



## Obituary

**Born:** Monday, July 6, 1936

**Died:** Monday, May 4, 2020

Betty Lou Reel, age 83, of rural Detroit, IL passed away on Monday, May 4, 2020 at Eastside Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Pittsfield, IL. She was born on July 6, 1936 in Frankford, MO to Elliott and Loretta Hecht Wright. She married Norman Wayne Reel on September 12, 1954 and he preceded her in death on October 26, 2010.

Betty graduated from Higbee High School in 1953 then married her husband, Norman, in 1954. They purchased a farm in rural Detroit in 1960 where they raised their children and farmed together. Betty also worked at various local restaurants and a local boarding home. She was a member of the Detroit Methodist Church and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. While in the WCTU, she served at the state and local level as Home Protection Director, the county level as Secretary and Home Protection Director, and at the local level for Pittsfield and Griggsville as Secretary and President. Betty enjoyed playing cards, dancing, doing arts and crafts, and working with leather. In earlier years, she served as a 4-H leader, rode horses, and enjoyed going to the Pittsfield Speedway to watch her brother, Harold, race stock cars. She loved helping with and attending dinners at the Detroit Township Hall, and working in her garden and canning the produce. Betty was a creative woman with the gift of gab and she never knew a stranger.

She is survived by her three sons, Marvin (Tonya) Reel of Detroit, IL, Mark (Penny) Reel of Pittsfield, IL, and William (Sara) Reel of Pittsfield, IL; eleven grandchildren, Erica (Jason) Thomas, Wayne (Madison) Reel, Phillip (Leah) Reel, Bryce Reel, Dylan (Katie) Reel, Laken Reel, Chelsey Reel, Laura (Michael) Rolfe, Lexus Ham, Lindsey Ham, and Loran Ham; six great grandchildren, Joseph Thomas, Mariah Thomas, Miranda Thomas, Claire Reel, Jayce Reel, and Jade Rolfe; a brother, Harold (Judy) Wright of Lewistown, IL; and sisters, Bonnie (Gordon) Scranton, Anne Owings, and Rosie (Joey) Cawthon, all of Pittsfield, IL.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elliott and Loretta Wright; her husband of 56 years, Norman Reel; son, Melvin Wayne Reel; and brothers, James Wright, Charles Wright, and Donald and Orion Wright in infancy.

Services will be held privately, and interment will be at Blue River Cemetery near Detroit. Memorials are suggested to be made to Blue River Cemetery or Pike County D.A.R.E. Online condolences may be left to the family at [www.nieburfh.com](http://www.nieburfh.com). Niebur Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Service Summary

### Private Services

Location: - *Not available* -

Charitable donations may be made in Betty's memory to the following organizations:

**Blue River Cemetery**  
Detroit, IL

**Pike County DARE Program**