



Mary Ellen Smith

September 3, 1924 - April 15, 2018

Mary Ellen Smith, 93, died April 15, 2018, in Moses Lake, WA.

Mary Ellen was born to Thomas J. and Ama Elizabeth Madden on September 3, 1924, in Oklahoma City, OK. She was one of eight children who grew up together during the Great Depression. Mary Ellen was very intelligent and studied hard, skipping grades in school and going to college on a scholarship at an early age.

As part of the war effort during World War II, Mary Ellen worked at the FBI in Washington, DC. She returned to Oklahoma, and while continuing her studies at Oklahoma Baptist University, she also worked on the local newspaper.

There she met the love of her life, Alvin H. Smith, fresh back from overseas. After Mary Ellen's graduation from OBU with Summa Cum Laude honors, the couple married June 23, 1946, in Shawnee, OK. They moved to Beaumont, Texas, and then to Moses Lake in 1955; their home the remainder of their lives. Al was a reporter and then Managing Editor of the Columbia Basin Daily Herald. Al Smith passed away in 1992.

Mary Ellen was a curious reader and an enthusiastic storyteller, known for teaching vocabulary and writing skills to a generation of students at Moses Lake High School. In addition to teaching all levels of English, during her time at MLHS Mary Ellen supervised the yearbook and student newspaper, coached the championship High School Bowl team, taught English for Food Service Work, and served as chair of the English Department. She took great pleasure in hearing of accomplishments of her many 'former students'.

After retiring from teaching, Mary Ellen tutored students in English at the Job Corps and at an English as a Second Language program through Big Bend Community College.

She had a great passion for music, especially hymns, and sang in several choirs throughout most of her life. Mary Ellen attended church regularly all her life. She and Al were some of the earliest members of the 1st Southern Baptist church, now named Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Moses Lake. She taught Sunday school and led several Bible study groups there over the years. The family would like to thank Penny Weber and staff at Penny's Adult Family Home for their care and appreciation of "Emmy" during her last years of life. They can verify that she could still beat most at Jeopardy even in her last years.

Mary Ellen is survived by three children: Stephanie Smith of Berkeley CA, Huffman Smith of Kalama, WA, and Melodie Madden of Moses Lake; four grandchildren: Alicia, Stacie, Shaina and Remy; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Christine Wine and Frances Bowen; and numerous nieces and nephews and extended family.

A service of remembrance will be held at the Living Word Lutheran Church, 2609 W. Broadway Ave., Moses Lake, on Saturday, April 28th at 10:00. In lieu of flowers, she would have appreciated any donations to Oklahoma Baptist University or First Book Organization (firstbook.org).

Cemetery Details

Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 765-7848

Tribute Wall

DE


“ *May she Rest In Peace. My husband and I purchased our home, her home, when she needed to move on. We wish her family condolences in their time of need. I have heard many stories over the years about how much she cared for her students.*

Danielle Escamilla - April 21, 2018 at 10:47 PM

CW

“ *I was in her etymology class my senior year. I don't think any teacher taught me more in such a short time. She was brilliant, demanding and had a take no prisoners attitude that I admired. She heard everything and let you know it! My only regret is that I didn't take more of her classes. I still think about her when I am doing the Sunday crossword puzzle. Wishing her family and friends comfort and peace. Chantal Whiting*

Chantal Whiting - April 20, 2018 at 01:24 AM

 Lori Thompson

“ *Lori Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Smith*



Lori Thompson - April 20, 2018 at 12:10 AM



“ I got the honor to care for Mary Ellen "Emmy" as we called her for the last 9 yrs of her life, I have a lot of wonderful memories of her that I will keep in my heart. She could be very funny and say some of the most off the wall stuff but that's what we loved about our Emmy. I for one am going to greatly miss her! I will never forget you Emmy and all the good times and struggles we had. Thank you for being you! Until we meet again! Love Lori Thompson

Lori Thompson - April 20, 2018 at 12:09 AM



Emmy was such a wonderful lady. I am so glad i had the pleasure to meet her and care for her.
She was such a joy. I will always remember you Emmy and hold you in my heart. You will be greatly missed. Love,
Pam Patterson

Pam Patterson - April 21, 2018 at 01:10 PM



Thank you for your lovely note and thank you so very much for caring for our mother. With love, Stephanie (on behalf of the family)

Stephanie Smith - April 23, 2018 at 04:02 PM



Dearest Melodie, Stephanie and Huffman. I loved your Mother as my own. I'm sorry to hear of her passing. She was a legend and loved by all of us her knew her.
I celebrate her life with you. I still see Chuck, choking back tears, trying to get out his words to her, "thank you for being my teacher". He told me recently, she taught him to write. He passes a story of her on to his college class, of MES! She was, both of your parents were wonderful people. God bless.

Becky Dendy Ghormley - May 14, 2018 at 10:03 AM

DK

“ *Doug & Shannon Kagele lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Smith*



Doug Kagele - April 19, 2018 at 11:25 AM

SS

Thank you, Doug. Deeply appreciated! Stephaie

Stephanie A Smith - May 02, 2018 at 12:59 AM

DH

“ *She was the advisor for the MLHS Quiz Bowl team. We would stop on our trips to Spokane for Quiz Bowl recordings at Stuky's to get pecan rolls - she loved pecan rolls! Brilliant lady, blind as a bat, but with super sonic hearing that the US military intelligence still can't duplicate. A delightful kindred soul to many students over the years.*

David Hunt - April 18, 2018 at 01:29 AM

LC


So grateful to have had Mary Ellen as my teacher!! I greatly enjoyed her classes & learned so much from her!! I will forever appreciate her unique & special character!!! May God give her family comfort as they will miss her. She is definitely a person that I will joyfully look forward to seeing again, on the other side of this earthly journey!!

Lynda Moore Cople - April 18, 2018 at 04:48 AM

SS

Thank you for these warm memories.

Stephanie A Smith - May 02, 2018 at 01:01 AM

 Terina
Guess

“ Terina Guess lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Smith



Terina Guess - April 17, 2018 at 09:00 PM

 Rodney
Garrison

“ Mrs Smith was my favorite Teacher, I enjoy books and movies so much because of the things she taught me. Thank You so much for everything, you'll be in my memories forever.

Rodney Garrison - April 17, 2018 at 07:49 PM

KW

“ Mrs. Smith was an inspiration to me. She was smart, funny, quirky and demanded our best effort in her English class. I went to visit her at MLHS when I was a Senior English teacher in Oregon. She laughed so hard when she heard what my career was that she spilled her coffee. At the end of our conversation she made me promise, with a handshake, to eradicate run-on sentences. I kept that promise in three decades teaching Language Arts, English and Journalism. I thought of her so very often and in many ways, tried to model my teaching style after hers. My best wishes to her family.
~ Kelly Morgan Wigmore

Kelly Morgan Wigmore - April 17, 2018 at 02:54 PM

KG

“ Oh goodness—I loved her for Challenge English!! She left a lasting memory not only as a teacher but as a very colorful, interesting person. She prepared and inspired me for college. And I’ve thought of her often and fondly over the years. My sincere sympathy to her family.

Kim Hilderbrand Green - April 17, 2018 at 12:52 AM

JE

“ Had Mrs. Smith in High School. She inspired me to pursue higher education. I learned so much from her! God Bless you and your family.
Jeanne Braun

Jeanne - April 16, 2018 at 07:10 PM



Marion Killian

She was a great Lady. I loved it when she would sing . She was good with the family. God bless her very much and her family.

Marion Killian - April 16, 2018 at 08:57 PM

EM

“ A wonderful Sunday School teacher, English teacher and an inspiration to hunger for knowledge coupled with understanding. Much love, Mrs. Smith,...your faith has been made sight!❤️

Elisabeth Murrell - April 16, 2018 at 06:15 PM

PR

“ One of the most brilliant minds I ever knew!! In 1964 she told me that the prevailing theme in all the world was “ Man’s inhumanity to man”. At the time I didn’t understand. Sadly she was right!! She instilled in me a love of language!!

phyllis rice - April 16, 2018 at 06:10 PM

TT

“ *Mrs Smith was a uniquely intelligent, spirited wife and loving mother.
I enjoyed her humor and lively conversations through the years.
Blessings to Stephanie, Melanie, Huffman and their respective families.*

Terry Simons Thomas - April 16, 2018 at 06:09 PM

WE

“ *I had the luxury of reacquainting with her working briefly, at the assisted living home where she lived her last years! Such a lovely intelligent woman. I have been blessed to know her. Rest In Peace M.E.*

Wendy - April 16, 2018 at 05:28 PM