



## Mary Smith

February 3, 1917 - October 15, 2008

Mary Alice “Memaw” Smith, 91, went to be with her Lord on October 15, 2008, with her family by her side. A celebration of her life will be held at 1:30 PM on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler with Rev. Kim Beckham officiating. Burial will follow at Tyler Memorial Park under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mary was born on February 3, 1917, in Whitney, Texas to Jerry and Lillie Pinson. While attending Mildred High School, she was active in basketball, cheerleading and tennis. She married W.A. “Curley” Smith on October 14, 1938, and they had four girls, Myrna, Judy, Kay and Debbie. She was retired from Tyler ISD and was a faithful member of Central Baptist Church for 64 years. An avid sports fan, Mary enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks, Saturday shopping excursions and spending time with her family. Her grandchildren were the lights of her life and she cherished the times they spent together. There was always room in Memaw’s cart for one more toy and always room on her couch to snuggle in close. Her life was a wonderful example and testimony of her faith. It was very important to her to instill Christian values in her family. She loved her family and her Lord with all her heart. We will miss her sense of humor, generous spirit and friendship. The most prominent things she did in life were always done without expecting anything in return. She did them from her heart, not for recognition, credit, or personal gain. She did them so others could have a little easier time on their journey. In every generation, God raises up people, unlikely heroes, who are

true to Him and His word. The measure of their lives is not the absence of failure but the presence of God's gracious forgiveness and the faith to obey His call. Mary, in her family's eyes, was one of God's unlikely heroes. She was preceded in death by her husband, W.A. "Curley" Smith who passed away in 1989. She is survived by a loving family including four daughters and sons-in-law, Myrna and Robert Rix of Heath, TX, Judy and Joe Wilson, Kay and Dwayne Cooper, and Debbie and Robert Johnston, all of Tyler; four granddaughters, Sherry Blakeborough of Frisco, TX, Shelly Cooper and husband Kary of Fairview, TX, Kim Barker and husband Kevin of Whitehouse, and Courtney Yearty and husband Jason of Flint; eight grandsons, Jason Rix and wife Amanda of Poetry, TX, Rusty Wilson and wife Linda of Churchpointe, LA, Mike Wilson and wife Kim of Whitehouse, David Wilson of Whitehouse, Keith Cooper of Tyler, Kirk Cooper and wife Shiela of Godley, TX, Chris Johnston and wife Ally of Austin, TX, and Kyle Johnston of Tyler; sister, Lois Kunkle of Katy, TX; sister-in-law, Erma White and husband Bob of Arlington, TX; 23 great-grandchildren, four great great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Mrs. Smith's grandsons will serve as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be great-grandsons, Collin Cooper, Carson Cooper, Camden Cooper, Preston Grier, Brennan Blakeborough, Braxton Cooper, Cameron Cooper, Chase Wilson, Mason Wilson, Cole Yearty, and Conner Yearty. Visitation is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on Friday, October 17, 2008 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. Memorials in honor of Mary Smith may be made to the Central Baptist Church Youth Building, 6253 New Copeland Road, Tyler, Texas 75703 or Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75701.

# Tribute Wall

LI

“*Mary was one of the sweetest women Ive ever known. She will be missed by everyone she met and she touched their lives deeply. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time. She is at peace now and in a much better place. Just know that one day you will see her again. All my love and prayers, Linda*

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**Linda** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JH

“*Myrna, Judy, Kay and Debbie:  
Please accept our deepest sympathy for the loss of Aunt "Pug". She was a wonderful person and a dear aunt to all of Curley's nieces and nephews and we will remember her always for the kind Christian character she showed. God bless her now in His kingdom and may God bless each of you today. Sharon and John Hyde 10/17/08*

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**John Hyde** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DP

“*To the Smith girls, and her many grandkids that I grew up with... Your mother and grandmother was a very special lady and a joy to be around. I remember her coming to your softball games to support each of you and how she lived for those moments to come cheer you on at everything you did. She loved all of you so much and I know you cherish so many wonderful memories of her. I am so sorry for your loss and will be thinking of each and everyone of you as you go through this difficult time.*

*Love and prayers,  
Diane*

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**Diane Prater** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ To the family of Mrs. Smith I offer my deepest sympathy, she will be greatly missed. I remember growing up in Central Baptist Church and witnessing her faithful service to her Lord. She was a truly sweet lady who was always wearing a smile and surrounded by her loving family. May the memories you hold in your heart bring you comfort in the days ahead until you see her smiling face again. God Bless You All.

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**Tammy Wakefield Cooper** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ I am so sorry to hear of her passing. When I think back, I can't remember a single time when I was at her house that she didn't have a smile! She made her home feel so warm and friendly. I probably spent as much time at her house as my own. What fun and laughter she always provided. I know Curly is glad to see her, but know your hearts are sad. My love and prayers are with you. She has left such a beautiful legacy. Jan

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**Jan (Jolley) Nichols** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Our deepest sympathy to you in the loss of your precious mother and grandmother. It was our great privilege to have known Mrs. Smith for many years. We know you have been inspired by her life. Love and prayers to all of you,  
Sally and Fred Fifer

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**sally fifer** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dear Family, I wish Howard and I could be there today to give you a big hug in person. I can still see your Mom's great smile and hear her voice....and those days as a teenager at Central were a long time ago!

*I'm very thankful we all know where Mrs. Smith is today! We love you-*

*Howard and Donna Braymer*

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**Donna Cravens Braymer** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ What a joy and delight to know "Miss Mary". She touched our lives through the years with her dedication and love for her precious family and her church. She always had a beautiful smile on her face and in her heart.

*To her daughters, Myrna, Judy, Kay and Debbie.....we love you and thank you for sharing precious memories through the years with your families.*

*Glenda & Ed Walker*

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**Glenda & Ed Walker** - October 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM