



Mrs. Johnnie Ruth Smith

September 4, 1933 - February 23, 2023

Mrs. Johnnie Ruth (Walker) Smith, of Live Oak, Florida and Lawrenceville, Georgia passed away on February 23, 2023. She was born in Gainesville, Florida on September 4, 1933, to David Marvin (Johnny) Walker and Mildred Emily Thomas Walker.

After attending elementary school in Alachua and graduating from Gainesville's P. K. Yonge School in 1951, Johnnie Ruth attended the University of Florida, where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. While at UF, she met William Carlton Smith, Jr., of Madison, Florida, who was also a student at UF. They were married at First Methodist Church of Gainesville on August 7, 1954. William served in the Army at Fort Knox, Kentucky until 1956, when they returned to Gainesville for William to attend graduate school at UF. William's 34 year career with UF Extension/IFAS took them to Perry, Bristol, Mayo, Baton Rouge, and finally Live Oak, Florida, where Johnnie Ruth lived full time until 2019. She is a past member of the Perry

Woman's Club, The Live Oak Elks Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Order of the Eastern Star. While her sons were in school, she actively volunteered as a room mother, marching band mom, band booster, church organist and pianist, and as a Gray Lady for the American Red Cross. She and William loved to entertain, and she is widely remembered as an excellent cook and baker.

Johnnie Ruth was predeceased by her parents and husband. She is survived by sons William David Smith and his wife Mary Lou, of Cary, North Carolina; John Daniel Smith and his wife Stephanie, of Lawrenceville, Georgia; her sister, Mary Sue Walker Grinnan of Jacksonville, Florida; Sisters-in-law Catherine Smith Hodges of Madison, Florida, and Elizabeth Smith Davis (Shelton) of Perry, Florida. Also surviving are four grandchildren: Jackie Jenkins (Adam) of Cornelius, North Carolina; Rebecca Hoke (Austin) of Asheville, North Carolina; Max Trierweiler of Tarpon Springs, Florida; and Taylor Smith of Lawrenceville, Georgia. She is also survived by her great grandchildren Abby Jenkins, Emily Jenkins, Maggie Jenkins, Hayley Hoke, Graham Hoke and Colin Hoke, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 1:00 pm at T. J. Beggs, Jr. & Sons Funeral Home, Madison Chapel, 235 NW Orange Avenue, Madison, Florida. Burial will follow at Ebenezer Methodist Church Cemetery, located in the Hamburg Community in Madison County. After the burial, the Family will greet friends and family at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice or to the Ebenezer Cemetery Corporation, C/O Catherine Hodges, 287 NW Hamburg Road, Madison, FL 32341.

Beggs Funeral Home (850)973-2258. You can send your condolences to the family on our website www.Beggsfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

EBENEZER CEMETERY

MADISON, FL 32340

Previous Events

Interment

FEB **28**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

EBENEZER CEMETERY
MADISON, FL 32340

Tribute Wall

CR

“ *Johnnie Ruth was a special lady in my life, she was actually a second mem to me. She and my mom were very good friends, and William and my Dad went to school together, I always enjoyed my visits with her. Fond Memories, God Bless you Dan and David and Families, You all are in my prayers.*

Chan Rains - February 27, 2023 at 01:50 PM

BB

“ *Dan, David and family, my thoughts and prayers go out to you. Your mom was always very special to me and will remain so in memory. She will definitely be missed.*

Beverly Buswell

Beverly Buswell - February 27, 2023 at 01:18 PM

CD

“ *Johnnie Ruth was a neighbor of my parents. She was a lot of fun to be around. She would give my dad a run for his money and my mom loved that she did. She loved the FI Gators and proudly wore her orange & blue. She will be missed. She was a one of a kind lady. RIP Ms. Johnny Ruth. Your old neighbors " The Sandquist's"*

Cathy Sandquist Day - February 27, 2023 at 01:00 PM

AW

“ *My prayers of with you, David, and your family during this time. Al Wood*

Al Wood - February 27, 2023 at 09:20 AM

TK

“ I am sorry to hear about David's mom. Any of you in contact with David, give him my best along with the regrets. Her kind of people go to be with the Lord. Working with the Smith family down here was a pleasure.

Tom Kucharek

TOM KUCHARREK - February 27, 2023 at 07:11 AM

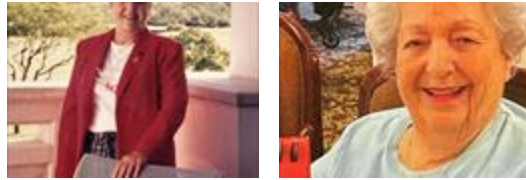
PL

“ Our prayers are with you and the family sorry to hear about the passing of your mother Virginia pam and Nannette brett

Pam Lake - February 26, 2023 at 07:45 PM

JS

“ 2 files added to the album JRS



John Smith - February 26, 2023 at 03:13 PM

JB

*Dear David, Smith family, and Madison County;
So sorry to hear of Mrs. Johnnie Smith's passing! David and I got our Master's together at U of F; then he went on to North Carolina, becoming their Tobacco Specialist. I went to work as an assistant agent in Madison County, from 1980 through 1985. Dr. Bill Smith counseled me through many Madison tobacco grower problems; I owe him much. Reading Mrs. Johnnie's obituary, I am humbled by her accomplishments, support of her family, and impact on her community! Mrs. Smith was a gem! She will be sorely missed by her family and community!*

*With deepest condolences,
Jacque Breman*

Jacque Breman - February 27, 2023 at 11:47 AM