

## **McGregor celebrates resident, Betty Jo Jenkins**

“Live right and do the right thing” are the core words of wisdom that Betty Jo Jenkins has tried to exemplify throughout her life. Betty Jo is 93 and still going strong.

Betty Jo was born in Lafayette County, Arkansas on November 15, 1928.

When she was growing up, Betty Jo’s family was very wealthy, especially for a black family. Her father owned a large farm that was the largest property in her region owned by a black man for most of her childhood.

On the farm, Betty Jo was raised to “work hard and work well” and to “be successful in all areas of life.”

At age 16, Betty Jo left the family farm in Arkansas and moved to Michigan to work at a funeral home.

After working at the funeral home for a few years, she moved to Cleveland and started her own domestic services business to provide various housekeeping, cooking, gardening, and caregiving services to white-collar workers in Northeast Ohio.

Betty Jo was very proud to say that “I was my own boss, and I never once had a job where I had to punch the clock.”

During her working years, Betty Jo married and was widowed on three occasions. She also owned her own house on Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. which she maintained through each of her marriages.

While working as a domestic, Betty Jo cleaned for an older woman who impacted her life forever by giving her two pieces of advice.

First, she told Betty Jo that when it came time for her to leave her home and move into a senior living community to choose McGregor Senior Living.

Then, she told Betty Jo that “you must keep moving so that you do not grow old.” She took the advice and began walking on a regular basis.

To this day, Betty Jo walks around the McGregor campus, where she now resides, every single day in order to “keep those old bones from aging too much!”

When asked about the most important lesson she has ever learned, Betty Jo didn’t hesitate: “live right and do the right thing – just like my grandma taught me.” She urges readers to stop and think, “would I want anyone to do that to me?” before doing anything that might hurt someone else.

At this point in her life, Betty Jo has lost many of the people she loves the most. Even so, she maintains her faith in God. “My whole life I have prayed, ‘you know what I need,’ and then He provides!”

Betty Jo looks forward to continuing to walk around campus and pursue her relationship with the Lord in the community she has found at McGregor Senior Living.