



Louise Miles Smith

June 7, 1924 - November 16, 2021

Louise Smith ,97, of Highland Springs and formerly of Charles City, VA, departed this life on November 16, 2021. Louise was born in Philadelphia, PA on June 7, 1924 to her birth mother. Percella Tyler Cotman. She was placed in the care of Robert and Martha Jones of Charles City at the age of 2 months. Louise was reared as the adoptive daughter of the Joneses until her mother, Martha, died in 1937. At the age of 13, she went to live with her sister and brother in law, Sarah and Alexander Bradby. They were loving, nurturing parents to her and provided her with what she described as a “wonderful childhood”.

As a child, Louise attended Little Elam Elementary School. At the age of nine she was baptized and joined Little Elam Baptist Church. By all accounts, she was a bright, positive and polite young girl. These were early characteristics that helped her overcome many challenges in her later life. In 1941, Louise graduated from Ruthville High School. Her report cards show that she had outstanding attendance, missing only four days in four years. She was also graded highly on her conduct, work ethic and recitation skills Algebra, however, seemed to be a bit of a challenge.

Louise was unable to fulfill her dream of going to college and becoming a teacher. She was a lifelong learner and eventually earned a certificate in Early Childhood Education from John Tyler Community College in 1990. In 1944 at

the age of 20, Louise gave birth to her first child, a girl, whom she named, Doris Ann. Louise would later exclaim to her other children that Doris was a “beautiful baby “. She would say, “All of you were cute, but Doris was beautiful “. The two of them, Louise and Doris created a remarkable bond that lasted for over 77 years, one of Louise’s first jobs was as a housekeeper at River Edge Farm. It was here that she met a charming young soldier in 1946. After a brief courtship, Louise and James G. Miles , Jr. were married on October 26, 1946. During their ten year marriage they became parents to four children., Evelyn, Barbara. Brenda and Robert. A caring and doting mother to all of her children, Louise had a particular adoration for her son. Her face would light up with pure joy at the sight of Robert. After a divorce in 1958, Louise spent the next several years working outside of the home in order to provide for her children. She had the good fortune of having Sarah and Alex Bradby willingly and lovingly provide a home for her and her children , keeping the family together with love and laughter. For several years, during her “single” life, Louise enjoyed the companionship of the late James Nimmo Christian. He was a kind man who always respected her and her children.

Louise was also committed to civic engagement throughout her life. She was an active member of the NAACP and served on the Board of Directors of the Quinn Rivers Community Action Agency . She was a lifelong voter, even during the times of the onerous poll tax and voter literacy tests. She helped integrate the sales staff at both Miller and Rhoad’s and Casey’s department stores. In 1981, Louise found love again and married James Alexander Smith. Their union lasted until his death in 2000. She was an excellent homemaker and served as a caregiver to Alex when he became disabled. She joined Parrish Hill Baptist Church and remained a member until she moved away from the neighborhood. Her ties to Alex’s family include his surviving children Wanda Washington and Myra Smith and Alex’s siblings Corrine Battle, Jackie Smith and Carl Smith. Alex’s grandchildren and great grandchildren still refer to her as “Grandma”.

Louise was outstanding in many areas like gardening and fashion coordinating . But there were some things that she never learned to do. She never learned to drive, but she could always get a ride. She was also excellent at giving directions on how to get to any location, and often did so from the back seat. She could never sing or dance, but she could recite six or seven verses of poetry without hesitation. She could never make a biscuit , but her potato salad was to die for! Finally, Louise could never keep a secret. If she knew it, she told it. She would say, "I might as well tell, you because you are going to find out anyway ". Louise loved people. She wanted to know all about them. In another life, she would have made an excellent news reporter or interviewer. Louise will be sorely missed by her friends. She loved having visitors. When her old friends died, she found new ones. In recent years, she was visited frequently by Beverly Tyler, Portia Jones, Rita Washington, Lorene Jones(a lifetime friend) Susan Miles and Agatha Porterfield. She also had constant and faithful friends in Ann Tabb and Patricia and Lonnie Janes.

Louise's legacy of love, include Doris Ann Charity and Melvin Lane(with whom she lived for 17 years);Evelyn Miles Giebel and Gregory Giebel,;Barbara Miles Lewis and Elwood Lewis,; Brenda Miles Lee and Norbert Lee; and Robert A. Miles. She also leaves 5 granddaughters; Shana Dandridge, Yashica Green, Alexis Jones,Branden Lewis and Kristin Cosby.

The next generations include 8 great grandchildren, and one great-,great grandchild. Louise also has through her marriage and the marriages of her children, several step grand and great grandchildren, many of whom refer to her as Mama Lou.

Cemetery Details

Little Elam Baptist Church Cemetery

8840 Church Lane
Charles City, VA 23030

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV 22. 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Wake

NOV 22. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Celebration of Life with livestreaming available

NOV 23. 10:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Louise Miles Smith, Please Click the Link below.*



March Funeral Homes - November 23, 2021 at 08:34 AM



“ *Louise Miles Smith*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Brenda, Kristen, Barbra & family,
I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Ms.Louise. You all are in my
thoughts and prayers.*

Lisa Christian - November 23, 2021 at 07:34 PM

FJ

“ Brenda your mother was one of my favorites,one of a kind if she had something on her mind she would say so. She helped so many children in the community grow by the word of God if the didn't want her it .She would say "I am just telling you this for your own good, you can take heed if you want too,but things comes out better if you listen. I truely thank God have blessed her and keep her all of these years. I say to the Family keep your head up and the Lord will wipe away all tears.

Faye Jones Johnson

Faye Johnson - November 23, 2021 at 12:53 PM

CD

“ Charnell Lee Grand Daughter sent a virtual gift in memory of Louise Miles Smith



Charnell lee grand daughter - November 22, 2021 at 07:25 PM

CD

“ Charnell Lee Grand Daughter lit a candle in memory of Louise Miles Smith



Charnell lee grand daughter - November 22, 2021 at 07:20 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louise Miles Smith.*



November 22, 2021 at 12:06 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louise Miles Smith.*



November 21, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ *Doris, Barbara, Evelyn, Brenda, Robert thank you for sharing many years of very special activities with Miss Louise. She taught me the meaning of simple elegance with kindness and laughter. I always felt special in her presence. I am thinking of each of you and will always cherish my time with her.*



Deloris Rozier - November 21, 2021 at 12:56 PM



“ *We were sadden to her of Louise's homegoing. Our heartfelt condolences to the family.*

Silene Crawley-Johnson - November 21, 2021 at 08:42 AM

BL

“ *To The Family:
You have my deepest sympathy in the passing of your MoM. She was such a loving, kind, and beautiful person. Just know she will never be forgotten. Stay in prayer and I will be praying for you and with you. God Bless All of You and may Mom Louise Rest in Peace.*



Bettie Lee & Family

Bettie Lee - November 20, 2021 at 10:45 PM

AF

“ *Agnes Bradby And Family lit a candle in memory of Louise Miles Smith*



Agnes Bradby and family - November 20, 2021 at 06:12 PM

AF

A beautiful lady who touched some many lives in a positive way.

Agnes Bradby and family - November 20, 2021 at 06:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louise Miles Smith.*



November 20, 2021 at 02:28 PM

MC

“ *Marilyn Crump lit a candle in memory of Louise Miles Smith*



Marilyn Crump - November 20, 2021 at 01:12 PM

CG

“ *Cynthia Graham-Aaron lit a candle in memory of Louise Miles Smith*



Cynthia Graham-Aaron - November 19, 2021 at 08:49 PM

GJ

“ *Family,
Prayers to you and the family. Ms. Louise was such a sweet person.
Whenever I would see her anywhere she always greeted me with a
smile. I know her and Alex cutting up!*

Gena Jones - November 19, 2021 at 06:39 PM

YS

“ *She was a teacher without credentials. She taught so many, so
much. I will miss her knowledge and conversations. Thank God for
her remarkable life. We will all miss her. To her family: Take Care
and Reach out.*

Yvonne Smith-Jones

Yvonne Smith-Jones - November 19, 2021 at 06:29 PM

RB

“ Sharing in your sadness as you remember your mother. Thinking of you (Doris, Evelyn, Barbara, Brenda and Robert) as you remember her remarkable life. I will always remember Ms Louise as being a kind and caring person. I have fond memories of spending time playing with Robert at your home when we were kids and how Ms Louise always treated me as one of the family. Even though there is joy in her homecoming, there is sorrow in your loss. I regret not being able to be physically present at the services. Please note that my thoughts and prayers will be with you as well as my spirit.

Richard M. Bowman

Richard M. Bowman - November 19, 2021 at 04:40 PM

EC

“ Doris, Evelyn, Barbara, Brenda and Robert we are so sorry for the passing of your sweet adorable mother. We will be praying for you all and we send our condolences. May you continue to keep the wonderful memories. With our love Eugene and Judy Crump



Eugene and Judy Crump - November 19, 2021 at 01:43 PM

WB

“ Family, we were so sorry to learn of Ms. Louise's passing and extend our sincerest condolences. We are in prayer that God will grant you solace during this trying time. Cherish precious memories! Love, Warren and JoAnne



Warren and JoAnne Bell - November 19, 2021 at 12:06 PM

LJ

“ *Lois Adkins Jones lit a candle in memory of Louise Miles Smith*



Lois Adkins Jones - November 19, 2021 at 11:59 AM

KT

“ *Kenneth Tabb lit a candle in memory of Louise Miles Smith*



Kenneth Tabb - November 19, 2021 at 07:55 AM

JA

“ *Doris, Evelyn, Barbara, Brenda, and Robert, we express our sincerest condolences to you and family members. We were saddened to hear of Ms. Louise's passing. We have many fond memories of her, and we shall forever cherish those memories. She always had a beautiful smile, quick wit, and a kind heart. May God comfort you all during this time of bereavement and in the days that follow. Cornelius & Janet Crawley*



Janet - November 18, 2021 at 12:19 PM

AS

She wi truly be missed such a wonderful person

Ardette Smith - November 19, 2021 at 01:09 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - November 18, 2021 at 11:30 AM