



Ms. Helen Marie Smith

January 21, 1950 - September 12, 2018

Helen Marie Smith was born January 21, 1950 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, North Carolina to her parents, Elizabeth and Albert Smith, Sr.

The saying "good things come in small packages" was coined the day Helen was brought home from the hospital. She was a premature baby so small, her paternal grandmother, Grandma Lula, brought Helen home in a narrow shoe box, however, the daughter Albert and Elizabeth would continue to nurture grew into a young women full of personality and delightful energy. Helen was the youngest of her four siblings and together their family lived as proud members of the Cherry Hospital Community.

In the spring of 1968, Helen graduated from Dillard High School, and shortly thereafter, left home to attend airline Stewardess Training in Connecticut. Following her air travels, Helen lived and worked in New York City.

While much of her younger days brought her great joy, Helen's struggles with substance abuse as a young adult caused she and her family much grief. She began treatment at two different rehabilitation centers before finally completing a program in Charlotte, North Carolina. While there Helen met and had a relationship with James Moore and on February 20, 1977 God granted them a baby boy.

Ushered into motherhood with the birth of her only son and child, Telek Kente Smith, Helen found herself inspired by her responsibilities and used that as fuel to provide the best life she possibly could for the two of them.

Immediately following the completion of her rehabilitation, Helen was awarded the Burroughs Welcome Opportunity Scholarship, which she used to train as a Substance Abuse Counselor at Durham Technical Community College.

In 1990, Helen became a member of First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill and at the request of the Reverend Manley, Helen helped to found Out of Bondage, a group for recovering

addicts in association with Narcotics Anonymous.

The winter of 2012, Helen retired from the Durham County Jail where she worked for 18 years as a counselor for the STAR Program: dedicated to introducing inmates who were addicts to recovery in order to help them lessen the odds of returning to jail because of their addictions.

On September 4, 2018, Helen celebrated 33 years of being in recovery. In those beautiful years she enjoyed spending time with her family, being a dedicated member of church, taking pictures, going to the beach, leading the family in prayer (especially at Thanksgiving), and blowing her whistle in celebration of others, or just life in general.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, Elizabeth and Albert Smith, Sr. Her energy lives on in her son Telek Smith; grandson Christopher Smith; one brother, Albert Blair Smith, Jr.; three sisters, Lula Glover, Betty Anita Rouse (Carl) and Gloria Jean Richmond; nieces, Albertina Smith-Banks, April Potts (Kevin), Angela Rouse Goldsby (Tim), Elizabeth Richmond; nephews, Matt Richmond (Brandi), Anthony Smith, Derek Rouse, Adrian Glover, God niece and nephew Joy Bingham, Lamont Bingham; six great nieces; seven great nephews; and a host of other family members and friends.

Events

SEP **Wake** 06:00PM - 07:30PM

20

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.
309 N Queen St, Durham, NC, US, 27701

SEP **Visitation** 11:30AM - 12:00PM

21

First Baptist Church
106 North Roberson Street, Chapel Hill, NC, US, 27516

SEP **Celebration of Life** 12:00PM

21

First Baptist Church
106 North Roberson Street, Chapel Hill, NC, US, 27516

Comments



“ Patricia Lea lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Patricia Lea - September 25, 2018 at 11:12 AM



“ Lula Bryant Sturdivant And Family lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Lula Bryant Sturdivant and Family - September 22, 2018 at 04:36 PM



“ Praying that God grant the family of dear Helen peace that surpasses all understanding. I am grateful to have known and experienced the wonder of Helen. I will cherish all that she taught and empowered me with. My birthday will keep her memory alive in my heart. God bless you all



Elder Parks - September 20, 2018 at 05:25 PM



“ James & Denise Gamble lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



James & Denise Gamble - September 20, 2018 at 01:19 PM



“ Dear Malik and Smith family, may God bless you all at this time of transition. Continue to remember the good times and be thankful. Blessings, James and Denise Gamble

James & Denise Gamble - September 20, 2018 at 01:23 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Smith family. May your many fine memories of Helen and loving words comfort family and friends during this very difficult time and the days ahead (Isaiah 57:15)

gc - September 20, 2018 at 07:23 AM



“ WE are so sorry of the lost of HELEN and we are praying that GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOUR FAMILY AND GIVE Y'ALL THE STRENGTH TO CARRY ON DOING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.WE WILL BE PRAYING AS A FAMILY OF LOVE. JAMES AND LOLA SMITH.

JAMES & LOLA SMITH.(FAMILY) - September 20, 2018 at 09:52 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Helen Marie Smith.



September 19, 2018 at 05:44 PM



“ Zenobia Washington Cureton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Zenobia Washington Cureton - September 19, 2018 at 04:37 PM



“ Tanya Hawkins-Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Tanya Hawkins-Johnson - September 19, 2018 at 03:39 PM



“ Tanya Hawkins-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Tanya Hawkins-Johnson - September 19, 2018 at 03:39 PM



“ Ms. Helen, I will FOREVER remember your laugh and beautiful smile. Condolences and Love.

Tanya Hawkins-Johnson - September 19, 2018 at 03:38 PM



“ Rosalind Edge lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Rosalind Edge - September 19, 2018 at 12:36 PM



“ Helen will be missed! She touched so many lives. It was a pleasure getting to know her. My sympathies to the family.



Joann Venable - September 19, 2018 at 08:27 AM



“ My condolences to the Smith family. Thank you for sharing Helen with me, her bright spirit was very soothing and encouraging, she was special in many ways. She will be missed.

Rosa Joyner - September 19, 2018 at 02:46 AM



“ I loved and appreciated Helen and I know she loved me back! What an awesomely - lively persona! She made you feel you were important in the world and charged you to behave like a human being...and help somebody!! - Peace be with the family



Deborah Breese - September 18, 2018 at 11:12 PM



“ I loved and appreciated Helen and I know she loved me back! What an awesomely - lively persona! She made you feel you were important in the world and charged you to behave like a human being...and help somebody!! - Peace be with the family

Deborah Breese - September 18, 2018 at 11:14 PM



“ To the Smith family; you have my deepest condolence and gratitude for sharing such a loving and caring person.

Edward Abdullah - September 18, 2018 at 08:52 PM



“ Brenda Vanhook lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Brenda Vanhook - September 18, 2018 at 07:13 PM



“ I have so many wonderful memories of you. Thank you, Helen, for loving me unconditionally thru the last 30 years. You were such a special gift to so many of us women. I will miss you but you will always live in my heart....forever! Lisa P

Lisa Pruitt - September 18, 2018 at 03:09 PM



“ You will forever be my "Grace in a Smoke-filled Room." Thank you for always believing in me, and taking a risk on letting me be a part of your life. I was happy and humbled both times you agreed to sponsor me. Above all, thank you for my homecoming; God used you and you were there for me! (Who is that in the background of your picture? Perhaps it's vain of me, but it looks like me.)

Arva Whittaker - September 18, 2018 at 02:32 PM



“ Betty Rice lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Betty Rice - September 18, 2018 at 01:56 PM



“ My prayers go out to the son and family of Ms. Smith
may give you all sustaining PEACE.

Coworker from the TROY HOUSE
Mrs. Murphy



Michelle Mercer-Murphy - September 18, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ Dear Family and Friends,
My heartfelt prayers go out to all of you. Mrs. Smith was a cheerful, energetic coworker at Troy House. May you find comfort in the knowledge of the positive impact she had on others.

Peace and Blessings,
Thea Brooks

Thea Brooks - September 18, 2018 at 02:37 PM



“ A trailblazer for recovery. Lit the flame of long term recovery for me. Forever Grateful.
May your soul rest in the Heart of God.

George OBriant - September 18, 2018 at 11:21 AM



“ You will be missed. You were here for so many. Wear your crown.
Fred and Cynthia Davis.



Cynthia Davis - September 18, 2018 at 10:53 AM



“ Rest in peace beautiful lady



Barbara Foushee - September 18, 2018 at 09:16 AM



“ Nathaline Gunn (Nate) lit a candle in memory of Ms. Helen Marie Smith



Nathaline Gunn (Nate) - September 18, 2018 at 07:07 AM



“ Ms. Helen...I really appreciate, and love you for the graceful, cheerful, fun loving, and wise woman of life & recovery that you are. You touched, and inspired soooo many lives, mines included. Thank you for sharing yourself with me, and being genuinely concerned for all as well. You ALWAYS asked me about my son, because you knew how son's have a special place in the hearts of their Mom....you will sorely be missed...

... P.S. I KNOW you are blowing your whistle with the other Angels:)...We love you Ms. Helen...until we meet again.....Beverly & Larry

Beverly Vinson- McGill - September 18, 2018 at 02:14 PM



“ Ms. Helen you will truly be missed. Rest In Peace. Keep blowing your whistle because it was an inspirational to all that knew you.

Brenda Vanhook - September 18, 2018 at 07:05 PM



“ Helen, was the first sister that I met when I started my journey into recovery. It's been almost 29 yrs to the day. Every life event that I had Helen was right there. I loved her as my family. I pray that almighty God is pleased with our sister.

Yusuf - September 19, 2018 at 11:17 AM