



## Mrs. Donna Ann Bothwell Smith

January 10, 1942 - October 30, 2024

Donna Ann Bothwell Smith, 82 of Rusk, TX passed peacefully into the loving arms of her Savior surrounded by her loving family on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 in Tyler, TX.

On January 10, 1942, Rebel Eldon and Annie Laurie Bothwell were blessed with the birth of their first child, Donna Ann. Growing up in Rusk, their beautiful baby girl was raised in a Christian environment surrounded by love. A couple of years later, her baby sister Sherrell was born. Together, they enjoyed 80 years of sisterhood.

Donna was artistic, creative, and musically gifted. She participated in many high school clubs, theatrical plays, church choir, and was a majorette of the band. She was voted Homecoming Queen, and Most Beautiful and Talented. She later used her love of the arts in her teaching career. She graduated from Rusk High School Class of 1960. She would later go on to TJC and UT Tyler to complete her Masters in Education.

She caught the eye of Jerry Smith at a local sock hop, and after their courtship married in January of 1960. In the following years, they had two sons. She enjoyed being a stay at home mom. Donna organized and managed "Our Little Miss" beauty pageants providing opportunity for little girls and their moms to play dress up and learn grace, poise and charm. They

traveled to local and area competitions were many fond memories were made. As a family the Smiths enjoyed weekend camping trips and holidays making Halloween special with their annual haunted house, and later July 4th get togethers at Lake Striker.

After her boys started school, she started her career in education as librarian at Rusk Jr. High creating a love for reading among her students. She obtained her Bachelor and Masters in English and Drama advancing her career to teach at Rusk High School and later Lon Morris College. Her classroom environment was informal, casual, and comfortable promoting student engagement. While teaching high school, her advanced class attended Odyssey of The Mind competition in Lubbock and brought home the gold to Rusk.

Aside from her love of family, teaching was her lifelong passion and that's no Bull Smith !!!

She is survived by her sister: Sherrell Long Grogan of Rusk; sons: Kirby Smith and wife Lisa of Rusk, and Kerry Smith and wife Anna of Cypress, TX; grandchildren: Sierra Kay Scholl and husband Drew of Hallsville, TX, Joshua Taylor Smith and wife Amanda of Houston, Haley LeAnne McKay and husband Kyndal of Cypress, TX; great grandchildren: David Brady Scholl, Wade Thomas Scholl, Harper Lynae Scholl, Eleanor James McKay, and Adeline Jane McKay; niece: Lesley Dodd Rodasti and husband Phil of Cypress, TX; nephews: Robert Byron Long and wife Kerry of Longview, TX, and Bradley Bothwell Long and wife Jen of Dallas, TX; great niece: Megan Lorraine Long; great nephew: Austin Bothwell Long. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband: Jerry Smith; and granddaughter: Scarlet Lynae Smith.

Services to celebrate her life will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 2,

2024 at the First Baptist Church, 372 East 4th Street, Rusk, TX 75785 with Bro. Tommy Corley and Bro. Tony Watson officiating. Visitation will be from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, also at First Baptist Church. Burial will be at Salem Cemetery. Pallbearers will be: Kenny Finley, Drew Scholl, Kyndal McKay, Robert Byron Long, Bradley Bothwell Long, and Phil Rodasti. Honorary pallbearers will be: David Brady Scholl, Wade Thomas Scholl, Mike Abernathy, Glen Middleton, David Parsons, Andy Huddleston, and Pete Terry

# Cemetery Details

## Salem Cemetery

Rusk, TX

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 2. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Rusk  
372 E 4th St  
Rusk, TX 75785  
(903) 683-5494

## Celebration of Life

NOV 2. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
372 E 4th St  
Rusk, TX 75785

# Tribute Wall



“ Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Donna Ann Bothwell Smith



Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home - November 02, 2024 at 12:32 AM

JP

“ Deeply grateful for having known this elegant shining star. I hope the family will take comfort in knowing how many people she touched.

James Perkins - December 05, 2024 at 01:48 PM

SS

“ To Kirby and Kerry and families - we were all so very sorry to hear of your mother's death. She was such a neat lady, always so sweet and full of joy. I hope that you will find peace through your memories of her. Stephanie, Jodi, Stephen and Blake Smith and families.

Stephanie Smith-Burris - November 12, 2024 at 05:14 PM

GH

“ She was one of the best teachers I've ever had! A big impact on my life indeed!! I love you Donna Smith!! You weren't just a teacher but a great friend as well!! God bless you and your family!! Proverbs 31:25-31

Gary Hudson - November 01, 2024 at 07:16 PM



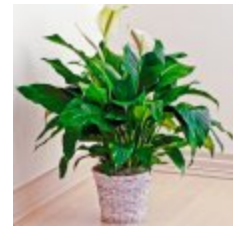
“ 228 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home - November 01, 2024 at 06:12 PM



“ *Diann Dodson & Family purchased the Floor Plan for Sympathy for the family of Mrs. Donna Ann Bothwell Smith.*



Diann Dodson & Family - November 01, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ *I always respected Donna.*

Dean Evans - November 01, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home - November 01, 2024 at 01:00 PM

HF

“ *Helmer Long and The Barber Family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Mrs. Donna Ann Bothwell Smith.*



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**Helmer Long and The Barber Family** - October 31, 2024 at 10:55 PM

CB

“ *Donna was one of a kind. She was a loving caring person. She loved her family dearly. She loved her students. She shared comforting words with me after we lost our laughter and also my biological father Berry who was a classmate of Jerry's. RIP sweet angel. Gone but not forgotten.*

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**Cathy Gabbert Booth** - October 31, 2024 at 09:10 PM