



## Bea Crow

October 18, 1916 - July 18, 2018

Bea Crow, a longtime resident of Mentone, passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 18, 2018, at the age of 101. Originally Beatrice Kerby, she was born October 18, 1916, the third of six children on a farm near Ider in DeKalb County. From early on, Bea was a force to be reckoned with, in part because of her quick wit and her solid determination.

In her early teens, Bea was plowing the family garden behind a mule when a woman stopped to ask for directions. That woman was Martha Berry, founder of Berry College in Rome, Georgia. Ms. Berry saw a spark in Bea and personally invited Bea to come live in her home and attend school. Her time at Berry, helping in Ms. Berry's home, taking classes, and meeting influential people, like Model T inventor Henry Ford, helped mold her into the person she would become. She often talked about her time at Berry fondly and loved to share her memories with all who would listen.

At the age of 19, Bea went to work at Alpine Camp and would go on to feed hungry campers and counselors three times a day for over six decades. It was at Alpine that she met her husband Leonard, who sold fresh vegetables to the camp. After she and Leonard married they moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where Leonard served his country in the Navy and Bea worked for the family who owned Procter & Gamble. Bea and Leonard eventually moved back to the Alpine Community of Mentone on Lookout Mountain where they lived the

rest of their lives.

Bea lived her life to the fullest and very seldom slowed down. While working at Alpine during the summers, she also found time to run the largest commercial egg operation in DeKalb county, rear her five children, and entertain and feed her community.

Bea knew only how to work hard; there was not a garden she could not cultivate, a snake she would not chase away, a meal she refused to cook (always cooking by feel or taste- she thought recipes were unnecessary), or a visitor she would not welcome. But as hardworking as Bea was, she was just as selfless. Her joy was entertaining guests; believing that life only happened around a table and you are happier when you're fed-whether you want to be or not. For those fortunate enough to dine at Bea's table, it was easy to see that her gift was food. She excelled at cooking, serving, and, of course, eating - mostly sweets (Bea would often start with dessert first).

Bea is preceded in death by her loving husband Leonard Crow, daughter Mary Ann (Crow) Smith, and granddaughter Pam Collins. She is survived by four children: Gail Collins, Bob (Cathie), Gary (Cathy), and Karen Tate (Pat), 10 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. A celebration of Bea's life will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, July 22, at Wilson Funeral Home in Fort Payne, AL, with Dr. R. Pat McFadden officiating. Visitation will be Saturday, July 21, from 4 pm to 8 pm at Wilson Funeral Home in Fort Payne.

# Cemetery Details

## Little River Cemetery

1932 County Road 648  
Mentone, AL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 21. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Funeral Home  
3801 Gault Ave. N  
Fort Payne, AL 35967

## Funeral Service

JUL 22. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Funeral Home  
3801 Gault Ave. N  
Fort Payne, AL 35967

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bea Crow*

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *Dearest Aunt Bea brought joy, love, and laughter to the room. She had a way of making everyone feel special and loved. She was to be admired and challenged by her outlook on life, her work ethic, and what a loving mother and wife she was. The mere mention of your name, Aunt Bea, brings a smile to me to face and I know to so many others, also! I celebrate your homecoming, your legacy will live on, and love to your sweet family.*

*Love,  
Deborah Crowe Leamon*

**Deborah Crowe Leamon** - July 23, 2018 at 08:39 AM



“ *Great Aunt Bea,  
You were my great aunt & you were a GREAT PERSON...you have always brought a smile to my face & still do...time & miles kept us from seeing each other, but you are a fond part of my heart...I loved & admired your way of making others feel loved & treasured by lavishing them with your food & laughter...your strength as a woman, wife & mother are to be admired & have been used as an example to myself and others...you truly lived life to the fullest & I picture you and Top walking through fields hand in hand now...thank you for your example of how to live life with strength & joy.*

*Lovingly,  
Susan Crowe Brown & family*

**susan brown** - July 22, 2018 at 10:28 AM

SH

“ Mrs. Bea was one of the sweetest ladies I ever met. Her wit and humor put every one at ease. She and I shared the same birthday. She will be greatly missed.



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**Sarah Haase** - July 21, 2018 at 07:17 PM

TH

“ I worked part of the summer at Alpine when I was a boy. Mrs. Crow was an unbelievably hard worker and a joy to be around. I knew her son, Gary, a little. I used to help around the chicken house some. I would like to send my heartfelt condolences to the family in their loss.

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**Tim Harwood** - July 21, 2018 at 05:23 PM

CT

“ Mrs. Bea was one of the sweetest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. She was always one of my favorite policyholders during my time with Farm Bureau/Alfa. I always enjoyed talking with her. She will be greatly missed by her family, community and friends. Heaven gained a wonderful soul.



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**Carol Tipton** - July 20, 2018 at 03:03 PM

TJ

“ Karen and family: I knew “Mrs. Crow” for only two Camp Alpine summers (I didn’t even know her name was Bea — I only knew her as Mrs. Crow!).

*A true force of nature... Dick O’Ferrell may thought he owned and ran Camp Alpine — he only owned it — Mrs. Crow ran it. Half a century of boys and young men came and went — all knowing “Mrs. Crow” almost as a second mother. I learned early on — never, never ask Mrs. Crow for her opinion — unless you were prepared to hear the unvarnished truth. She was not harsh— but Bea Crow did not lie nor mince words.*

*Move over folks — there’s a new chef in Heaven. Well done, good and faithful Servant...*



*Love to you all,*

*Terry Johnson  
Valley Head 1965-1971  
Fort Lauderdale NOW*

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**Terry Johns**n - July 20, 2018 at 02:09 PM

AC

“ Bea has been a loving part of my life since 1940. She has been a part of Barbara and my children lives since 1952. we will always remember & Your love for us.

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**Arthur Crowe** - July 20, 2018 at 11:36 AM

AC

“ *She will always live in our hearts. She meant so much to our family. we never shared a dull moment while visiting her or while She was visiting in our home. I became acquainted with Bea in 1940 while She was at Berry & dating Lenard. Since those days She has been the LOVE of our lives. THANKS AUNT BEA.. Arthur , Barbara & Family..*

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**Arthur Crowe** - July 20, 2018 at 11:29 AM