



Pearl E. Smith

October 31, 2017

Pearl E. Smith, age 90, of Oakwood, GA passed away on Tuesday, October 31, 2017. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bryant and Lorene Jeffery; husbands, Lawrence Walburn, Jasper Dixon, Charles Smith, and Skip Turner; Mrs. Smith is survived by her daughter, Colleen Williams, Buford, GA; son, Jeffery Walburn, Senoia, GA; sister, Virginia Loveday, Ocala, FL; brother, Glenn Jeffery, Wayne, MI; four grandchildren, Lisa Brockmeyer, Morgan Williams, Julie Walburn, Jason Walburn; three great grandchildren, Lauren Brockmeyer, Rhys Williams, Rhiannon Williams. Pearl, or Gwen as she preferred to be called, was born in Detroit, Michigan on November 26, 1926. Her father, Bryan, worked at the Ford Motor Company and her mother, Lorene, was a homemaker. She has two surviving siblings, Virginia and Glenn. Growing up during the Depression, she learned how to be frugal and thrifty; something she practiced the rest of her life! During World War II, while attending high school, one of her favorite hobbies was roller skating. She and her cousin, Earl, entered dance competitions that filled up her spare time in between dating the young service men going off to war and dancing to the "Big Band" music of that era. She loved to dance and did so up into her late 70's!

She was married four times and often joked that only Elizabeth Taylor had more names! Her first husband was a Navy man, Lawrence Walburn, she met during the war and father of her two children, Colleen and Jeffery. After they divorced, she married Jasper Dixon. When Jasper passed away, she married

Charles Smith until his death, then met and married Skip Turner for the remaining months of his life. She was the Care Giver to three of her husbands but spent the last years of her life being "cared for" in an Assisted Living Home, which was not easy for her, and she could often be found helping and caring for the other residents.

Gwen prided herself in being a "seamstress," sewing suits and dresses for clients as well as one-of-a-kind formal gowns and a wedding dress for her daughter. She also enjoyed arts and crafts where she entered many shows displaying and selling her crafts. One of her specialties was the Sock Monkey Doll, which she made for nearly 30 years before it became popular, and which she not only sold but made for each of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She enjoyed caring for others and was always kind and helpful. She was a strong woman who taught her children how to persevere and not to take life too seriously!

Gwen loved life and lived it to the very end! A celebration of life service visitation will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in a Stateroom of Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford, GA. Interment is to be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to NE GA Hospice in memory of Pearl Smith.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pearl E. Smith*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM

JW

“ My Grandma, was one of the strongest women I've ever known. And I wish i would've had the chance to tell her how much she was an inspiration to me. That her strength and independence as a woman, was so powerful to me. She taught me to always take care of myself and not to depend on anyone. She was a care taker for her husbands, for many years and she out lived all of them. But thats what kept her alive for so long, taking care of others. She did it without complaint until she couldn't help them any longer. She was such a wonderful role model for me as i got older and got to see her being independence and strength. She never gave up and always kept going until she had no other option. It killed her to think of someone else taking care of her, she was just to independent for that. She loved to dance and do her many crafts (those great sock monkeys of hers) up til she was in her 70s. She always told me to keep my head held high and to never give up no matter what. That we were Indians, and we are survivors from the beginning. And I loved that! I have always remembered that and it kept me strong in the worst of times. She use to tell me that I was strong like her and that she knew I'd make it through any situation, good or bad. That, I was already a survivor to have gone through some tough situations in my life and I was still standing strong, not giving up. That I was still smiling and enjoying life. She taught me to always know that I was a beautiful, independent , strong woman and that can be anything I want to be in life. Her strength, strengthened me! Her independence, I always admired. She was such a strong woman. And I wanted to have the same strength and perseverance she did. I just loved everything about her and I still continue to try and be as strong as she was. I miss her very much. Im wishing I could've told her goodbye, and tell her how much she meant to me. We will meet again in heaven! Where she's a beautiful angel, waiting for us to come home! God, has definitely got a warrior. I love and miss her so much! RIP, Grandma!!!

Julie Walburn - December 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JW

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