



Doris Muriel Smith

August 14, 2024

Doris Muriel Smith of McAllen, TX, died peacefully on August 14, 2024, after 103 vibrant years of life. She passed away in Austin, TX, surrounded by family. She was born on December 6, 1920, to Gladys and Horace Hilton in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. Soon afterward the family migrated to the Rio Grande Valley where Doris grew up and built a beautiful life. She was a bold woman, who studied at Texas Women's University and became a middle school teacher. She met the love of her life, Clyde Stapp Smith, and they were married on August 31, 1942, at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio where Clyde was stationed. Shortly afterwards Clyde was sent to Germany as a member of the Army's Intelligence Division and the two wrote letters to each other from across the world. She still has those letters tenderly bound together to this day.

They raised three children who were deeply cherished: Glen Smith, David Smith, and Kathy (Smith) Kreidler. In retirement, she and Clyde built a cabin in the Texas Hill Country on the Dry Frio River that multiple generations of her family congregated to, building roots, relationships, and memories that carry on in the fabric of the layers of her family today.

She was a memory keeper. She kept the stories and the memories of her family and passed them from generation to generation with tenderness and hopeful expectation. She treasured music and she hoped for peace for her children, grandchildren and her great grandchildren. She loved Jesus and her Church. She was a survivor of so many things in her 103 years and that made

her tenacious and courageous. As she met and passed a century of life, these qualities allowed her to become even more curious and introspective.

She is survived by her children Glen Smith and his wife Marie, David Smith and his wife Debbie, Kathy Kreidler and husband Colly Kreidler, and grandchildren Nathan Smith, Shawn Smith and his wife Meghan Crabtree, Haley Patterson and her husband Brian Patterson, Rachel Boswell and her husband Patrick Boswell, and Michael Bellipanni and his wife Catie Vauban. She leaves behind 4 great grandchildren: EmmaJean and Ondine Boswell and (named after his sweet great grandfather) Clyde and Lennon Patterson. She is massively celebrated, forever cherished and deeply missed. Thank you for everything Grandma.

The family will receive friends beginning at 9:00am on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 with a 9:45 funeral service at Kreidler Funeral Home in McAllen. Graveside Services will immediately follow at 11:00am at Valley Memorial Gardens in McAllen.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 21. 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
(956) 686-0234
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Funeral Service

AUG 21. 9:45 AM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
(956) 686-0234
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Burial

AUG 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Valley Memorial Gardens
3605 N Taylor Rd
Mission, TX 78501

Tribute Wall

MT

“ I'll always cherish my memories with Doris! I really enjoyed our long talks on the phone they were always memorable too. She was smart, witty and so full of insightful information! I learned a lot from her. Doris will be dearly missed by everyone who had the good fortune of knowing her. May she rest peacefully reunited with her beloved husband. 🙏❤️

Margot Trevino - August 20, 2024 at 05:38 PM

DS

“ I have known Doris Smith all my life, lots of years, and have always loved and admired her. As a child, when I was in her home she was always working on something, fixing, making, restoring, creating. I remember her gathering “old out of style” mens trousers, taking them apart and making clothes. She once came over to our house wearing a new wool skirt, she was very proud of the it. It was fashioned out of mens pants.

She always had an open door, welcoming smile, and caring attitude to her friends, and there were many, I count myself lucky to have been one. She was supportive of me in many ways. She encouraged me to go to college, which seemed impossible to me as a teenager. After college, I had two interesting job offers, and I accepted the one that moved me back to Hidalgo county because I knew I had friends there and I could count on her and Clyde for help if needed. Over the years the visits, the letters and cards, were important parts of my life.

I have many cherished memories interacting with Doris, Clyde and family. So, here's to Doris, a life well lived, a life of love and faith and family. It just doesn't get much better.

Dorothy Tyler Stone - August 18, 2024 at 11:37 AM

KK

Thank You, Dorothy !! Our Families will ALWAYS and FOREVER be connected to one and other 💖💖💖!! Our Families were so very close to each other for sooo many years... even when we had all moved to different cities. I think I stayed in Austin mostly BECAUSE of you and your Family. I was always the BABY of this "extended family".... but y'all would still let me tag along :) Thank you for all of the memories !!! And....I still think of Janice almost every day... playing her favorite songs... and they are always running through my head 😊

Kathy Kreidler - August 18, 2024 at 09:53 PM

DS



dorothy stone - August 19, 2024 at 03:47 PM

YD

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Yesenia Diaz - August 17, 2024 at 01:25 PM

JH

“ Many memories, Jane Ellen Toothaker Humphrey

Jane Ellen Humphrey - August 17, 2024 at 09:49 AM

“ Dear Family, I feel like I can call each of you family since your mother and grandmother was part of my greater Whitewing Avenue family. Jim Morrow, my husband, grew up on Whitewing, left it for a quarter of a century and then brought me home to Whitewing and only 2 blocks from his parents and half a block from Doris for the past 34 years!

Doris has been a part of my life along with her neighbors, Dean Padavon, Lois Kelly, the Rudes, Ambrose & Nancy, and Judy & Larry Prater. Doris to my knowledge never missed Sunday School at Calvary for decades and was just a constant in my life and she enjoyed the sofa seat at the north end of the sofa if her southern cushion was taken. She loved my in-laws Joe & Dorothy Morrow down on 1217 for decades and spoke often of them and adored Peggy & Don Yancy and the Lindgrens. We were the Whitewing Family and our lives were richer because of her. She was a fascinating conversationalist! And she loved to sing hymns when I would play her piano. Her diverse interests and keen memory made conversations a delight when popping by. At age 70 when I met her, she was a ready historian since I hadn't grown up in McAllen or the area which I grew to love! I have zero doubt that she is frolicking in the presence of her loving Lord I imagine like a school age girl. There was just something about her sweet voice and imagination, and enthusiasm for life that makes me believe that! She loved her beautiful home on Whitewing filled with memories and mementos, music and evidence of a magnificent life well-lived! She truly did not want to leave this spring, but we all knew in our hearts and it proved it really was best for her safety.

Doris, thank you for being such a fabulous example in life. I've loved you as my friend and neighbor for only 34 years, but I'm tiptoeing to 70 these days and calculate you've got a short lead on me and we've got an eternity to enjoy more love & friendship because Your Savior, Jesus Christ is my Savior too! See ya one of these years!
Lisa K. Morrow

Lisa K. Morrow - August 16, 2024 at 11:53 PM

PL

Dear sweet Doris was a longtime wonderful and very specials friend. We spent a lot of time together and had many phone conversations in between. She loved her family more than anything. Doris was a charter member of Calvary Baptist Church and was very active in all activities there. She loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ so deeply. Doris taught school for many years and one of her students (Rita Kay Roney) has kept up with Doris through all the years since. Never forgetting all special days with gifts that brightened up her life. Doris inspired everyone who knew her with her sharp mind and wisdom and stories of her life. She adored her children and grand children. Doris will be missed by all who knew her. Now she can SEE the face of Jesus! God bless her family.

Paula Lindgren - August 17, 2024 at 09:43 PM