



Sue Smith

June 30, 1927 - January 30, 2015

Sue Caldwell Smith June 30, 1927 – January 30, 2015

On January 30th, in Bartlesville, OK, Sue Caldwell Smith, passed away from natural causes, peacefully and surrounded with love, in her home of 27 years. Sue was the youngest of five brothers and sisters, born in Frederick, OK to Pioneer parents, Charles and Margaret Caldwell. Sue and her family lived on the farm that her grandfather homesteaded in 1906. Sue received her Bachelor's degree in Vocational Home Economics from Oklahoma College for Women, now known as USAO, in Chickasha, OK. While there, she served as President of the Junior Class, President of the Student Government, was selected for two years to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, and represented the college as Miss OCW.

In 1951, Sue met the man she would marry and spend the rest of her life loving, James Virgil Smith. In 1955, they began the growth of their family with the birth of their only son Jim, followed by the birth of their only daughter, Cindy in 1958.

Mrs. Smith was the first Vocational Home Economics teacher in Bartlesville Schools and started the first chapter of FHA at the local High School. She taught for 19 years at Bartlesville High School and developed and implemented the Family Living Curriculum that was used at the High School from 1972 to 1986. She was a member of the committee to write the first Family Living Curriculum for the state of Oklahoma, as well as, a committee member in the development of a survival skills curriculum for the State

Department of Education. She was one of the two home economics teachers in Oklahoma selected to represent vocational home economics at the First Governors' Conference on Education.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Smith has received many recognitions and awards for her devoted work with the youth of Oklahoma. In 1981, Sue was the recipient of the Helen Jensen Award. In 1985, she was chosen as Bartlesville's Teacher of the Year, and as of January 2015, it was announced, that Mrs. Smith will be inducted into the Bartlesville Public School Foundation Educator Hall of Fame.

Sue was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Kappa Kappa Iota, both national Honorary Teachers Organizations, a member of Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association and Washington Co. Retired Teachers, a previous President of Chapter ED-PEO, a member of the Advisory Board for Mutual Girl's Club, a member of the Advisory Board for Family Care Services, a volunteer for Green Country Free Clinic, a member of the First United Methodist Church, a member of the United Methodist Women's Board, a member of UMW Circle, and was one of the organizers for the Wedding Hostess Committee of which she was a co-chairperson for 23 years. Mrs. Smith and her late husband, Virgil Smith have established several scholarships to enable young people to further their education.

In her spare time, you would find Sue enjoying the sounds of Tom Netherton and all the other Lawrence Welk members, cooking Oklahoma bread for her grandchildren, creating thread masterpieces, visiting with friends from near and far, chatting with her late sisters and best friends, Miriam and Tommy, and most of all surrounding herself with the ones she loved the most. The Family would like to express their appreciation for all the wonderful and loving care provided by her caretakers and Cornerstone Hospice.

Mrs. Smith is survived by her loving Son; Jim Smith and his wife Joani Smith; her daughter, Cindy Smith and her husband, Bob Delaney; her three grandchildren, Ashley Trombetta, Nicole Trombetta, and Jesse Smith; and her many adoring nieces, nephews, and her many dear, life-long friends. An open

visitation will be held at Stumpff Funeral Home in Bartlesville, OK from Monday, February 2nd, from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm and Tuesday, February 3rd from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. A service celebrating her life will be held at the Bartlesville First Church on Tuesday, February 3rd, at 2:00 pm and on Wednesday, February 4th, at 1:00 pm in Frederick, OK, Sue will be laid to rest for the final time next to the love of her life, Virgil.

Contributions can be made to Family Care Services of Bartlesville, Bartlesville First Church, or to a Charity of the donor's Choice.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ Sue Smith

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ Sue Smith

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ Mrs. Smith was by far my favorite teacher in high school. She was caring, thoughtful and taught us "real" stuff. I have thought of her often since I graduated in 1984 and regret not making time for her during my visits to Bville. I cross stitched a Madonna and child for her upon graduating and remember she loved it. She was upset when it got damaged in the flood of her home. I hope her children are able to read this as she affected SO many BHS lives. I am an educator at the college level and work hard to emulate her caring nature. She will be missed and the world is a little darker without her. How lucky you were to have her as your mother!

Lisa Leroux-Smith - February 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs. Smith was a wonderful teacher and I can't imagine high school without her. She had a huge impact on me during those tough teenage years. I will never forget all the ways she helped me. She was very special.

Melissa Hall - February 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Sue was loved by our five children, who saw love in action as she taught in the classroom as well as in her home. The far-reaching effects of a dedicated, loving teacher live on in the generations to come. God bless your family as you cherish her memory. Terrel and Charlotte Taylor and children - Terri, Brent, Debbie, Toby and Greg

Charlotte Taylor - February 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Auntie Sue was a wonderful one-of-a-kind lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of sorrow.

Jimmie Bob - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Sue and Virgil are very wonderful friends - our first and longest in Bartlesville

Pat and Gus Gray - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Sending prayers and healing thoughts to all of the family. I had the honor and pleasure of knowing Aunty Sue for many years. She will be missed by all, I know there was a lot of celebrations going on in heaven when Aunty Sue arrived.

Patti Howell - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ She went through so much. She was a strong woman and went through it all with grace and character. I had much respect for her...and I loved her very much!!!!!!

Timothy - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I was blessed to have Sue Smith as teacher in Home Economics during my senior year at College High in 1974. She was a teacher who cared for ALL of her students and allowed us to care for her in return. She made it "cool" to take her class in an era when boys didn't take Home Ec in most places. I have deep affection and high regards for her even now 40+ years after our graduation, and know that she lived a life well lived and had an impact on thousands of her students.

Dave Mueller - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Praying for your families great loss. Mrs Smith is one of the most wonderful I have ever known.

Debbie Shrum Dahlke - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HK

“ You were precious and blessed so many. I will be forever grateful that I was lucky enough to have you as a teacher.
Loved you so much,
Hilary Koppel

Hilary Allison Koppel - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ A wonderful woman who had a great influence on many students. She loved her job and her students. Prays to Jim, Cindy and families.

Pam - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Sue was a precious friend and co-worker to us.
Dan and Jean Simmons

Jean and Dan Simmons - February 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Mary & Wayne Olehy has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

Mary & Wayne Olehy - February 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM