



Betty Jean Thompson Smith

April 29, 1934 - May 20, 2020

Betty Jean Thompson Smith (Mrs. Paul C. Smith) resident of Hoschton, GA and formerly of Auburn, Alabama passed away on May 20, 2020. Mrs. Smith was born in Clark County, Kentucky, the daughter of Robert H. and Onys Ragland Thompson and sister of Rodney J. Thompson. Always an active and musical child, she participated fully in her local church and as an adolescent she accompanied the congregation on the piano and initiated Vacation Bible School for her local community in the summer. After graduating from Clark County High School, she received her BA in education from Eastern Kentucky University where she was active in the Baptist Student Union and met her sweetheart and future husband Paul Clay Smith. They were married in July 1957 while he was in veterinary school at Auburn University. They became the parents of three children: Susan Jane Smith-Stefaniuk (W. Gordon Stefaniuk), Robert Clay Smith (Rhonda), and Leigh Anne Smith Day (Michael Day).

“Miss Betty and Dr. Paul” traveled extensively while raising their family, living in Bangkok, Thailand for three years. While there they both worked: he for the US Army at SEATO Medical Research Labs and she for the International School, teaching fourth grade at the Bang Sue campus. They discovered their deep love for international missions and international students, teaching English as a second language while sharing God’s love. When they returned to the USA, they moved their family to Iowa and continued to be involved with international student work. They also taught Sunday School in their local Baptist church as a couple. While in Iowa, Mrs. Smith started a community interdenominational Bible study group for women. On moving to Auburn in 1981 she began another Bible study group for women which has met continuously since then. Mrs. Smith pursued graduate studies at the University of Kentucky, University of Maryland, and the University of Tennessee. She taught school in Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, and Iowa as well as Bangkok, Thailand and East Africa. Her most rewarding job opportunity came when she joined the Auburn City School System as Attendance Supervisor and Social Services Director. For eight years, she worked closely with the schools and the juvenile court to assist families embroiled in socioeconomic challenges. She received recognition for this work from the school board as well as from the Auburn University Educational Fraternity. Miss Betty left that position when she and her husband

were appointed as two year mission volunteers by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and they served in that capacity for over two years in both Tanzania and Kenya; while there she taught seminary classes in English and mentored both American and national families as the perpetual hostess and surrogate grandmother of both missions.

When the Smiths returned to Auburn, Alabama, Miss Betty joined Dr. Paul as he continued their travels and mission lifestyle which extended from Ukraine to Grenada and many other countries. When at home in Auburn, she taught English as a second language to Korean women, and supported the local Bible study for women in jail.

When Mrs. Smith and her husband finally retired, they left Auburn to reside in Hoschton, GA closer to their children and grandchildren. She is survived by her grandchildren Erin Elizabeth Day Dunbar (Jordan), Robin Leigh Day Curtis (Danny), Stephen Michael Day; Brittany Lee Ann Miller (Erick) and their children Kian and Kara, Austin Wayne Cleveland, Gabrielle Marie Ezzell, and Abigail Elizabeth Smith; Allyson Stefaniuk (Brian) and their daughter Arya, Andrew and his son Conner, Alexander Stefaniuk, and Thomas Stefaniuk (Jasmine). She also enjoyed her membership in PEO, a philanthropic educational organization for women. She was a member of Chapter E in Auburn and Chapter BO in Braselton, GA where she served as chaplain. She was an active member of Celebration Church in Hoschton, GA, teaching Sunday School there in her role which had extended over more than sixty years. This was but one more expression of her deep and abiding love for the Lord Jesus Christ and His church.

A graveside service in Auburn, Alabama will be held for family and close friends on Sunday, May 24, 2020 at 2:00 CDT at the pavilion at Town Creek Park Cemetery, with interment for family only. A visitation service will be held at Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford, GA on Saturday, May 23, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The family requests that attendees wear a mask and that there be no hugging or handshakes. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family requests that gifts be designated to the Building Fund or the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Fund of Celebration Church, Hoschton, GA.

Cemetery

Town Creek Park Cemetery

1150 S Gay St,
Auburn, GA, 36832

Events

MAY **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

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Flanigan Funeral Home and Crematory
4400 S. Lee St., Buford, GA, US, 30518

Comments



“ Prayers for streams comfort from Earl and Marlene Brumback



Marlene Brumback - Yesterday at 04:36 PM



“ Dear Uncle Paul, Cousins Susan Jane, Robert, and Leigh Anne—
Our hearts hurt for you at this time. We wish We could be there, now, with all of you. Remembering Aunt Betty....Our family was so enriched by her; knowing the beautiful person that she was, committed wife, mother, and aunt of so many Smith nieces and nephews. Our thoughts and prayers are for all her family and friends as they heal their hearts with fond memories of Betty.

Katherine Smith Buis
Martin Buis

Katherine Buis - Yesterday at 12:14 AM



“ I will miss her beautiful smile and her patient, listening ear. I am thankful and blessed to have known this Christian woman for the past few years. She is no longer suffering after a long battle. I regret that this insipid virus has me sheltering at home and unable to attend the visitation today. I honor and love her here at home.

Loraine Haynie

Loraine Haynie - May 23 at 07:12 PM



“ Paul,
I wanted to let you know that I am praying for you during these days. I know how difficult it is. We lost Elton two years ago on June 23rd. Life will never be the same for me but when I think of him now, I am sad but thankful at the same time for the wonderful man he was and for the many blessings we had for almost seventy years.

I loved Betty very much and often cherish my memories of her. We shared a love for missions and the Lord. You and she did so many great things for the Lord! She is

undoubtedly enjoying her reward - a good and faithful servant.

Lovingly,
Carol Amos & Family

Carol Amos - May 23 at 11:06 AM



“ Susan, Paul, and family Betty was a life saver to missionaries living out of town.... always a meal, kind word and welcome even in the middle of the night, always there for us. Welcome to help when one of our kids was brought to the dr. needing stitches. What a great lady - for sure heaven's gain! We will be praying for you all. Tim and Annie Tidenberg

Tim Tidenberg - May 22 at 10:01 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. May you faith and wonderful memories sustain you during this season of loss.
Dale Peterson

Dale Peterson - May 22 at 06:28 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to you all during this time of loss.

Danny and Debbie Johnson

Danny Johnson - May 22 at 02:51 PM



“ Dear Paul,
We were so shocked to hear of Betty's home going and yet know that she's rejoicing to be with the Lord. We have so many good memories of our times together with you in Tanzania. Words cannot express the kinship and love we felt with you. It was always a joy when we were with you two. Betty was so full of joy that it just splashed out on us.
Our love and prayers, Eva and Rollie

Rollie and Eva Ennis - May 22 at 02:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Betty Jean Thompson Smith.



May 21 at 05:15 PM