



## Margretta Smith Pettie

December 8, 1921 - May 19, 2016

Margretta Elizabeth Smith Pettie was born on December 8, 1921 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was the only child of the late Weldon and Dorothy Smith. Margretta's mother passed away when she was an infant.

Subsequently, she was raised by her grandparents Neilie Smith Hairston and Frank Hairston. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 65 years, Porter Grant Pettie, in 2012.

Margretta was educated in the public school system of Winston Salem, North Carolina and graduated from Atkins High school in 1938. She went on to graduate in 1942 from Winston Salem Teachers College (now WSSU) majoring in elementary education and minoring in music. She completed graduate studies at Columbia University in New York.

Margretta was a faithful member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church for more than 50 years where she served on the Usher Board for a number of years. She had a heart for young people and devoted herself to education. Margretta was the founding chairperson of Mount Carmel's Reverend McCreary Scholarship Fund that remains active.

Margretta's musical talents served her and the community well during her 40 year tenure in the Public School System. She nourished people around her with love, faith and music while providing the musical foundation for countless

students, choirs, programs, assemblies and organizations. Many of her piano students have gone on to careers in music.

She was active in many organizations. Among them were Richmond Retired Teachers, The Delvers Women's Club, and Winston-Salem State Alumni Association. Margretta was a charter member of WSSU Alumni Chapter Richmond and remained active her entire life, making her the oldest living and active member until her recent passing.

Margretta enjoyed traveling, socializing, duck pen bowling, and roller skating as long as her health and sight allowed. She loved music – classical, jazz, big band and religious. Her friends are young and old.

The family remembers “Margie” fondly as a strong modern day woman with a kind and gentle heart and a spirit of adventure and zest for life and living. Her kindness was infectious. She was always ready for the next visit, gathering, trip, cruise, or musical. Her attitude was positive and her failed sight didn't keep her from seeing the beauty around her. Margretta was truly a devoted wife, mother and career teacher.

On Thursday, May 19, 2016, Margretta quietly passed from her earthly home to her heavenly home where she is at peace with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and her family members and friends who have long awaited her coming.

Margretta is survived by her son, Paul Grant Pettie; daughter-in-law, Paulette Breeze Pettie; devoted nephews, Dr. James McCain, Fredrick Smith (Jackie), William Smith and Wallace Prysock (Jody); niece, Catherine Pettie Hart (Barney); cousins, Gina Henderson and Nathaniel Henderson Jr.; great-nieces and nephews, a host of other relatives and friends. Although Porter and Margretta only had one natural son, they had many other children of the heart

including Stephanie Cason, Cindy Hall, Michael Drew, Renee Bennett, Chandra Breeze, and adopted granddaughters, Alycia Allen, Crystal Bennett, Monique Bennett, Isheia Breeze, and Trinity Benjamin.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

3101 Nine Mile Road  
Richmond, VA 23223

# Previous Events

## viewing

MAY 27. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Family Hour

MAY 27. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Service

MAY 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church  
3200 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23223

# Tribute Wall



“ *Margretta Smith Pettie*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Paul and Paulette, we extend our sincere condolences to you.  
Ike, Vivian and Kristin*

**Ike and Vivian** - May 28, 2016 at 09:37 AM



“ *Rick and Carolin Sinkfield purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Margretta Smith Pettie.*



**Rick and Carolin Sinkfield** - May 26, 2016 at 01:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Margretta Smith Pettie.*



May 25, 2016 at 10:42 AM



“ *My condolences to the family of Margretta Smith Pettie. May you find comfort in knowing that soon our enemy death will be a thing of the past. 1 Corinthians 15: 26*

**L. H.** - May 24, 2016 at 07:33 AM



“ 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - May 23, 2016 at 03:26 PM