



Florene Edwards Smith

July 19, 1940 - December 6, 2017

Florene “Flo” Smith, age 77, went to her heavenly home on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 while in the comfort of her home. Florene Edwards Smith was born July 19, 1940, in Elk County Kansas in Union Center Township northwest of Howard, KS. She was born the daughter of Harold Isaac and Veda May (Johnson) Edwards.

At the age of 5, she and her older sister were brought to Severy to live with their grandpa and grandma Edwards after their father returned from service at the end of WWII. Their younger sister stayed at the foster home in Eureka, where they had been, until it was time for her to start school. Florene started first grade at Severy Grade School and graduated from Severy High School in 1958.

She met and married Lewis Dean Smith on October 12, 1958 and to this union were born three daughters. They spent their entire married life in Severy, KS. Lewis preceded her in death on September 17, 1995, a victim of cancer.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, step-mother Gertrude Edwards, grandparents, William and Florence (Hillman) Johnson and Thomas J. and Nancy (Messner) Edwards, and a half-brother Curtis Hillman.

She was a member of the Severy United Methodist Church where she played piano and organ for many years.

She is survived by her daughters, Pamela Florene (Joe) Cheever, Kelly Ann (Scott) Hunter and Denise Lynn Smith and friend Steve Patrick. Seven

grandchildren: Joshua (Sarah) Watson, Lewis (Shellie) Watson, Tiffany (Dannie) Bonham, Wendy Apsley, Cheyenne Smith, Brittney (Josh) Garrison, Ashley Cheever and Courtney (Brannon) DuBose, and 14 great-grandchildren with number 15, Liam, due in a few weeks. Sisters Frances Small of Lebo, KS and Mary Sue Malik of Pawnee City, Neb., half-sister Marie Felix of Haysville, KS and sister-in-law Sharada Schroeder. She was so proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and loved them each so very much. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives, as well as many friends.

Florene went to work outside the home when the youngest started kindergarten. First as an education secretary for the school system, then as a legal secretary, following that she was a Teller and asst. cashier at Severy State Bank until it sold then she worked at Home Bank & Trust in Eureka as Teller and asst. cashier, and later Manager of the drive-in bank. She quit working in 1993 to pursue their antique refinishing business until her husband became ill. After his death she went to work at Severy Co-op until she retired at age 65. She then sold her home east of Severy and moved to Howard, but getting up and not going to work was boring for her so she worked a few years in a flower shop then at First national bank in Howard as teller/bookkeeper. She finally retired for the last time at age 73. Her mind said keep working, but her body told her to go home and stay there.

Florene's love other than her family and friends was her music. She started playing piano at an early age and had what she called her "God-given talent" to play mostly by ear, but she could read music also. She taught herself to play piano and electric organ. If someone asked could she play a certain song, she gave new meaning to "hum a few lines" because most likely she would take off playing the song. She could play the sweetest hymns of praise and rip open with a wild honky tonk song. She love playing them all.

A memorial service for Florene will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the Severy United Methodist Church in Severy, Kansas. Burial will follow at South Lawn Cemetery, Severy, KS. The family

has suggested a memorial to the West Elk Music Department which may be left with or sent to the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at www.countrysidefh.com Arrangements entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home, 206 East Washington, PO Box 1233, Howard, KS 67349.

Cemetery Details

South Lawn Cemetery

Severy, KS

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC **14.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Severy United Methodist Church
104 N. Greenwood St.
Severy, KS 67137

Tribute Wall

GH

“Florene was a dear friend of mine. I would spend time at Grandpa and Grandma Edwards when I would go over to be with Florene. We would be at School and Church together. We spent many years together until I moved in April '57. I have so many fond memories of our time together. I got to visit with her at the Severy Co-op when we were passing through Severy in the 90's. It was great getting to see again. She is someone I will always remember and cherish with the times I got to spend with her. She was always so much fun. Blessings to her family. Friend Always, Gwen Hart Hall

Gwen Hart Hall - December 18, 2017 at 05:57 PM



“Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Florene Edwards Smith.



December 13, 2017 at 01:06 AM

MH

“Melba Hauser lit a candle in memory of Florene Edwards Smith



Melba Hauser - December 12, 2017 at 01:45 PM

MH

Fran, (Florene's sister) was my Maid of Honor many years ago! I've not seen Florene in years but remember her when she was a "little girl" in Severy, KS.

Melba Hauser - December 12, 2017 at 01:47 PM

CH

“ I became acquainted with Flo when she worked for Carl Shewmaker here in Eureka and I worked for Forbes & Pohl. Have stayed in touch mostly in recent years through Facebook. She was an amazing lady and will long be remembered by many. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.



Carolyn L Harber - December 11, 2017 at 04:29 PM

DG

*“ Lynn, Kelly, Pam, sorry about your Mom. Thoughts and prayers are with you.
Donna*

Donna Goodnight - December 09, 2017 at 08:35 PM

DH

“ Dawn Harrington lit a candle in memory of Florene Edwards Smith



Dawn Harrington - December 09, 2017 at 07:12 PM

DH

I will miss my friend very much!

Dawn Harrington - December 09, 2017 at 07:13 PM

DR

“ *Doreen Johnson Rogers lit a candle in memory of Florene Edwards Smith*



Doreen Johnson Rogers - December 09, 2017 at 11:23 AM

 Susie Malik

“ *My sister, my friend. Gonna miss you terribly. You and Grandma Johnson can have some amazing piano duets for the angel choir. Pam, Kelly, and Lynn, I love you all dearly. Our Jesus will carry us through this very hard time. Mary Sue (Susie) Malik*

Susie Malik - December 09, 2017 at 06:02 AM

SS

“ *Sylvia Spurrier Stites lit a candle in memory of Florene Edwards Smith*



Sylvia Spurrier Stites - December 09, 2017 at 02:22 AM

JB

“ *Jill Bailey lit a candle in memory of Florene Edwards Smith*



Jill Bailey - December 08, 2017 at 12:43 PM

CC

“ *Chip&Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Florene Edwards Smith*



Chip&Nancy Crum - December 08, 2017 at 09:14 AM

MF

“ *Florene was a very special sister I will miss her. She is with Lewis and mom and Curtis at peace with the angels. Love you sis*

Marie Felix - December 07, 2017 at 11:03 PM

FS

“ *Your Mother was one of the sweetest sisters I could ever have had in my life. Now she gets to share her music with the Angels! I love you Pam, Kelly, and Lynn.*

Fran Small - December 07, 2017 at 03:33 PM



“ *Doc Hughes lit a candle in memory of Florene Edwards Smith*



Doc Hughes - December 07, 2017 at 03:21 PM

JE

With every ending there is a new beginning our thoughts and prayers are with you cousin. James Roberts Edwards Jr.

Jim Edwards - December 08, 2017 at 02:23 PM