



Mrs. Rena Kate Smith

January 10, 1935 - April 2, 2024

Funeral services for Mrs. Rena Kate Smith, 89, of Church Hill, will be at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 5, 2024, at First Methodist Church of Henderson with Rev. David Luckert officiating. Interment will follow at Strong Cemetery under the direction of Crawford - A. Crim Funeral Home of Henderson. Visitation will be from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the funeral home.

After 89 glorious years, Rena Kate Smith went to be with our Lord on April 2, 2024 surrounded by her loved ones at home. Rena Kate was the only daughter born to Isabell and JB Perry on January 10, 1935, in Church Hill, Texas. She grew up with 4 brothers: Wayne, Wilton, Ed, and John Ben Perry who she was close with all their lives. She met the love of her life, Orea Smith, at Henderson High School. They exchanged love letters while he was in the army, eventually marrying on November 1, 1958. She attended the Methodist College of Nursing and was a labor and delivery nurse for many years before going into private nursing. Her favorite job was being a mother to the 3 kids she and Orea shared, Sandra, Stan and Cindy. She enjoyed going to church at First United Methodist in Henderson where she was a hostess for many years and lifelong member of the PALS Sunday school class.

She was a Rusk County champion pickle maker and made the best rice crispy treats you'd ever try. She sewed many outfits and baby blankets in her time. In her retirement she enjoyed traveling and playing chicken foot with her old lady friends. She was an avid Facebooker; She rarely missed her Friday hair appointments. She inspired several future nurses in the family. One of her

greatest joys in life was being a Mimi, attending many sporting events, dance competitions, singing concerts, and renting out her place as a stock show barn for several generations. She went through several reclining chairs in her lifetime. She helped Orea tend many a garden, shell millions of peas and was a committed caretaker to him in her later years. She was a lifelong resident of Church Hill surrounded by lots of family. Her favorite way to start the day was to sit on the porch with a hot cup of coffee watching the sunrise and shooing the starlings away.

Above all Rena Kate was a devoted sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother and will be greatly missed by her family and friends. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 63 years, Orea Smith; and her four brothers.

Survivors include: her children, Sandra Kate Costlow, Stan Smith and wife Debbie, and Cindy Acres and husband Paul, all of Church Hill; seven grandchildren, Matt Bennett and wife Mallory, Leslie Fontenot and husband James, Miranda Walker and husband Gerald, Ryan Bennett, Shea Dorman and husband Chet, Chelsea Acres and husband Ryan Blankenbaker, and Natalie Acres; and 15 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Geneice Perry of Henderson, and Mittie Ann Perry of Longview, and brothers-in-law, Dean Smith and wife Linda of Henderson, and Cotton Smith of Henderson; and most importantly, her dog Emma.

Pallbearers are Michael Perry, David Perry, Mark Perry, Gus Witt, Sam Witt, and Braxton Bennett. Honorary pallbearers are Don Gage, Tony Perry, Troy Craig, Bob Minton, Denzel Mobbs, Dean Smith, and Cotton Smith.

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

Cemetery Details

Strong Cemetery

CR 333
Henderson, TX 75652

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Service

APR 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Rena Kate Smith*



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - April 04, 2024 at 11:54 AM

MM

Beautiful Tribute!

Mike Mayhugh - April 04, 2024 at 10:36 PM

JF

She was a wonderful presence at church and we will miss her so.

jean ferraro - April 05, 2024 at 02:17 PM

BB

So sorry for your loss. I'm glad to have known and pray for her peace and also all the family

Bill Bagley - April 07, 2024 at 11:23 AM

SH

We are saddened to read of the passing of Rena Kate Smith. We know she was a good friend of my parents at First Methodist Church, Henderson, TX. Thoughts and prayers for the family and the congregation. We know she did so much for the church and the community. Go with Good. Susan(Willard) and Ken Hensley

Susan Hensley - April 09, 2024 at 05:37 PM

RN

“ Randy Nichols lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Randy Nichols - April 18, 2024 at 10:27 PM

SA

“ Rena Kate was such a special lady. She was my boss and I loved working with her. She was a wonderful nurse and had a passion for caring for people. She has a special place in my heart and will be missed. Praying for you all.



Sheila Alford - April 08, 2024 at 08:27 PM

DR

“ Regretfully, we were out of town when we got the news of Rena Kate's passing so were not able to attend her memorial service. I grew up with Rena Kate and her brothers out at Church Hill. Wilton and I were the same age so I spent a lot of time at the Perry house. Rena Kate was a reflection of her mother, "Miss Isabell," who was a saint. So was Rena Kate. When my mother died, Rena Kate was the first person to bring food to our house, and not just a single dish, but enough to feed the whole family. I sang a solo at her wedding, accompanied at the piano by one of her closest friends, my sister Jan. Then at the graveside service for my brother, Jim, at Strong Cemetery less than a year ago, Rena Kate was one of the first to greet the family. As I said, she was a saint. God bless her soul. May she rest in peace. Donald Ross

Donald Ross - April 08, 2024 at 11:24 AM

CN

“ *Clay & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb - April 08, 2024 at 04:43 AM

JC

“ *Jan Crow lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Jan Crow - April 07, 2024 at 10:02 PM

DW

“ *Debbie Watkins lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Debbie May Watkins - April 06, 2024 at 09:32 PM

JC

“ *Jennifer Chote lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Jennifer Chote - April 06, 2024 at 12:45 PM

MS

“ *Rena Kate was a school classmate of mine and always was a sweet and kind girl friendly to all. May the Lord give peace and comfort to each of her family and friends.* ”



Margaret Sumrall - April 05, 2024 at 11:59 PM

PC

“ *Paula Crim lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith* ”



Paula Crim - April 05, 2024 at 06:22 PM

MA

“ *Merlene Ainsworth lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith* ”



Merlene Ainsworth - April 05, 2024 at 11:25 AM

DS

“ *You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Such a sweet Lady! We have wonderful memories of past days at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Love, Norma Stanley and Debbie Stanley Stafford.* ”

Debbie Stafford - April 05, 2024 at 09:41 AM

EB

“ Sending our condolences to Rena Kates family. One of the best people that I have ever known.

EJ and Gudrun Belote

Emmett J Belote - April 05, 2024 at 08:52 AM

SP

“ Strong-Hurt Pharmacy lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Strong-Hurt Pharmacy - April 05, 2024 at 08:31 AM

MT

“ Mike Taliaferro lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Mike Taliaferro - April 05, 2024 at 04:24 AM

DK

“ Love & Prayers,
Dianna & David Kelley



Dianna David Kelley - April 05, 2024 at 01:34 AM

HM

“ *Hal Rosa Martin lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Hal and Rosa Martin - April 04, 2024 at 10:52 PM

AH

“ *Many thoughts and prayers are with you all. Mimi was such a wonderful lady!*



Amber Hancock - April 04, 2024 at 08:18 PM

AR

“ *Amy Rockey*



Amy Rockey - April 04, 2024 at 06:48 PM

DC

“ *Correction: David & Kathy Chapman*

David& Kathy Chapman - April 04, 2024 at 04:56 PM

DC

“ I loved Ms. Rena Kate. One of the First Ladies I met when I moved here in 1975. So kind, I always thought she was the most beautiful woman I knew. She had the heart and Christian kindness and dedication. Like my sweet Mother- in- Law also.



David& Kathy Chapman - April 04, 2024 at 04:55 PM

SH

“ Sue HENDERSON lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Sue HENDERSON - April 04, 2024 at 04:49 PM

MG

“ Mark and I have many wonderful memories Of Rena Kate all of our lives. She was always an inspiration to us with the examples she set and her spirit that moved mountains. She will always be in our hearts!

Mark & Nancy Gibson - April 04, 2024 at 11:57 AM

SD

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your sweet Mom. We had so much fun on Baker Street growing up...I know she will be missed and forever loved. My prayers are with you all.
Sherri Barton Davis

Sherri Davis - April 04, 2024 at 11:51 AM

SH

“ *Sara Hancock lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Sara Hancock - April 04, 2024 at 11:34 AM

ET

“ *Emilie Thane lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Emilie Thane - April 04, 2024 at 10:30 AM

SW

“ *My thoughts and condolences to all of her family. Sandra and Leslie, I know your loss is great. So very sad to say goodbye!*



sharon whitehead - April 04, 2024 at 10:23 AM

JW

“ *Joseph Watts lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Joseph Watts - April 04, 2024 at 10:00 AM

JS

“ Thinking of you during this sad time, friend. Sending prayers and hugs to you and your family. ❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏

Jan Johnson Spann

Jan Johnson Spann - April 04, 2024 at 09:42 AM

CS

“ We are so sorry for your loss.
Craig and Paula Sweeney



Craig & Paula Sweeney - April 04, 2024 at 09:17 AM

BE

“ Buddy & Dianne Everitt lit a candle in memory
of Rena Kate Smith



Buddy & Dianne Everitt - April 04, 2024 at 09:15 AM

PP

“ Pud Patterson lit a candle in memory of Rena
Kate Smith



Pud Patterson - April 04, 2024 at 09:13 AM

BE

“ *Buddy & Dianne Everitt lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Buddy & Dianne Everitt - April 04, 2024 at 09:10 AM

CW

“ *Rena Kate was such a valued member of our church - she will be greatly missed. Condolences to all of you.*

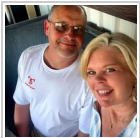
Cyndi Walker - April 04, 2024 at 09:09 AM

LF

“ *Mimi was a huge influence on why I became a Nurse* ❤️



Leslie Fontenot - April 04, 2024 at 09:01 AM



“ *Christy Stanearth lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Christy Stanearth - April 04, 2024 at 08:24 AM

MB

“ Margaret Brown lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Margaret Green Brown - April 04, 2024 at 08:19 AM



“ So sorry to hear this news. Rena Kate was a special person!



Pam Brown - April 04, 2024 at 07:50 AM

LT

“ I'm so sorry for your loss, Your Mom was a very sweet Lady. My prayers are with you. Liz Thrasher



Liz Thrasher - April 04, 2024 at 07:49 AM

BB

“ Blake Ballenger lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Blake Ballenger - April 04, 2024 at 07:44 AM

MT

“ Mike Taliaferro lit a candle in memory of Rena
Kate Smith



Mike Taliaferro - April 04, 2024 at 02:19 AM

LW

“ Lacy Weaver lit a candle in memory of Rena
Kate Smith



Lacy Weaver - April 03, 2024 at 09:56 PM

KS

“ So sorry for your loss. She was a very sweet
lady and I know will be missed by many.



Kelly Stroud - April 03, 2024 at 09:17 PM

BH

“ Brent Hale lit a candle in memory of Rena
Kate Smith



Brent Hale - April 03, 2024 at 07:58 PM



“ *My love to the family. Sondra, you had one of the best mothers.*



Cyndy Broadus - April 03, 2024 at 05:24 PM

FS

“ *My last visit with Aunt Rena Kate. She was my inspiration to be a nurse. She was my genealogy consultant for Perry/Pool history. My last connection to my Grandmother Perry. My heart is broken. 💔💔💔*



Fran Perry Steitler - April 03, 2024 at 05:11 PM

DH

“ *Debra Hill lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Debra Hill - April 03, 2024 at 04:04 PM

KS

“ *Karen Smith lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Karen Smith - April 03, 2024 at 03:46 PM

PD

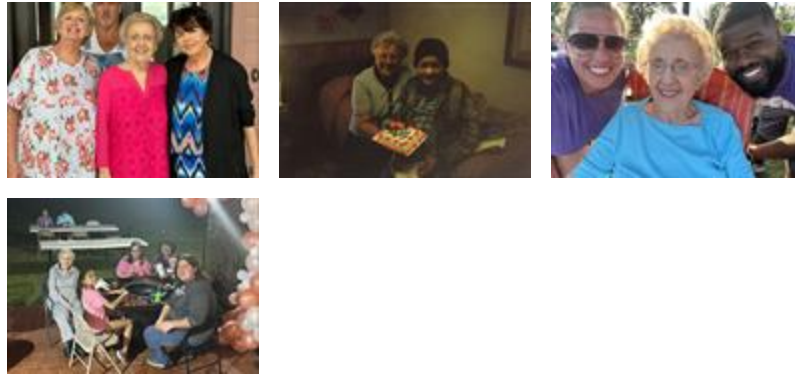
“ Pat Davis lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Pat Davis - April 03, 2024 at 03:05 PM

NA

“ 4 files added to the album Rena Kate Smith



Natalie Acres - April 03, 2024 at 02:49 PM

TC

“ Tony Anita Cavaliere lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith



Tony and Anita Cavaliere - April 03, 2024 at 02:35 PM

BB

“ *Brandy Bridges lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Brandy Smith Bridges - April 03, 2024 at 01:40 PM

GW

“ *Gary Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Gary Wilkerson - April 03, 2024 at 01:33 PM

CB

“ *Prayers for all of you.*



Charlie & Holli Bridges - April 03, 2024 at 01:28 PM

NA

“ 5 files added to the album *Rena Kate Smith*



Natalie Acres - April 03, 2024 at 12:52 PM

BJ

“ *Barbara Jolley lit a candle in memory of Rena Kate Smith*



Barbara Jolley - April 03, 2024 at 12:33 PM