



Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith

August 27, 1935 - November 6, 2019

Funeral services for Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith, 84, entered into rest on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, will be held at 11 o'clock on Saturday, November 9, 2019, in the First Baptist Church of Bishopville The Rev. Todd Latham will officiate with burial to follow in Piedmont Cemetery. The family will receive friends in the Fellowship Hall, one hour prior to the service.

Ella Willene Marsh Smith was better known as "Miss Willene" to many alumni of Bishopville High School. Born amid the Great Depression, she endured the hardships of her farm family, growing up near the Browntown section of Lee County. She attended Central School near Red Hill, SC, where she graduated with honors. Among her schoolmates was Viva Stokes Davis, a lifelong close friend. Other longtime friends include Betty Lou Watson and Susan Cole.

Willene went to work at the Biflex women's wear factory on Gregg Street in Bishopville after high school and met her future husband, Gordon H. Smith, who also worked there. They were married in November 1953 and remained so until Gordon's passing in June 2011.

During their marriage, Willene worked for the Lee County Board of Education and later as secretary to the principal of Bishopville High School for many years. In this role she was - and still is - endeared as "Miss Willene" to hundreds of BHS graduates and other students. Later she worked as a

secretary at Suburban Propane Gas on Cotton Street.

She is survived by her loving sons, Gordon Derek Smith of Williamsville, NY, Mark Chandler Smith of Sumter, SC; sister, Joyce Marsh (Roy) Perkins of Bishopville, SC; sister-in-law, Olen Farmer Marsh; various nieces and nephews. Her extended family includes the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Bishopville, where she taught Sunday school and was a dedicated member for many decades. The church and her deep faith were her lifeblood, as were her many Baptist friends who shared her devotion over the years.

Cemetery Details

Piedmont Cemetery

720 Sumter Highway
Bishopville, SC 29010

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
229 W. Church St.
Bishopville, SC

Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
229 W. Church St.
Bishopville, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*

October 08, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*

March 25, 2023 at 11:01 AM



“ *Dale W Uggiano lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*



Dale W Uggiano - November 26, 2019 at 02:09 PM



She will truly missed.I remember her from high school she always had that smile she will be missed by all who knew her.My thoughts and prayers are with you'll.I

Dale W Uggiano - November 26, 2019 at 02:13 PM



“ *Derrick and Mark. So sorry to hear about your Mom. I did not know it till today. All of my family loved her and your Dad. She has been a blessing to our family. Thinking of you. Thoughts and prayers for your loss 🙏🙏❤️❤️*

abbie denny - November 11, 2019 at 02:23 AM

MG

“ *Derek and Mark you in our thoughts and prayers. Your Mom (Miss Willene) was a wonderful caring lady and will be missed by so many.*

Love, Martha Nash Gooding



Martha Gooding - November 10, 2019 at 10:01 PM

LP

“ *Derek & Mark, please know that the Pace's are thinking of you at this time. Dad has such fond memories of your Mom, as do I. She was such a sweet, kind lady. Prayers for your comfort & peace.*

Love, Lecia

Lecia Pace - November 09, 2019 at 06:15 PM

CB

“ *A steel magnolia she was..I was honored to have been part of Miss Willene's life... I have know her for over 20 years... she and Gordon welcomed me into their lives when Derek and I met over 20:years ago...I just loved her and Gordon... She was a fine caring loving woman... I will miss her and her quiet elegance about her... Rest easy Miss Willene.. I know you loving Gordon is smiling from ear to ear to have you by his side once again....*

cynthia benderson - November 09, 2019 at 10:51 AM

CS

“ *Caroline Symons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*



Caroline Symons - November 08, 2019 at 08:31 PM

KY

“ *Katherine Young lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*



Katherine Young - November 08, 2019 at 09:54 AM

KY

I am very blessed to have know this wonderful woman. She will surely be missed by all.

Katherine Young - November 08, 2019 at 09:54 AM

MB

“ *Matt Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*



Matt Bramlett - November 08, 2019 at 06:59 AM

RH

“ *Ruthie Houser lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*



Ruthie Houser - November 08, 2019 at 06:11 AM

TS

“ *Rest In Peace Ms Willene. You will be loved and missed dearly.*



Teri Johnson (former FBC secretary) - November 07, 2019 at 07:50 PM

LG

“ *Larry Grantham lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*



Larry Grantham - November 07, 2019 at 05:43 PM

JA

“ *Jamie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ella Willene Marsh Smith*



Jamie - November 07, 2019 at 04:54 PM