



Catherine Bess Smith

September 8, 1934 - January 2, 2021

On Saturday night, January 2, 2021, the Angel of Death quietly called our loved one, Catherine Bess Smith to her eternal rest.

“Cat” or “Miss Kittie” as she was affectionally called by both family and friends was the daughter of the late Ernest Bess and Hattie Lee Speaker (Bess). A native of Bethel, NC, she moved to Portsmouth, VA in the mid 1950’s and married the love of her life Arthur L. Smith (deceased 2011). Catherine’s special love for children afforded her the opportunity to pursue a career in Special Education. She retired from Portsmouth Public Schools with over 20 years of service. She was a faithful and active member of First Baptist Taylorsville, Portsmouth VA for over 25 years until her health declined.

She leaves to cherish her memory, two daughters, Bonnie S. Tazewell (Irwin) of Chesapeake, VA and Thalia S. Hawkins (Troy) of Portsmouth, VA; three sons Arthur (Bubba)Smith, Jr Eddie T. Smith (Sanita) of Portsmouth, VA; Charles J. Smith of Cincinnati, OH and forever in her memory son Steven L. Smith (deceased 1996); three sisters, Nannie M. Jackson, Portsmouth, VA; Vernell Foxx, Piscataway, NJ and Annie E. Bess, Orange NJ; one brother Joseph R. Bess (Gail) of Chesapeake, VA. One sister-in-law, Betty Bess of Robertsonville, NC and one brother-in-law James Ellison of Newark, NJ;

fifteen grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and very special life-long friends and their families.

Cemetery Details

Olive Branch Cemetery

2 Cpl J M Williams Ave
Portsmouth, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, VA

Service

JAN 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services Chapel
1248 N. George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, VA

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Catherine Bess Smith

**CLICK HERE TO
VIEW SERVICE**

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - January 09, 2021 at 09:57 AM



“ My condolences to the family. “Cat” was a sweet spirit. She and I connected from the first time we met until our last. Her friendship, laughter and words of wisdom will remain with me.

Lawannah Watson - January 14, 2021 at 08:45 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of the passing of Miss Cat. I remember her visiting her family in the Robersonville/Oak City area during my younger years. Her niece, Sandra (deceased), was my best friend. I spent lots of time with her family. My prayer is that God will comfort and strengthen the family. You have my deepest sympathy and much love.

Vickie Jackson Jones Presley - January 09, 2021 at 11:56 PM

PC

“ *May God continue to bless and strengthen you and your family. Your mother was a nice and special lady in the years that I knew her. Remember all the memories you had with her and the family. Continue the legacy. God Bless You. Parisiene and Tazewell family*

P. T. Clark - January 09, 2021 at 01:31 PM

GO

“ *Want to send our deepest condolences fir the loss of your mother. She was a kind and generous woman who loved her family and life. Her and my dad the late Joshua Lee Jones of Virginia Beach Va were besties spending hours talking the great times they had growing up. May she Rest In Peace. Glinda O’Neill and Jacqueline Jones daughters of late Joshua Jones.*

Glinda O’Neill - January 09, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ *Sending our condolences to the Smith Family. Sending our love and Prayers.*

*Stephanie Gibson Wilson
And the Girls and their families*

*Tchara King (Kendrick, Jayden, Jazz)
DChana Thomas (AJ, Karon, Ava)
T’Erica Minder (Sam , Hayden)*

Stephanie Wilson - January 09, 2021 at 09:16 AM

AH

“ Allison Hunter lit a candle in memory of Catherine Bess Smith



Allison Hunter - January 08, 2021 at 10:12 PM

JJ

“ My heart was broken when I heard of Catherine's passing. She has been my lifelong friend and a special part of my family. We shared many wonderful memories. My condolences to the family. May your memories bring you comfort and peace. May your faith and hope keep you strong during this difficult time.

Joseph Curtis Jones & Family

Joseph C. Jones - January 08, 2021 at 08:15 PM

GB

“ Catherine was my teaching assistant at DAC in the 1980's. I cherish those years with her. She was a wonderful woman who taught me so many life lessons. May God always hold her in the palm of His Hands. Rest In Peace Catherine.

Gayle Slog Bourassa - January 08, 2021 at 07:32 PM

SM

“ I meet Ms Catherine when I did my student teaching at Mt Hermon in 1979. I had the pleasure of working with her through a majority of my career in Special Education. No finer woman has ever lived. She was a joy to all who knew her.

Sharon Hairfield Warren Moses

Sharon H Moses - January 08, 2021 at 07:18 PM

FS

“ Ms. Kitty, who we affectionately refer to her as Aunt Kitty, was such a sweet, kind , God loving person. Aunt Kitty always showed us loving hospitality when we would come down to VA to visit Joyce & Harry. She treated us as if we were her own. We will miss you Aunt Kitty, we love you, but God loves you best! Rest In Peace till we see you again!

Dennis & Frances Styles and family

Frances Styles - January 08, 2021 at 04:39 PM

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear that Catherine passed away. She has been my friend since high school. We both moved to Virginia and kept in touch. She is a lovely person and I will miss her more than words can say. I am praying for your family during this difficult time and thinking of you always. Leverna Braswell

Leverna Braswell - January 08, 2021 at 02:52 PM

TS

“ I would like to send my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the Smith family on the loss of Mrs. Kitty. God has truly taken a angel. Rest in heaven.



*Trecia Saunders and family
Portsmouth, VA / Silver Spring, MD/Washington DC*

Trecia Sainders - January 08, 2021 at 02:28 PM

KR

“ That Smith house was my favorite house to come to back in the day So much love and fun. From there. I built good friendships with Steve and Jeff. I'm gonna miss Ms. Smith, sending hugs, love and prayers to the family.

Kim Rodgers - January 08, 2021 at 02:17 PM

DF

“ Donna Quinerly And Family lit a candle in memory of Catherine Bess Smith



Donna Quinerly and Family - January 08, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ 29 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - January 08, 2021 at 01:19 PM

KJ

“ *The Pastor, officials and members of Hosanna Christian Fellowship in Suffolk, Virginia send prayers and condolences to the family in the transition of this matriarch of the family. A kind spirit, a loving heart and a gentle soul may she forever rest in the arms of her Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Kelvin Johnson - January 08, 2021 at 11:33 AM

MD

To my cousins, word can not express the love I had for Cat as she was like a second mother to me and my family. May she rest in the arms of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Mark Deberry - January 08, 2021 at 03:14 PM

KI

“ *Kippy lit a candle in memory of Catherine Bess Smith*



Kippy - January 08, 2021 at 08:41 AM

FH

“ *Mrs. Smith was a wonderful teacher. Frances Johnson Holloman*

Frances Mae Holloman - January 08, 2021 at 07:49 AM

JE

“ *Jerome lit a candle in memory of Catherine Bess Smith*



Jerome - January 07, 2021 at 06:37 PM

JE

“ Jerome sent a virtual gift in memory of Catherine Bess Smith



Jerome - January 07, 2021 at 06:36 PM

JE

“ Jerome sent a virtual gift in memory of Catherine Bess Smith



Jerome - January 05, 2021 at 07:28 PM