



Homegoing

Celebration

of

Mary Kate Smith

Born into Time
February 14, 1926

Born into Eternity
May 21, 2011

Friday, May 27, 2011

Visitation: 10:00 am — 11:00 am
Celebration Homegoing: 11:00 am

Main Baptist Church
814 E. Galena Blvd.
Aurora, IL 60505

Rev. Dr. Julian E. Spencer— Officiating

- Obituary -



Mary Kate Smith was taken home to God on May 20, 2011 after a valiant fight against cancer. She was born February 14, 1926 in Dawson, Georgia; the fifth of nine children of the late Albert and Lydia Benjamin. In Dawson, Georgia, she was educated in the Public Schools of Terrell County, and graduated from Dawson High School. Mary was always regarded as being God-fearing, intelligent, mannerable, giving, loving and obviously concerned about the well-being and feelings of others. This description was one that depicted her journey throughout her entire life. She accepted the Lord at a very early age and was baptized at Rose Hill Baptist Church by Pastor Woodson. From that day forward, she loved and trusted in the God. One of her favorite saying was, *"just put your troubles in the hand of the Lord, and he will see you through."*

As a young woman, she left Georgia and moved to Wayne, Illinois where she met and married the love of her life, Rufus "Pip" Benjamin Smith, Sr. They were married for 54 years. Together they lived a wonderful life on Rosewood Avenue and later on Ohio Street, while raising four sons and two daughters, Aaron B. Stills (Gloria), Bobby L. Stills, Tommy L. Stills (Tracey), and Rufus B. Smith, Jr. (Theresa); two daughters, Joann Hamilton (Charles) and Frances L. Surillo.



Her memories will always be adorned and cherished in Aurora, especially at Copley Hospital where she worked as a nurses' aide for over 20 years. She was very proud of her work with her patients and staff members. She was also a member of the American Legion Post Auxiliary for over 40 years, President of the Kane County Council, as well as the Chaplin at the Senior Grand Blvd Center. However, the pride of her life was her spiritual relationship with Main Baptist Church where she served as President of the Missionary Society, Secretary of the Mother's Board, member of the Silent Helpers, and President of the Senior Mission #1. She always enjoyed inviting her pastors to the house for dinner and serving them her famous fried chicken and sweet potato pie for dessert. At those dinners, there was a great amount of praise, laughter and fellowship.

Mary loved the Lord, husband, family and friends, and her friends loved her back. This became very evident during her last days as she prepared to transition to heaven. She was visited by many, many friends who were able to say, "Mary, farewell, you have fought the good fight, you ran the race, kept the faith, now no more suffering, it's now your time to reap the reward of resting eternally with the Lord."

In addition to her six children, Mary Kate leaves to cherish her memories a devoted sister, Katie Mae Washington of Orlando, Florida; "sister-in-the Lord", Lois Benjamin of Albany, Georgia; "Georgia Girls" - Lillian Perry, Helen Banks, Rosa Whitlock and Minervia Young; Six granddaughters: Brenda Martin, LaShawn Hamilton, Latrice Stills, Regina Smith, Jada Stills, and Lauren Surillo; Six grandsons: Qurrise Smith, Charles Hamilton, Jr., Reginald Smith, Brian Hamilton, Eddie White, Jr., and Benjamin B. Stills; fifteen great-grand children, a host of other relatives, neighbors and friends.



Mary was preceded in death by her husband Rufus B. Smith, Sr., her siblings: Lee Annie Bell, Dock Benjamin, Albert Benjamin, Jr., Lydia Benjamin, Guy Benjamin, Rosa Mae Benjamin, and John Benjamin.