



Maurita Marie Smith

September 1, 1923 - February 2, 2008

Mother. Gammy. Friend. After a fierce battle with her final health challenge, Rita Smith gently went home to her Maker on January 29, 2008 in Conroe, Texas. She was surrounded by family who loved her in this life. She was met, no doubt, by family and many friends who went before her. After all, family and friends was what Mrs. Smith, whom most everyone called Rita, was all about. Rita was born September 1, 1923 in Mobeetie, Texas to ranchers John and Thelma Dunn. She graduated with honors from Mobeetie High School, as Salutatorian, where she played basketball and won awards as a declarative speaker. A sister to three brothers, she was a smart, vivacious, down-to-earth, Panhandle woman and a member of what has come to be known as the Greatest Generation. During World War II, she drove a tractor and helped her parents' ranch, while all three brothers were in the service, fighting in a good war. Attending Texas Tech, where she was elected a campus beauty, she met and married Lloyd C. Heiberg, a pilot in the U. S. Army Air Corp. they had two sons, Richard Lee Heiberg, now living in Conroe, Texas and Jeffrey Dunn Heiberg, of Buffalo, Wyoming. Her second marriage, to Bynum E. Smith, found them following Coach Smith's coaching and teaching career through Mobeetie, Saint Jo, Dallas and Sanger, Texas, eventually bringing them back home to Wheeler, Texas, where Bynum finished his career as a respected superintendent of schools. Rita and Bynum's two children are William Gregory Smith (married to Ruth Porter Smith) of Montgomery, Texas and Shelley Marie Hudgins of Conroe, Texas. It is impossible to sum up a life like Rita Smith's or

to describe the effect she had on others. She touched whomever met her, coaxing them into a laugh or guiding them in a way that often advised: "Live your own life, not someone else's". Rita Smith also said we lived on this earth in order to help others. She did just that. Her own children, foster kids, coaches' daughters, nursing home residents, the Methodist church, high school kids, her friends, her grandchildren, her nephews and nieces all felt her strong sense of loving care when they received her advise and support All are profoundly grateful for having known and loved her. Rita is survived by her above-mentioned four children and beloved daughter-in-law, by her grandchildren, Mandy Nelson and husband Matt, Marcy Smith, Matt Smith and wife Lisa, Don Hudgins, Will Smith, Taylor Weatherly and husband Dustin and their two sons, Jay and Jett, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and innumerable friends. Rita's funeral will be at 10:30 a.m., on Saturday, February 2, 2008 at the First United Methodist Church of Wheeler, Texas. She will be interred in the Mobeetie Cemetery, next to Bynum and her mother and father. The family will receive friends and relatives and celebrate fond memories of Rita, Friday, February 1, from 6-9 p.m. at the City Drug Bed and Breakfast in Wheeler. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Wheeler or to the American Diabetes Association. In high school, Rita got a blue ribbon for reciting Rudyard Kipling's "L'Envoi:". The following is a verse from the poem. "And only The Master shall praise us, and only The Master shall blame; and no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame, but each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star, shall draw the Thing as he sees it for the God of Things as They are!" All arrangements entrusted to Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Montgomery, Texas and Wright Funeral Home in Wheeler, Texas. You may leave written memorial condolences to the family at www.shmfh.com or www.wrightfuneraldirectors.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Maurita Marie Smith*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *We know this is a very difficult time for you all. We remember Rita just like the paper said. We are so sorry for your loss and want you to know that each of you are in our prayers. God bless you all.*

Herb & Wynema Arledge - February 12, 2008 at 04:42 PM



“ *Rick, Jeffrey, Grey and Shelly --- Sorry to hear about Rita. Did not know in time to send flowers. We always considered Rita and Bynum very dear friends. You all remain in our thoughts and prayers.*

Arnold and Judy Dennis - February 07, 2008 at 09:59 PM



“ *Maurita Marie Smith*

Mike and Jill Coker - February 01, 2008 at 11:44 PM



“ *We have many wonderful memories of the Smith family from your time in Saint Jo. We send our love and prayers to all you at this time.*

The Jerral Don Goff Family - February 01, 2008 at 08:29 PM

MD

“ GREG AND FAMILY...Sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Monica Wolf Doughty

Monica Wolf Doughty - February 01, 2008 at 04:10 PM

KH

“ Greg, Ruth and Family -- I am sorry to hear about your loss. I many fond memories of Rita from growing up in Wheeler. She will be greatly missed here, but will forever remain in our thoughts and in our hearts. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do for you.

*With Deepest Sympathy,
Kristi*

Kristi Finsterwald Hastings - January 31, 2008 at 10:04 AM