



Rae Marie Smith

September 28, 1926 - September 12, 2020

Rae Marie Smith, 93, of East Peoria died at 9:07 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at Lakeside Rehab Center in East Peoria.

She was born in Peoria on September 28, 1926, the daughter of Benjamin Ray and Clara (Auth) Hemmele. Rae Marie married the love of her life, Dean H. Smith, on June 15, 1947, in Peoria, and he survives.

Also surviving are her two children, Forest "Snuffy" Smith of Germantown Hills and Janice (Dan) Cunningham of East Peoria. Her grandchildren, Kelly (Chuck) Elwell of Brimfield, Todd (Jade) Smith of Washington and Chad (Kindra) Cunningham of East Peoria, along with 12 great-grandchildren, provide a lasting legacy. Her family was her world. There was no family event she didn't attend or grandchild's activity she didn't support.

Rae was preceded in death by her siblings, Jane Mason and Loren Hemmele.

Rae worked for First National Bank in East Peoria for several years, and later as a travel agent. But her primary career was as a homemaker and loving matriarch of her family. She was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of East Peoria and served in many roles, including president of the women's club. She volunteered in her community by giving of her time to the East Peoria Festival of Lights and was a 20-year volunteer with the Red Cross. She was a member of the Fondulac Ladies Golf League and the East Peoria Women's Club.

During their marriage, Rae Marie and Dean enjoyed traveling to Africa, Spain and Europe, and throughout their retirement years, they enjoyed wintering in Florida and Arizona.

Rae Marie loved to play Pinochle and she and Dean got together with 5 other couples for over 27 years to play cards. She also played Pinochle with a group of neighborhood ladies for over 50 years. She had many, many friends. Some of those friendships lasted a lifetime.

The family wishes to express their gratitude for the care and love for Rae Marie to Lakeside Rehab Center and Transitions Hospice.

Cremation rites are being accorded and the family will hold a private interment at Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria. A celebration of her long and happy life will be held at her church on Wednesday, September 16, at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastors Kevin and Emily Little will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to East Peoria First United Methodist Church, 154 E. Washington St., East Peoria, IL 61611

The staff of Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services is serving the family and condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery

Fondulac Cemetery

1985 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL,

Events

SEP **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

16

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria
154 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL, US

SEP **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

16

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria
154 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL, US

Comments



“ Dear Janice, Forey, Chad, Dean and family,
How so very and genuinely sorry I was to hear of Rae Marie's passing. She lived a long and beautiful life and left a wonderful legacy behind. Always the very best next door neighbor, I have nothing but the fondest memories of Rae Marie, hanging around 104 Greenlawn together, making mud pies on Greenlawn Ct, playing badminton in the back yard, and trying to avoid trampling Rae's always beautiful flower gardens, watching Elvis movies, all the things great neighbors do together. All of you were and are the best neighbors a guy could ask for - right out of the great American storybook.
Rae is now in her true heavenly home, and I fully expect she and Dottie (today is Dottie's 98th bday) are playing pinochle together right at this very moment.....Makes me wonder, what do you think booby prize is in that beautiful world??? :-)
May all your endless wonderful memories of this beautiful and special woman comfort you in the grieving of your loss. I assure you beyond any doubt that it does and will get better.
With all my love and genuine condolences,
Barry

Barry W Clatt - September 16 at 11:33 PM



“ Thank you Barry for your kind words and yes, fun and great memories. We miss you, if you ever get back to EP please let us know. Take care dear friend, love ya.

janice cunningham - Yesterday at 10:56 PM



“ Dean, Janice, Fory and family ...

I am deeply sorry for your loss. Hold tight to the wonderful memories of the past to help you through the days ahead.

Linda

Linda Courtney - September 15 at 06:25 PM



“ 15 files added to the album LifeTributes





“ Rae Marie was my cousin. She was of the same generation as my mother, Mary McLaughlin Koch. I always enjoyed visiting with Rae Marie, Jane and Dean at the McLaughlin family reunions and hearing stories of when they were kids. My sympathy to Dean and all the family.

Barbara Koch Martin - September 15 at 07:17 AM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of Rae Marie's passing. I loved being a pinochle sub and playing cards with that wonderful group of women. My condolences to Dean and family.

Mary Densberger - September 14 at 09:36 PM



“ 38 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 14 at 05:46 PM



“ Condolences to you all. Fondly remember Rae Marie and Dean and family growing up in the Bolin school neighborhood. May she rest in peace. Rick & Kay Boundy

Rick & Kay Boundy - September 14 at 10:44 AM