** - October 30, 2025 at 12:07 AM

CL

“ *I am sorry to see that she has passed. Our family grew up pretty close together. They were a second family. Mr Ford taking us to wrestling practice in the winter through heavy snow. Mrs Ford always give me a cockeyed look when I say something sarcastic and then give me a hug, and then maybe a smack in the back of the head. Like any old man, I miss those days, I miss that family. Many thoughts and prayers to all of you. Charles Langston.*

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**Charles Langston** - October 29, 2025 at 05:54 PM

MW

“ I have known the Ford family since the early 70's. I am so sorry to hear about your mother's passing Pastor Phil and Roberta and Justin. Y'all are in our family's prayers. So glad she knew the LORD and we know Y'all

Mark Warran - October 29, 2025 at 09:15 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Bettye Louise Ford.



October 28, 2025 at 04:53 PM



“ 31 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jackson Funeral Chapels - October 28, 2025 at 03:17 PM

ML

“ *Martha Langley lit a candle in memory of  
Bettye Louise Ford*



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**Martha Langley** - October 27, 2025 at 06:25 PM