



Kathleen "KaKa" Smith

April 29, 1921 - March 15, 2021

Kathleen Smith, 99, passed away, on March 15, 2021 at St. Francis Hospital in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Kathleen was born on April 29, 1921 to Cleve Edward Cook and Cora Lee "Nannie" McCoy at the family farm home in Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma. She was the youngest of four siblings. Her father passed away before Kathleen was one year old. Kathleen was the first Cook or McCoy to graduate from high school. In 1939 she graduated with honors from Bagley High School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Soon after graduation, Kathleen got a job at the Oklahoma School for the Blind and moved to Muskogee.

The decision to move to Muskogee proved to be one of fate for it was there that Kathleen was introduced to Carl Edwin Smith. She always loved cars and was enamored with Mr. Smith's 1936 V-8 Coupe. They were married on June 22, 1941- but, within six months, they were separated from each other as war spread across Europe and the Pacific.

After Pearl Harbor, Edwin enlisted in the Coast Guard and was stationed in New York City. In 1942, Kathleen left Oklahoma for the first time in her life and took the train to New York City to be with her new husband. Kathleen became pregnant in 1944 and returned to Oklahoma for the birth of their son, Pete. She lived with her in-laws, Alfred and Bertha Smith, before renting a home for her new family. Needing day care for Pete so that she could work, Nannie moved in with her and stayed for another 27 years. Edwin was discharged from the Coast Guard in November 1945 and returned home to Muskogee where he worked for 35 years as a salesman for Wonder Bread. Their

daughter, Myrna, was born in October of 1946.

For the next 25 years, Kathleen worked at OSB, Jones Department Store, Sears and the Motter's Bookbinding Company. But she had always dreamed of something more fulfilling and exciting.

Kathleen's dream finally came true in 1966 at the age of 45. She established a new business in her home and would spend the next 20 years as the very successful and happy owner of Kathleen's Wedding Service. Over those 20 years, she would help plan and orchestrate more than 1,300 weddings and become widely known in Northeastern Oklahoma as the "Marriage Lady in the Pink House". She sold the business in 1987 and retired with her husband. Kathleen also attended several very special weddings of her own. The first was the 1968 marriage of her daughter, Myrna to Larry New at OSU in Stillwater.

Myrna and Larry live in Lawton, Oklahoma with their two sons, Kelly and his wife Jennifer and two sons, Carson and Gunner and Marty and his wife Janette and their two sons, Jacob and Isaac. The second wedding was the 1968 marriage of their son, Pete to Betty Croll in Tulsa. They currently live and have retired in Henderson, Nevada and have two children. Kimberly is married to Jim Doyle and they live in Orange, California with their two children - Katie and Jake. Joe is married to Gayle Plus and they have three children - Fayth, Bella and Jack. They reside in Orlando, Florida.

Kathleen was also involved in the lives of her sibling's children: Billy Johnson, Sharon Hazleton, Eddie Cook and his wife Billy, Esther and her husband Kent Neel, Curt Cook and Chip Gillispie.

Kathleen's interests and hobbies were many and quite diverse. She loved travel, to read, to have her morning devotion, to go on bus and car rides, to decorate her home for whatever holiday month was in season and to explore garage sales to find her treasures. There were so many happy times and blessed events in Kathleen's 99 years on this Earth - and she remembered and was thankful for each of them.

But not all days were always happy days. Her Mother passed away in 1971.

Both of her big sisters, Leona and Helen, also passed away leaving her without her two best friends. Her brother Charley's death, along with that of his wife, Margie, was more than losing her only brother and next-door neighbor. She literally worshiped Charley, who was her mentor and idol - and the only father figure she ever had.

In 1982, her husband, Edwin, developed colon cancer and courageously battled the disease for more than 25 years. This difficult period took its toll on her. At the time of his passing in 2007, at the age of 86, they had been together as a married couple for 66 years.

She lived the wonderful retirement life in the Coburn Circle Addition of Muskogee for some 30 plus years. Her neighbors became dear friends and the focal point of her social life. It was apparent that everyone truly enjoyed being with and caring for each other, sharing experiences together and basically taking care of and looking after one another – especially Kathleen. For that comforting experience, her family is deeply grateful and most appreciative to all the neighbors in Coburn Circle who also loved our Kathleen Smith.

A celebration of Kathleen's life will be 2PM, Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel with former Chaplain John Trent presiding along with Rev. Matt Kelly of Letitia Baptist Church in Lawton, Oklahoma. Funeral services are under the direction of Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 N. York Street, Muskogee, OK. Condolences may be made to the family online at www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

7600 Old Taft Rd.
Muskogee, OK 74401

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

MAR 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel
1830 N. York St.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall



“ *Kathleen "KaKa" Smith*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Kathleen brought a ray of sunshine everywhere she went. What a positive presence! You might not see her every day or often but any time you think about her you always smile.*

Rebekah Stiles - March 23, 2021 at 06:38 PM



“ *Kathleen was a first name celebrity long before that was a popular thing. To know her was to love her and she will be greatly missed. Kathleen walked the high road and she expected you to do the same. She was a rare treasure!*

Myrlita Franklin Stiles

Myrlita Franklin Stiles - March 21, 2021 at 10:40 AM



“ *Kathleen was the most loving, giving person I know! She truly exemplified our Savior Jesus Christ and His Love. She was like a ray of sunshine parting the clouds! I never heard a negative comment from her lips. I know we all strive to be like Jesus and I for one say Kathleen Smith is a top runner up to following and portraying His Perfect Love! I loved her so much and she will be dearly missed! Tell Jesus and Carl hello from me! Love KathieLipe*

Kathie Lipe - March 20, 2021 at 03:04 PM

DM

“ *Kathleen Smith was a very special person in my life. She introduced my parents and, cut out paper dolls for me at the Muskogee First PH Church on E and Fredonia. I told her then that I would bring her out of retirement to get me down the aisle at my wedding, and I did. I want her to always know, "Some bunny loves you".*

Diana Downing Mashburn - March 20, 2021 at 12:46 PM

MV

“ *Mary. Vance lit a candle in memory of Kathleen "KaKa" Smith*



Mary. Vance - March 19, 2021 at 09:09 PM

“ I met Kathleen when I was a senior in high school at the Heart of the Hills youth camp in 1963 and often visited at their home in 1963 and 1964. I was 18 years old when we met. We did not visit again until July 2019, when sitting at home on a Tuesday evening, my cell rang. It was Kathleen, a voice I had not heard for 55 years. She was wondering how I was doing.

She sounded just like the Kathleen I knew years ago when my life was busy making decisions about my college major, my life's profession and learning to play a guitar. We exchanged information about our families. I shared the conversation with my wife sitting beside me. Kathleen was so proud of her children, grandchildren, and their children. One phrase stood out, that she used repeatedly, "I am so blessed". It was used when she spoke of Pete and Betty. Then when she spoke of Myrna and Larry. And when she spoke of her grandchildren.

In the following year and six months, we visited occasionally on the telephone and on a visit at her home in Muskogee. Every time we visited, I heard repeatedly, "I am so blessed". Kathleen was my senior by a generation, and I learned much from her about happiness.

- *Looking on the bright side life*
- *Being thankful for your place in life*
- *Throwing one's whole self into your life's activities and doing them the best we can*
- *Adopting and maintaining a childlike attitude of confidence and trust in God*

These are just a few of my recollections of Kathleen as a teen and much later in life. Some people you encounter on life's journey, you will never forget. Kathleen has been one for me. "I have been so blessed to have known Kathleen".

Randy Downing

Randy Downing - March 18, 2021 at 06:10 PM

RH

No one could say it better! I also was so very blessed to have Kathleen in my life. Ruth Hardy

Ruth Hardy - May 04, 2021 at 10:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - March 18, 2021 at 10:27 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Kathleen "KaKa" Smith.



March 18, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Kathleen "KaKa" Smith.



March 17, 2021 at 09:25 PM

TP

“ *The Mansfields; The Isons and The Pauls purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Kathleen "KaKa" Smith.*



The Mansfields; The Isons and The Pauls - March 17, 2021 at 01:37 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Kathleen "KaKa" Smith.*



March 17, 2021 at 01:26 PM

BP

“ *You will be missed sweet lady.*



Barbara Pipkins - March 16, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ I had the honor of attending the same church, for several years, with Kathleen.

She was indeed a very special lady, who loved the Lord with all her heart.

Her heart was always ready to lift others up. She was a very bright light, in the life of others.

Kathleen knew how to PRAY, and pray, she did!

Her heart was the most beautiful heart, that I have ever known. She will be missed terribly.

RitaLynn Hunter Shamblin - March 16, 2021 at 07:34 PM



“ RitaLynn Hunter Shamblin lit a candle in memory of Kathleen "KaKa" Smith



RitaLynn Hunter Shamblin - March 16, 2021 at 07:28 PM



“ 77 files added to the album Life Tributes



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - March 16, 2021 at 05:58 PM

RC

Kathleen was such a wonderful friend for so many, many years. She was a blessing to so many, You will truly be missed. I remember her saying " I'll meet you in the rapture".

Ruth (Woods) Cannon & Clarence Cannon - March 18, 2021 at 01:06 PM

EB

“ *Eunice Brown lit a candle in memory of Kathleen "KaKa" Smith*



Eunice Brown - March 16, 2021 at 04:35 PM