



Martha Jane Smith

July 21, 1928 - June 24, 2024

Martha Lippard Smith, 95, of Mooresville, passed away peacefully at Mitchell Mack Hospice House on Monday, June 24.

Born July 21, 1928, she was the daughter of the late Luther A and Maggie P Lippard. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence L Smith (married in 1956), brother, Reverend Aaron Lippard, sister, Frances L Shoe, and niece Jane S Beaver.

She is survived by her sons Jack Smith (Margaret) and Tim Smith (Amy), as well as five grandchildren Alex Smith (Talya), Emmalee O'Brien (Rory), Chris Smith, Tanner Smith, and Landis Smith, one great-granddaughter, Ellie O'Brien, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A life-long lover of teaching and learning, education was very important to Martha. She was a graduate of Boyden High School (Salisbury), Catawba College (Bachelor of Arts), and Appalachian State Teachers College (Master of Arts). She then spent 38 years, mostly at Mooresville High School, teaching English, Drama, and Spanish; after retirement she was a substitute teacher for many more years. She also taught an adult Sunday school class for many years at her church, St. Mark's Lutheran, where she was also a member of the choir, Church Council, and Lutheran Women's group.

Martha also enjoyed reading (she was a regular at the Mooresville Public Library for years), music, traveling, playing bridge, watching her beloved Atlanta Braves, eating lunch with her fellow retirees from MHS, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the staff at Summit Place, Hospice of Iredell County, the Mitchell Mack Hospice House, the ladies at the Mooresville Public Library, and numerous friends and caregivers who helped make her remaining years special.

Funeral services will be held at St Mark's Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 29 at 11:00am. Visitation for family and friends will be one hour prior to the service from 10:00 - 11:00am in the church sanctuary.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Iredell County or The Class of '63 Scholarship (checks payable to Class of '63 Endowment Fund, 20719 Willow Pond Rd Cornelius NC 28031).

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Smith family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

JUN **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mark's Family Life Center
454 Fieldstone Rd.
Mooresville, NC 28115

Memorial Service

JUN **29**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
454 Fieldstone Road
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I had heard so many wonderful things about Martha Smith when I began my job teaching 9th graders at Mooresville Junior High School. The nicest compliment I ever received from a fellow teacher came from her. She said she could tell a difference in her students (11th graders) after I began teaching the lower grades. Later I moved to the high school to teach 9th and 10th grades. She had retired at that point, so I got to know her when she began to substitute occasionally. She was a lovely, kind, welcoming lady and a legendary teacher. Her approval was like winning an award.

Melissa Mason - August 27, 2024 at 11:24 PM

DM

“ Mrs. Smith was the hardest and most dedicated teacher I ever had. She expected nothing but your best but had a heart of gold underneath her demeanor. She didn't mince words. I'll never forget she told us when writing our weekly theme papers in class that you would get a zero for a misspelled word. There are dictionaries in the back of the room. You would also get a zero for run on sentences - absolutely no excuse for them. I graduated in 1966 and never forgot her. Blessing to your family.

Doris Jones Mattice - July 16, 2024 at 04:40 PM

BT

“ I never met a more genuine person than Martha Smith. The community benefited greatly from her dedication to it and to the success of its children in life. To the family I share in your sense of loss. Martha's colleagues at MGSD and her students know well what a difference a caring person can make. I'm glad she isn't grading this post though...

Bill Thunberg - June 30, 2024 at 09:40 AM

R1

“Of course she lived to 95! She was a spitfire! Full of life & energy and the kind of toughness all her students needed! She invested a lot of time outside the classroom with her dramatic arts productions; and we had such fun! Intelligent, caring woman. Kind of a legend really at MHS ❤️ She will be remembered always by many students & colleagues I’m sure.

Rondy McBrayer Smith, class of 1981 - June 29, 2024 at 04:23 PM

DM

“Such a loving person. As a new person to Mooresville and to St. Mark’s, she would invite me to her house after church for dinner with her family! What a warm welcome and showing God’s love!

Dan Markley - June 29, 2024 at 10:31 AM

MW

“Martha Smith was the best teacher I ever had. She was also one of the smartest people I have ever known. She always mentored and encouraged me throughout school as a teacher, and in my personal life as well. I was somewhat lost my senior year in high school. I wasn’t sure what to do with my life. I didn’t know if I wanted to go to college, even though I had been accepted at several, or take another path. She talked with me many times about the importance of a college education, and convinced me to attend her Alma Mata - Catawba College in Salisbury NC. That was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. I truly thrived there, and came into my own. I also received a great education that I am still proud of and use everyday. Thank you Mrs. Smith, for all that you have done for me and the countless others that you have taught, mentored, and encouraged as well. God bless you. !!!

Mike Wilhelm
Class of 1975

Mike Wilhelm - June 28, 2024 at 01:20 PM

HR

“ *Holly Murray & Daniel Ronesi purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Martha Jane Smith.*



Holly Murray & Daniel Ronesi - June 28, 2024 at 01:00 PM

LO

“ *Martha was a lovely lady who I met at Summit Place while visiting my mom there. She spoke her mind and was an advocate for all the residents. I always enjoyed talking to her and will miss seeing her. God bless her.*

Linda Orlich - June 28, 2024 at 12:31 PM

BC

“ *I loved and respected Mrs Smith even though I wasn't a very good student. That love and respect remained throughout the years. A wonderful lady.
Bobby Compton-Junior English, 1973.*

Bobby Compton - June 27, 2024 at 10:58 AM

MS

“ *Martha Smith was the consummate teacher. She suffered no fools. She taught English but her lessons were about life. If you got the point she was making, her eyes would light up and you felt like you were the only person in the room. My love of vocabulary and grammar to this day are because of Mrs. Smith. Jack, you and Tim are lucky. Brilliant teacher, loving Mom and Wife. We should all be as lucky.*

Mackie Skeen - June 26, 2024 at 07:37 PM

P'

Mrs. Smith was amazing. She taught me so much that I still recall daily. The world has lost a great lady.

Pat Callaway Truesdale (MHS '65) - June 26, 2024 at 10:18 PM

SP

Martha was such a wonderful teacher. She nurtured my love of literature and language. Susan Poore, Class of 1961


Susan Poore - June 27, 2024 at 12:47 PM

TF

“ *The Jefford Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Martha Jane Smith.*



The Jefford Family - June 26, 2024 at 04:31 PM

 Leila Hobbs

“ *Leila Hobbs lit a candle in memory of Martha Jane Smith*



Leila Hobbs - June 26, 2024 at 03:44 PM

KB

“ *I'm going miss getting her books and seeing her wonderful smile every time she came into the Library. God needed his sweet angel back home with him.*



Kim Burrell - June 26, 2024 at 01:38 PM

KB

Sending prayers for the family

Kim Burrell - June 26, 2024 at 01:39 PM

BG

My neighbor, and also the finest teacher you could ever have in high school. Made my college English professors classes laughable. I lived my whole life up until I graduated from college as her backyard neighbor. Back then no fences just some shrubs Clarence put up. I'm rambling but I sure loved her and Clarence and of course my buddies growing up, Jack and Tim. Everyone can only wish they touched people like Martha though there were days and classes we all felt that we may not survive. 😊

Billy Gibson - June 26, 2024 at 05:44 PM

RW

“*Oh, Jack and family and Tim and family, there just aren't enough words from Janielle and me to express our loving thoughts of your mother !!!!! She was such a good person to so many people, especially her former students and friends. When I first came to Mooresville, she and I moved the male teacher's cafeteria table and the female's cafeteria table together! At least the tables remained that way while I was at senior high. Just from watching her deal with students, I learned so very much. Janielle and I enjoyed taking her to eat with the retired teachers and back to Summit Place! We heard a lot about your children, Jack, and your two boys, Tim. She also got to see you start teaching, Tim, and see you retire! Most mothers (as teachers) do not live long enough to see that happen. She will be remembered by so many people, and these people will miss her, too. Please know, Jack and Tim, that we are thinking about you and your families and praying for you also. As the French say, "Que Dieu vous bénisse!" (May God bless you!) Take care! Be safe! Love, Roy and Janielle Watkins*

Roy and Janielle Watkins - June 26, 2024 at 10:48 AM

CH

Monsieur Watkins, another teaching legend! Thanks to you and Mrs. Smith and all the teachers for exposing us to cultures and literature and inspiring our critical thinking skills.

Cliff Homesley - June 26, 2024 at 01:02 PM

SV

I agree Cliff! I never once doubted that either cared about me!

Sandy "Tolley" Verley - June 26, 2024 at 01:42 PM

LC

I often think fondly of Mrs. Smith and Mr. Watkins as their influence is still with me today. May God bless her with eternal peace; and you, sir, with health and hope.

Laurie Brown Courtney - June 29, 2024 at 10:49 AM

R1

Monsieur Watkins!!! Great to see your comments here! You are so fondly remembered as well!! I was just thinking of you as I wrote my sympathies to Letel Boyles Barber on the recent passing of her husband "Dickie" Richard Barber as our lives were drawn close together during our 3 years of French with you, especially our senior year 1980-81.

*Warmly,
Regine (Rondy McBrayer Smith)*

Rondy McBrayer Smith, class of 1981 - June 29, 2024 at 04:30 PM



“ I learned more from Mrs. Smith than anyone I had as a teacher. She was strict and tough but had a huge heart for her students. I greatly appreciate the things she taught me. She was truly a wonderful person.

Kevin Scruggs - June 25, 2024 at 11:24 PM

CH

“ *An awesome legendary teacher. Feared at times because she fiercely stood by her expectations of her students. I value greatly the education I got from Mrs. Smith and all the other great educators at the Mooresville Graded School District.*

Cliff Homesley - June 25, 2024 at 08:26 PM

BS

“ *Martha was the consummate teacher. Her knowledge of the Bible, knowing book, chapter, and verses and connecting that knowledge with our adult Sunday school sessions. I will never forget her frequent insight and reminding us that the Holy Spirit is within us after baptism and when we know Jesus as our Savior. She was so inspiring about the Holy Spirit, that I felt inspired to teach our adult class on the awesome power of the Holy Spirit and going on to study the Book of Acts and the Holy Spirit. Now she is in the presence of the Holy Spirit, God the Father, and the Son Jesus!*

Bill Swart - June 25, 2024 at 07:51 PM

BI

A favorite teacher of MHS. Rest in peace Mrs. Smith you were truly loved by many.

Ben J. Davis III - June 26, 2024 at 12:15 AM

DM

To the Smith Family, my thoughts and prayers go out to you during the loss of this wonderful Lady. Mrs. Smith changed my life. She saw potential that I didn't even know existed. My time in her English and Drama classes changed how I saw the world and my place in it. I am sure that Martha and Clarence are having a happy reunion in heaven. God Blessed us with this Lady. She was a treasure.

Darin Martin - June 26, 2024 at 12:45 PM

PM

Jack, Tim -- still find myself using your mom's "word power" vocabulary training to this day. The Motts were incredibly fortunate to have had the Smiths as their next door neighbors for so many years. Your mom and dad were generous to us in so many ways. They will always be fondly remembered.

Phil Mott - June 26, 2024 at 03:43 PM

RS

Wonderful educator. I don't think anyone who ever had her as a teacher will ever forget her.

RAMONA W SMITH - June 29, 2024 at 08:58 AM