



Nettie Virginia Kelso Shepherd Bateman

June 3, 1932 - June 17, 2026

Nettie Virginia Kelso Shepherd Bateman, age 94, of Forrest City, Arkansas, passed away on June 18, 2026. Born on June 3, 1932, in St. Francis County, Arkansas, she was the daughter of Floyd Monroe Kelso and Jenny Florence Melton Kelso. A lifelong resident of St. Francis County, Nettie was deeply rooted in her community and devoted to her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Doris Shepherd Anderson of Sherwood, Arkansas; and her son, Robert Glenn Shepherd and wife, Sherry, of Forrest City. She also leaves behind ten grandchildren: Jodie Hartman (Daina), Jamie Hartman (Josh), Kristen Shepherd, Keri Shepherd, Kyle Shepherd (Bobbie), Shaina Mathews (Cody), Skyler Haycraft, Shirl Shepherd, Richard Shepherd, and Kelly Schaefer. Nettie was also blessed with numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She is survived by three sisters: Ruby Jewel Nichols of Palestine, Arkansas; Ruth Bea-Aster Barnes of Belvidere, Illinois; and Peggy Imajean Godair of Southaven, Mississippi. She also leaves many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and cherished lifelong friends. Nettie was preceded in death by her sons, Johnny Ray Shepherd and James William Shepherd; her daughter, Mary Helen Shepherd Lamb; her husbands, Theddie Ray "Jack" Shepherd and Johnnie Bateman; and her siblings, Oscar Monroe "Bodie" Kelso, Forrest Elgin "Pat" Kelso, Jerry Lee "Bud" Kelso, Roger Paul Kelso, Florence Catherine Hill, and Carolyn Paulette Ramsey.

Nettie retired from Sanyo Manufacturing in Forrest City after more than

30 years of dedicated service. She also worked at Vandiver's Grocery in Forrest City. Alongside her husband, Jack, she owned and operated grocery, gas station, and garage businesses in Forrest City and Widener. She was known for her strong work ethic, generosity, and unwavering devotion to her family.

A memorial service celebrating Nettie's life will be held at Stevens Funeral Home Chapel, Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. Visitation will be Saturday, 1:00 P.M., until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church Clothes Closet, 507 North Rosser Street, Forrest City, Arkansas 72335. You may log on to stevensfuneralhome.net for the online registry.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN **20**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home
220 North Washington
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-5400
info@stevensfuneralhome.net
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

Memorial Service

JUN **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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