



Betty Hudgins Cronin

APR 27, 1948 - MAY 28, 2022



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Betty Hudgins Cronin

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Betty Jo (Hudgins) Cronin, 74, passed away unexpectedly on May 28, 2022 in Covington, Louisiana.

A beloved and highly revered educator and principal in Covington schools for 32 years, Betty is most well remembered for her long tenure at Covington High School, where she served as guidance counselor to generations of students, and as principal for the last six years of her career.

Born April 27, 1948 in Texas, Betty was an only child to Clarence and Myra Hudgins, who preceded her in death.

After several moves in her childhood, the family settled in Buras, Louisiana, where Betty would graduate high school. She attended Southeastern Louisiana University where she met fellow education student, Mike Cronin, who would become her husband of 52 years.

Married, with a growing family, Mike and Betty moved from Hammond to Covington, where, for 50 years, the couple have woven themselves into the fabric of the community and school system.

Particularly in her retirement, Betty rallied to support a myriad of charitable causes and community efforts. She spearheaded a group to pick up trash in an effort to have Covington judged "Cleanest City". She combined her love for her community and gardening by becoming an active member of Covington Garden Club and St. Tammany Master Gardener Association. And mindful to balance hard work with great fun, Betty welcomed the start of carnival season at Twelfth Night each year as a member of the St. John Fools of Misrule.

At home, Betty enjoyed her hobbies, pottery and baking, and engaged with what was surely her greatest joy, spending time with her adored grandchildren, who call her "Wa Wa".



Obituary

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Betty is survived by her husband, Mike Cronin; daughter, Lindsey Cronin; son, Chad Cronin (Angela); and three grandchildren, Kate Cronin, Miles Clute and Oliver Clute.

Her legacy extends, as well, through the dreams and accomplishments of the many thousands of student whose lives she touched and enriched in her lifetime.

For all who ever knew her, Betty Cronin will be remembered as one who spoke loudly and loved fiercely. She will be missed immeasurably.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Seiler Bar, 434 N. Columbia St. Covington, LA 70433 on Thursday, June 2, 2022 from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM.

E.J. Fielding Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please sign the E.J. Fielding Funeral Home online Guest Book at www.ejfieldingfh.com.




Events


Betty Hudgins Cronin

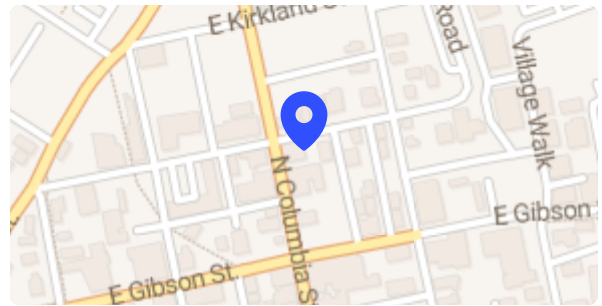
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Celebration of Life

 **Thursday**, June 2, 2022

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT

 **Seiler Bar**
434 N. Columbia St., Covington LA 70433





Tribute Wall

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Kate Cronin posted:

Over two years after her death, I'm finally facing her facebook page, a digital footprint of who she was and continues to be to those around her, stumbling across all of the memories and posts on this obituary and so many since then too. It's incredibly moving and inspiring to learn details of her impact directly from those she touched. To many she was known as Mrs. Cronin, Betty or Betty Jo but to me she was my Mawmaw (since evolved into Wawa but that's another story that I take no credit for). I am her first grandchild and only granddaughter. Like her, I am an only child. We had a special bond because of this and because, for the first 9 years of my life, I had her all to myself. As a child, I recognized that her adoration and care for me was something special, something I was lucky to have. Something that hurt so badly to move 800 miles away from as a young girl. My adult years with her are what I tend to look back on most though. These were the times where I really got to see and understand the woman she was to all and not just the Mawmaw she was to me. A woman so fearless, outspoken, compassionate, badass and FUN. A woman that I aspire to be. But more importantly, a human, one who battled with anxiety, who made mistakes and who was far from perfect. Oh how I wish I had more time to learn those complexities of her life. Her whole life. The day she passed away was and will forever be the day before my birthday. While I've never been one to subscribe to traditional spirituality or religion - I wasn't raised that way - I choose to think that the timing of that in some way reflects the bond I shared with her. I actually started subscribing to believing in more 'signs' after her passing. She was so proud of the amazing job I got right after graduating college and told absolutely everyone she could about it. Still I struggled with confidence, letting my anxiety rule me. It wasn't until after her passing that I kept a ring from her closet and wore it for a big presentation in front of leadership that I successfully conquered that anxiety for the first time. I've accomplished a lot since then and because of that moment. She gave me strength. Even after she was gone. Just by remembering who she was and thinking of all of the kickass things she would have done and said were she in my shoes. This is how I keep her alive and I'd hope many others do as well. Her impact was and continues to be so very unique, loud and undeniable. Mawmaw, how I wish you could see me today. How I wish I could ask your advice on yet again moving to a new city, this time on my own. How I wish you knew the depth of your impact on me. I love you Mawmaw & miss you everyday.

November 12 at 7:12 PM



James Deshotels shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Remembering Betty fondly in my prayers and in church. Trusting she's found rest "where the light of God's face shines". Mike and family and loved ones are especially in my prayers



June 8 at 11:05 AM



Tribute Wall

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Kimberly King posted:

Wawa...The best Mama ever. You are beyond missed and forever loved.

June 5 at 4:33 PM



Tara Holiday Paille lit a candle in honor of Betty.



June 4 at 6:00 PM



Sherry Cottrell Mcdonald posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Mrs. Cronin's passing. I had the blessing to know her while at William Pitcher Jr. High and will always remember her kindness and dedication for all of the students. Sending prayers and peace to you all.

June 4 at 4:15 PM



Brian Edwards shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



So much loss this year. I am numb and saddened to hear about the passing of Mrs. Cronin - she was truly one of a kind. During homecoming week in September of 2014 - she hosted a special dinner for me at her home (Lisa Salter-Core, Gia Romano-Baker, Kevin & Diana Marse, etc were there as well) and we had a wonderful time. Gal made the best fried chicken you could ever imagine! (Among so many other delicious dishes!) I first met Mrs. Cronin (as our Guidance Counselor) at William Pitcher Junior High School in the fall of 1978. She was eventually assigned to The Class of 1985 as their counselor, but she was still a constant presence daily in my life at CHS and a good friend to all. The last time I saw her was a wild coincidence - but "Covington" relevant. I was in Covington, Georgia visiting my God child for Christmas break in 2015, and Mrs. Cronin and Lindsey were driving to visit her son in North Carolina - and they had a stop planned to spend the night in Covington. She saw a post on FB of me and Cariss and told me she had just hit town! We met up AND cut up in the lobby of their hotel if you receive my meaning - I'm surprised they didn't throw us out. So much fun - but when Mrs. Cronin was in the house, a good time would be had by all! The world has lost a gem. But shine on in heaven Mrs. Cronin - we still need your light. Rest in power. Sending love and prayers to the family. xoxo Brian Edwards

May 31 at 1:36 PM



Tribute Wall

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AW

Alycia Ward posted:

I was the first captain of the Dancin Darlings, with Mrs. Cronin. She was more than just the head of Dancin Darlings. She was a great mentor for me and for many others. I adored her. My condolences and love for your family, Alycia Olano Ward.

June 2 at 10:06 AM

CB

Courtney Bayer posted:

My Louisiana Mama. Fellow tall lady. Mother of one of the best friends I've ever had. So many Christmas dinners where she would loudly and proudly proclaim that we were there to celebrate my birthday first and foremost- and she'd make me a delicious, incredibly beautiful Courtmas cake. Betty, I love you, and I will miss your raucous laughter, your biting sarcasm, your all-encompassing care and compassion. My world-- heck, the whole world-- will never be the same without you in it.

June 2 at 8:14 AM

CO

Courtney R. posted:

I'll never forget the time she let us take her car to pick up lunch during study hall. Top. Down. Rest in Power.

June 1 at 5:28 PM

AH

Ann Lacoste-Hughes posted:

I remember the first year of William Pitcher Jr High. We had some bumps but came through. I really loved when we all sat in front office, Terry bus all a Coke and we laughed so much. You were an asset to all your KIDS. They will always love you. R.I. P.

June 1 at 2:07 PM



Tribute Wall

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Terrie Kolvoord posted:

I called her Betty Jo. Our families had several relatives that lived in Bedias, Texas. Bedias was a town of about 200 and there was NOTHING there. When I was about 10 and Betty Jo was 12, we started going to Bedias. Thank goodness most of the time our families went at the same time. I don't think I could have survived the boredom without Betty Jo. We would sit on the bed and talk and giggle for hours. There was no TV, and absolutely nothing to do. When Betty Jo got her driver's license, we were both so excited. She begged to run any and all errands, and I was her co-pilot. Sometimes we were even allowed to "joy ride"!This friendship grew and we started to travel between Houston and New Orleans in the summer to see each other. We always rode the train. It was an experience I will never forget. Sometimes we rode it together and sometimes separately. I visited her in LaPlace and a few times in Buras. One time while in Buras, Betty Jo took me into New Orleans. We were in a department store when someone came on the PA system and made an announcement. When they finished, I looked at Betty and sincerely asked, "what language was that"? She laughed. That cajun accent was something I never actually got use to. She could really exaggerate it, or let her Texas twang creep in. She also took me to my first and only Mardi Gras. She took me there, but the crowds carried us around!Eventually we both went off to college and both became teachers. Because of our loud voices, big mouths, and love of people we were perfect for this profession. Unfortunately, life gets in the way and we didn't see each other much after our youth. There were weddings, funerals, hurricanes and the occasional Christmas, but that was about all. There is nothing like the memories from one's youth. Betty Jo was my cousin, my only real cousin and I will miss her.

June 1 at 7:21 AM



Steve, Toscha, Rebekah, Sarah-Marie, Daniel sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Cronin family.



May 31 at 3:35 PM



Pinky Lewis lit a candle in honor of Betty.



May 31 at 3:32 PM



Pinky Lewis lit a candle in honor of Betty.



May 31 at 3:31 PM



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PL

Pinky Lewis posted:

Miss Cronin was a nice lady, I remember her from the dance team, many years ago. Such a pleasant person to work with. I'm sure she will be missed.

May 31 at 3:31 PM

KH

Kecia Hurd posted:

I remember WaWa and I was sitting in my car for a couple hours just talking about Life, but one thing she said that stuck with me, and I will never forget it. She said Kecia, I Love you and you will always be apart of my family. She said if it's anything I need or need to talk about anything, just let her know. That meant so much to me, because I knew I wasn't just friends to the family, I AM PART OF THE FAMILY NOW.....I Love and Miss you Wawa, you will be truly missed ❤️👉❤️👉

May 31 at 2:04 PM

BB

Brenda Breeland posted:

Loved her sharing her time with the kindergarteners at CES teaching them how to grow their own veggies!!!

May 31 at 1:41 PM

TD

Tim&Debbiegriffith lit a candle in honor of Betty.



May 31 at 1:36 PM



Media

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James Deshotels shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 8 at 11:05 AM





Media

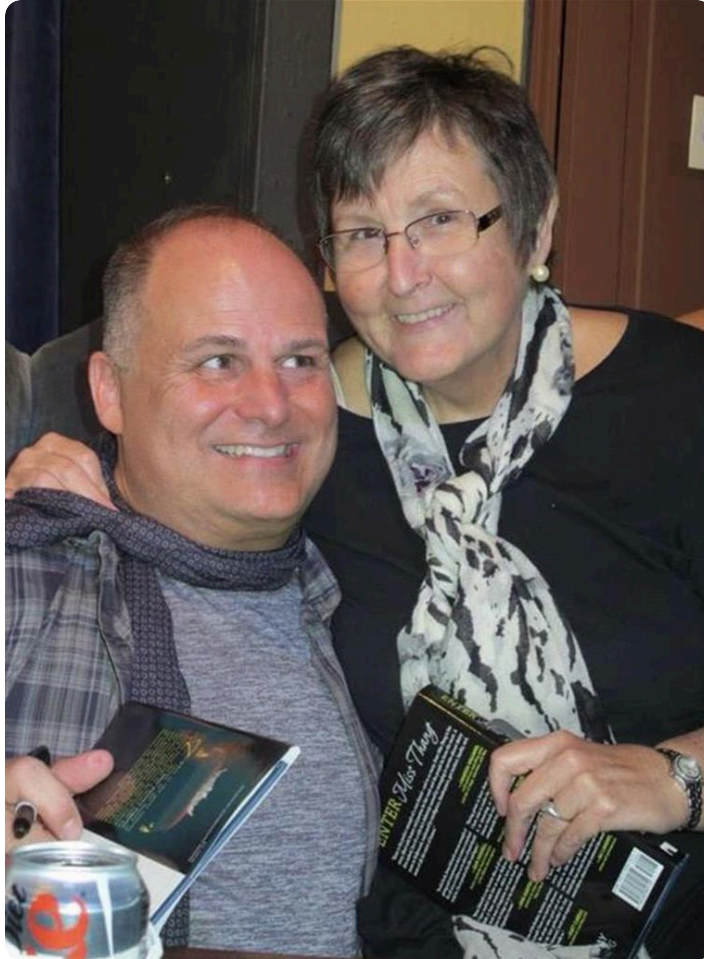
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Brian Edwards shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 3 at 5:51 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Betty by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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