



Betty Jean "Penny" Kotch

June 30, 1932 - May 28, 2026

Betty Jean "Penny" Kotch, age 93, passed away peacefully at home on May 28, 2026, surrounded by the love and comfort of family. In her final years, she shared her home with her son, James, and daughter-in-law, Linda, whose care and devotion allowed her to remain where she was happiest.

Born on June 30, 1932, to Clara E. Ritter and William John Penny, Betty lived a life marked by kindness, service, friendship, and deep love for her family.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, David L. Kotch Sr., the love of her life; her parents, Clara and William Penny; her brothers Richard, Robert, Charles, and John Penny; and her sister, Lois Gibis.

She leaves behind a loving family who will cherish her memory: her sister, Thelma Dysinger; her brother, Ted Penny; her four sons, James L. Kotch (Linda), Jeffrey D. Kotch (Tammy), David L. Kotch (Laurie), and Michael John Kotch (Teresa). She was the proud grandmother of eight grandchildren and the adoring great-grandmother of seven great-grandchildren, each of whom brought her immense joy.

Betty proudly served her country in the United States Air Force, enlisting on July 3, 1951. She was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, where she worked as a stenographer. Her dedication to service and community continued throughout her life.

Known for her warm smile, welcoming spirit, and active lifestyle, Betty found happiness in simple pleasures and meaningful connections. She was an avid gardener whose beautiful gardens reflected the care and patience she

brought to everything she did. She was deeply involved in local women's clubs and community organizations, where she formed lasting friendships and generously shared her time and talents. Many in Clermont knew her affectionately as "The Garden Lady" through her volunteer work at Cypress Ridge Elementary School.

Betty also loved gathering with friends around a bridge table, enjoying both the challenge of the game and the companionship it provided. She enjoyed reading, spending time outdoors, and playing golf—a sport that brought her great pride when she achieved a hole-in-one, a story she loved to share. More than anything, Betty treasured her family. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, proud grandmother, and delighted great-grandmother. Her home was a place of warmth, laughter, and unconditional love, and her legacy lives on in the generations she helped shape.

Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, at a future date.

Though she will be deeply missed, Betty's family finds comfort in the countless memories she leaves behind and in the example she set of a life well lived, well loved, and devoted to others.