



Nina Smith

December 19, 1916 - November 3, 2014

Nina Smith was born December 19, 1916 in the Caledonia Community, near Timpson, TX on the family farm. Nina was the second of twelve children born to William Leland Murphy and Ollie Maxwell Murphy. On March 13, 1943 she was united in marriage to Lovis Oden Smith, and to this marriage two children were born; Mike Smith & Judy Smith Toon. Lovis preceded Nina in death November 16, 1999.

Nina attended grade school in New London and graduated from Henderson, High School in 1936; she attended Lon Morris Junior College and Texas State College for Women (now TWU) graduating in May 1941 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kindergarten-Primary Education. She taught kindergarten in the London School District for two years, first grade in Henderson School District for three years and kindergarten for twenty eight years in the Leverett's Chapel School District; retiring in 1982. Throughout her teaching career she received several awards. Nina loved children and all children naturally loved her.

Nina was a member of the First United Methodist Church and served as President of her Sunday School Class for twenty-eight years before the class dissolved in 2010. She served on the board of directors for the Rusk County Teachers Credit Union for several years; she was a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, the Rusk County Retired Teachers Association, Texas

Classroom Teachers Association, the Texas State Teachers Association, Parent Teacher Association and the National Education Association. In 1975 she was listed as one of the Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America.

In addition to her husband, Lovis, Nina was preceded in death by the following brothers and sisters; Leland Murphy, Jewel Faris, James Murphy, Dorothy Murphy, Kizzie Melchior, Susie Murphy, Jackie Wesson, Evelyn Ward and Marie Barns. Brother-in-law's; B. F. Barnes, John Faris, Vincent Melchor and Harold Wesson.

She is survived by her son Mike Smith and wife Mary Lou of Henderson; daughter Judy Smith Toon and husband Jackie of Henderson; brother Virgil Murphy of Fruita, Colorado and sister Clarine Brinkley of Waco, TX; brother-in-law Lamar Brinkly of Waco, sister-in-laws Mertie Murphy of New London, TX, Joy Murphy of Carthage, TX and Amy Murphy of Fruita, Co.; grandchildren, Chuck Smith, Chad Smith, Christi Gardsbane, Scott Toon and Gregg Toon; 8 great grandchildren.

Nina passed away on November 3, 2014 while at Emeritus with her family by her side.

Mrs. Smith's family will receive friends from 1-2 pm on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at First United Methodist Church. Funeral services will follow at 2 pm at the church with Rev. David Luckert officiating. Interment will be at Pleasant Hill Cemetery under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Chuck Smith, Chad Smith, Sam Gardsbane, Scott Toon, Greg Toon, Jackson Toon, John Bates, Shepherd Smith, and John Smith.

If desired, memorial donations may be made to First United Methodist Church at 204 N. Marshall, Henderson, TX 75652, First Baptist Church Children's

Building Fund at 207 W. Main St., Henderson, TX 75652, and/or Hospice of East Texas at 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

Hwy 323 and CR 4131
Henderson, TX 75654

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
204 N. Marshall
Henderson, TX 75652

Service

NOV 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
204 N. Marshall
Henderson, TX 75652

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Just found out about this Mike, Judy and families. I will be thinking of you all amy prayers are with you during this time. May God be with each of you. Amy Miley

amy miley - November 29, 2014 at 10:34 PM

GO

“ Gloria Owens sent a virtual gift in memory of Nina Smith



Gloria Owens - November 12, 2014 at 06:04 PM

CM

“ Sorry for your loss. Just returned from out of town. Thinking of you all and holding you gently in thought.



Claudia Morgan-Gray - November 11, 2014 at 10:40 AM

GT

“ I just saw this about Mrs. Smith otherwise I would have been at the funeral! Not only was she my kindergarten teacher at LC in 1959 but my mother and I carpoled w her! My mother and I have always considered her a special friend! I love the line in the obituary that said children loved her---we surely did!! I still have so many wonderful memories of her and my days w her at Leverett's Chapel!!

Gwen Garrison Tomlin

Gwen Garrison Tomlin - November 08, 2014 at 08:41 AM

BL

“ Mrs. Smith loved and nurtured all her students as if they were hers. We were very blessed to have such a wonderful start to school. She will be forever loved and remembered.

Beth Lewis - November 06, 2014 at 10:44 AM

BH

“ Bob & Sue Henderson lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith



Bob & Sue Henderson - November 06, 2014 at 09:37 AM

MM

“ Marilyn Martin lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith



Marilyn Martin - November 06, 2014 at 08:39 AM

LR

“ *Lori Rhodes Robinson lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith*



Lori Rhodes Robinson - November 06, 2014 at 07:43 AM



“ *Janet Reeves lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith*



Janet Reeves - November 06, 2014 at 12:52 AM



“ *Mrs. Smith was my teacher. I have only good memories. She was always loving and kind. RIP..*

Janet Reeves - November 06, 2014 at 12:51 AM

CH

“ *Such a sweet lady who touched so many lives in a special way. She taught all of my children and we all loved her. Only precious memories that make me smile.*

Cindy Lewis Hedrick - November 05, 2014 at 08:19 PM

HM

“*Mrs. Smith taught both my children at LC and was one of the best teachers they ever had. She loved children and they loved her back. She taught her kids with love and discipline. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.*


Hilda McClendon - November 05, 2014 at 02:34 PM


Mrs. Micheal
Dunn

“*Mrs. Micheal Dunn lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith*



Mrs. Micheal Dunn - November 05, 2014 at 02:27 PM


Mrs. Micheal
Dunn

“*I started kindergarten New London where the teacher there had been abusive to me. My mother took me out of that school and went to talk to Mrs. Smith at Leveretts Chapel. I remember being so scared and Mrs. Smith told my mom, "let her stay and play for a little while and see how she does." I wasn't enrolled in kindergarten there but I got to be in her class because Mrs. Smith. I warmed up to her she was a very kind and gentle lady. Mother did enroll me a few days later knowing I would be ok. She was a great teacher and I will never forget her. My prayers and condolences goes out to her family.*

Mrs. Micheal Dunn - November 05, 2014 at 02:25 PM

BP

“ *Nina was a sweet lady and an amazing cook, when she still cooked, she would always bring me a sample and if I was not in my office she would leave it wrapped in a napkin so I would always know when she was in the building, we had the privilage of taking care of Jip her sister also, her Fruit Cake Cookies are the best I ever had. We will miss her and her family's visit. God Bless all of you at this time of greif, you are in my prayers.*



Brenda Pirtle

Brenda Pirtle - November 05, 2014 at 02:06 PM

DJ

“ *Diane Villyard Johnson lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith*



Diane Villyard Johnson - November 05, 2014 at 01:44 PM

DJ

To the Family of Mrs. Nina Smith~~

I was in the first grade at Leverett's Chapel when Mrs. Smith began teaching Kindergarten. I always remembered her sweet smile and loving heart for each elementary student...not just her own Kindergarten students. I graduated from L.C. in 1966, and Mrs. Smith never failed to greet or speak to me. She was special to all of us who knew her, and I know you will greatly miss her. Please know that she impacted so many young lives at Leverett's Chapel. My love and prayers are with you.

Diane Villyard Johnson

Diane Villyard Johnson - November 05, 2014 at 01:57 PM

MM

“ *Judy, Mike, and family,
We will be keeping all of you in our prayers
during this time of bereavement.
Milton and Sharla McGee*



Milton and Sharla McGee - November 05, 2014 at 01:24 PM

JD

“ *Julie Robins Driver lit a candle in memory of
Nina Smith*



Julie Robins Driver - November 05, 2014 at 12:28 PM

LT

“ *Nina was an angel for sure. She and my mom, Elizabeth Maxwell,
were always so close. My prayers go out to you all at this time of
loss. You will meet again in Heaven. God bless you Judy and Mike
and all your family.*

Lila Maxwell Tapp - November 05, 2014 at 11:55 AM



“ *Mrs Smith introduced me to what education was all about. She was
very patient and showed no partialism she loved all her children.
You will be missed deeply she taught me in 1975 praying for the
Smith family*

Frances Warren - November 05, 2014 at 11:54 AM

JR

“ Mrs. Smith was my very first teacher. She made learning and going to school so much fun. I was so proud when she taught me to tie my shoe strings. Something's you just never forget.

James Roach - November 05, 2014 at 11:41 AM

KB

“ Mrs. Smith was the most precious teacher I ever had. I was terribly shy as a child but remember feeling so safe and loved in her classroom. I was salutatorian of my graduating class at L.C., went on to gain an Associates degree at Kilgore College and a Bachelor degree from SFA. My husband and I own our own photography and design business in Longview and have one daughter. I owe all of that success to my very first teacher who was patient and loving enough to give me the confidence to succeed! Rest in Peace, dear lady. You will always be in my heart!

Karen Allen Boyd - November 05, 2014 at 11:00 AM

LR

“ Nina was one of the sweetest ladies I knew. Love and prayers to the family.

Linda Robinson - November 05, 2014 at 10:57 AM

SB

“ Thinking of you all Judy! So hard to loose your parents! Sandy

Sandy Brummett - November 05, 2014 at 10:38 AM

KK

“ She was my Kindergarden teacher in 1972 at Leverett's Chapel. I will always remember your sweet voice. She made school so much fun for me. Rest in Peace sweet lady.

Kathy Burleson Knighton - November 05, 2014 at 10:07 AM

AU

“ *She was a sweet lady with many interesting stories to tell. May God give you comfort and peace. Blessings.*



Ann Ussery - November 05, 2014 at 09:19 AM

CW

“ *Carolyn White Whitwell lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith*



Carolyn White Whitwell - November 05, 2014 at 07:07 AM

WH

“ *Wanda Holland lit a candle in memory of Nina Smith*



Wanda Holland - November 04, 2014 at 07:06 PM

JA

“ Mike (Marylou), Judy (Jackie),

Grandma Smith will be remembered in our hearts forever. She was most certainly an earthly Angel and is now an Heavenly Angel. Precious and selfless only begin to describe her. She was so devoted and dedicated to her family. May the Holy Spirit comfort you during this time.

*With Love,
Ann, John, Jennifer (Richard) Acord*

jennifer acord - November 04, 2014 at 10:15 AM