



Betty Joann (Smith) Starks, 83, of Erie, passed away Monday, February 20, 2017 at St. Vincent Hospital.

She was born in North East, Pa on September 28, 1933, daughter of the late Ernest and Pearl (Wakely) Smith.

Betty had worked at Erie Times News (Times Publishing Company), the Boston Store and Ferrier's Hardware.

She loved to square dance that was where she met her husband, Jim of almost 60 years. They enjoyed having their entire families together for the holidays and birthdays. She enjoyed working outside in her yard. They watched movies together almost every night in their home. Her proudest accomplishment were her two children.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Jack Smith.

She is survived by her husband, James C. Starks; daughter, Cheryl Starks of Orlando, Fla.; son, Ronald Starks and his fiancée, Peggy Wisniewski of Erie; grandchildren, Josalyn and Brian Starks; great grandson, Anthony Starks; dear friend, Martha Starks; brother, Ernest Smith, Jr. of Prescott Valley, Ariz.; nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to all the wonderful doctors and nurses at St. Vincent Hospital, especially nurse, Brenda, 8 North.

Funeral services are private at the request of the family. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the **Merle E. Wood Funeral Home, Inc.**, 845 East 38th Street. Online condolences may be offered by visiting [www.merlewoodfh.com](http://www.merlewoodfh.com)

Memorials may be made to a charity of one's choice.

