

Betty Brown

Well, she does fit the profile of a Michigan native, who after experiencing a few winters, retreat to sunny Florida. Many of us who are shivering now can certainly forgive her.

Betty was born in Detroit, as she puts it, many, many years ago. Shortly thereafter she attended Von Steuben Elementary School and later graduated from Denby High School in June, 1941.

Her career ambition was to be a Nurse, but somehow she was side tracked and enrolled in a retail cooperative program at Wayne University. She was required to work in a retail store and subsequently became employed at Montgomery Ward. It didn't take her long to realize that life in retailing was not for her, so she left Wards and took a job at Briggs Manufacturing, where her Dad was employed and provided her with door to door transportation.



This was a war time period so in February 1943 Betty enlisted in the Army and became an Air W.A.C. Her service time provided training in IBM technology in Orlando and then sent her to Washington for service at Bolling Field and the Pentagon.

She joined the Blues in 1946 and worked in several service departments until 1948. Florida was calling again and she enrolled in Florida State in 1951. When she learned her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer, she returned to Michigan where she again joined BCBSM and remained until retiring in 1986. Her career with the Blues took her from the Enrollment Department in Detroit to the Westside Office, the Mt. Clemens Office, the Pontiac Office and finally to the newly established Utica location. Her last position was supervising 11 walk-in Customer Service Offices in the Lower Peninsula.

After undergoing hip replacement and knee surgery she decided she did not want to slip and slide on Michigan snow and ice so she decided to return to Florida in July of 1990.

Even though Betty never pursued a career in nursing, her volunteer activity included work at the Hospice of Florida Suncoast in Clearwater, which she pointed out is the largest and most comprehensive in the world. She also spent time as a volunteer in her church processing mailings to her fellow members.

In 1987 she began hosting a luncheon for active and retired BCBSM employees, in her new hometown of Clearwater. The event continues although Betty passed away just before the 25th anniversary in 2011.