



Dalia Smith

January 8, 1937 - August 28, 2021

Dalia Kinderis Smith, 84, of Mooresville, NC passed away on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at home. She was born in 1937 in Lithuania, daughter of the late Joseph and Petra Kinderis. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Smith, her brothers, Ray and Don Kinderis, and her sisters-in-law Irena and Laima Kinderis. Dalia was the last remaining family member of her generation.

Dalia is survived by her children, Livia, Thomas and Lisa, her step-son Eric, their spouses, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, three nephews and one niece, and their spouses. She was deeply loved by each and every person in the family, and she knew it without question. In turn, each family member felt her love and nurturing so much that just mentioning her put a smile on one's face.

Dalia grew up on a farm in Lithuania where her parents ran both the farm and the local schoolhouse. Dalia loved sitting in the schoolroom while her parents taught, learning to read and write at a very young age. When the Soviets advanced on Lithuania during World War Two, Dalia and her family fled.

Thanks to the generosity of the United States, they were welcomed as penniless refugees. They settled in Chicago with the help of their Lithuanian-American sponsors, quickly learned English, and excelled in school and in business.

Dalia loved her family and believed they could achieve anything they set out to do. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-

grandchildren baking cookies, doing jigsaw puzzles, making "pink soup" (Lithuanian borscht with sour cream), applesauce and jam, and taking them to gardens, zoos and museums.

Dalia had a great zest for life, and loved gardening, cooking, knitting and travelling. For many years she volunteered for the San Jose Rose Garden, contributing her green thumb to build one of the most beautiful rose gardens in the country. At home, Dalia delighted in sprinkling fresh herbs over her sun-ripened tomatoes, baking zucchini bread from her abundant garden, and bringing bouquets of home-grown dahlias and roses into the house. Everyone enjoyed going to "Café Dalia" for a delicious homemade meal. Dalia was an artist with her knitting needles and made many beautiful blankets, shawls, hats and scarves that continue to remind the family of her nurturing and creativity. She loved family gatherings, travelling, and river cruises. One joyful highlight was returning to Lithuania with her husband, daughters and granddaughters and finding her childhood home.

Dalia's lively, happy, positive spirit will be deeply missed and always remembered.

A Celebration of Life service will be held by the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the San Jose Rose Garden or the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Willow Valley Cemetery

Mooreville, NC 28115