



Elizabeth Josephine Branch

July 29, 1924 - May 19, 2026

Elizabeth "Betty" Josephine Branch, age 101, of Charlotte, Michigan, a talented seamstress and devoted mother whose creativity and love touched many lives, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2026. Betty was born on July 29, 1924, in Lansing, Michigan, the daughter of Clarence L. and Barbara (Scattergood) Thompson.

Betty married Donald Robert Branch in Lansing, Michigan, and together they built a life centered on family, raising five children and creating a lifetime of cherished memories. Gifted with remarkable talent and creativity, Betty was a true artist at heart. She enjoyed adult coloring books and found great joy in sewing and crafting, lovingly creating dolls, Father Christmas statues, meticulous doll houses, and beautiful teddy bears for local hospital patients. Her hands were always busy making something special, often bringing comfort and smiles to others through her work.

Strong-willed and steadfast in her values, Betty was known for her determination and independent spirit. She always had a story to share and, even at 101 years old, remained sharp-minded and quick-witted. She also had a special love for animals and treasured the companionship of the many dogs and cats that were part of her life over the years. Betty carried tremendous pride in having served as a Rosie the Riveter during World War II, a role that reflected both her strength and her enduring work ethic.

Betty is survived by her children, Douglas (Dianne) Branch, Thomas Branch, Janice DeFrates and Philip Branch; eight grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband, Donald; both parents; son, David Branch; son-in-law, Kevin DeFrates; and siblings, Fredrick Thompson, Richard Thompson, William Thompson, Walter Thompson, Catherine Waters and Robert Thompson.

Friends are encouraged to support Betty's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation is Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Graveside services will immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to any charity of choice. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home (Charlotte)
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Graveside

MAY 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



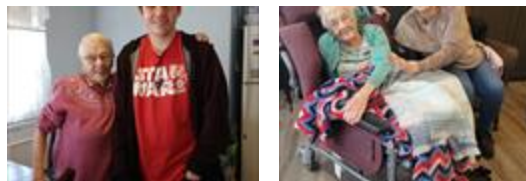
“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Josephine Branch.*



2 hours ago



“ *Being the first-born grandchild, I like to think that made us even closer. You taught me how to sew and gave me my love for crafting! I remember how you got us grandkids our own baby bunnies to raise and take care of when we were much younger. Your three-wheeled bicycle with the basket that we couldn't wait to ride...and boy did we ride it! The stories you told during our visits over the years made me laugh, cry, and sometimes left me just shaking my head (lol) but I will cherish them ALL! I thank you for all the love and support you have given me during my lifetime. I am blessed to have had you as my grandma. Parker is grateful for you and is blessed to have you as his great grandma. Rest in Peace now Grandma and know we will miss you dearly.*



Lisa Branch - 3 hours ago



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Josephine Branch.*



8 hours ago



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elizabeth Josephine Branch.

8 hours ago



“ *I'm so sorry Tom and family. My deepest condolences*

Darryl Miller - 9 hours ago



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Josephine Branch.*



Yesterday at 09:01 PM