



## Shirley Joann Smith

June 23, 1936 - April 25, 2021

Shirley JoAnn Smith, 84, of Fruitvale, Texas passed away 4/25/2021. She was born 6/23/1936 to Jesse Kinney and Annie Bell Kinney in Simms, Texas. She married Leemon Smith Jr. on 2/14/1959 in Oklahoma. She was a long distance telephone operator for many years. She is survived by Sons Terry (Tena) Smith of Emory, TX., Dee Smith (Penny) of Floresville, TX. and Friend Larry Eddington of Fruitvale, TX. Also, Sisters Ovella (Tootsie) Forsyth, Barbara Jean Osborn, Four Grandchildren, Jessica Allen, Tanner (Alise) Smith, Katie Smith, Emily Smith one great-grandchild Ashton Allen. She was preceded in death by her husband Leemon Smith Jr., two sisters and four brothers.

Shirley JoAnn Smith was born in Simms, Texas, Bowie County, on June 23, 1936. Born into a farming family, she was the eighth of nine children of Jessie and Annie Bell Kinney. Shirley, along with four brothers and four sisters, assisted the family as they worked the fields. As a young child, one of Shirley's chores was to carry water to her brothers as they picked cotton by hand in the fields. Her early life began in Bowie County but the family migrated to Cottle County near Paducah, Texas. This is where she completed her high school education. After that, she relocated to the Dallas area where she began working for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. While in Dallas, she met and married Leemon Smith Jr. They went on to raise two boys in the Garland area, where she retired from what became AT&T. After the passing of her Husband, she moved to Fruitvale, Texas where she enjoyed fishing with her grandchildren. Shirley loved life and some of her finest memories in retirement years were spending time with her nieces and nephews at many different casinos throughout the county. She is survived by her two boys, four grandchildren and one greatgrandchild.



# Comments

---



“ A webcast video has been added.



**Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery** - May 18 at 02:48 PM

---



“ Shirley was a friend and a confidant. After my mom passed away, I would ask her for advice. I was comfortable telling her I loved her as my friend and she returned the compliment. I moved from Dallas and sadly, rarely saw her. I wish Terry and Dee peace---I will never forget Shirley.

**Lillian Gusman** - June 10 at 09:17 PM

---



“ Shirley has been our family friend since 1980. We were co workers at SWB and partners in crime at several Conway Twitty concerts . She was a true friend and will miss our conversations dearly. RIP our beautiful friend.

**Terri Byrd** - May 21 at 11:30 AM

---



“ Well aunt Shirley to say I'll miss you is an understatement. You were my aunt, my travel and casino buddy and my friend. We've shared many good times, laughs and cries. Many of your friends became my friends because you always introduced me to all them if I was with you. Now we will share our memories of you. Im blessed to have been a part of the ones that loved and cared for you in your last days. Those days brought me closer to Glenda Sue, Becky, Tena, Terry and Dee. I value this bond and we will continue to stay close together. Love you aunt Shirley.

**Linda Mcknight** - May 21 at 09:49 AM



“ Old friend separated by our career . Sweet memories RIP

**Barbara N** - May 21 at 03:30 PM

---



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



May 21 at 09:28 AM

---



“ Dee and Terry my deepest sympathy in the loss of your Mom. Aunt Shirley will be truly missed. When I sold Mary Kay she bought from me stuff she probably never used but her support meant a lot to me. She loved to travel and meet new people (I'm quite certain I got my "inquiring mind" from her)

Bobbie Scott

**Bobbie Scott** - May 21 at 09:16 AM

---



“ Kim and Garrett Jones purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



**Kim and Garrett Jones** - May 20 at 10:27 PM

---



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



May 20 at 06:08 PM

---



“ The Dale and Linda Sains Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



**The Dale and Linda Sains Family** - May 20 at 02:25 PM

---



“ #3 & Monica purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



**#3 & Monica** - May 20 at 01:26 PM

---



“ Nimrod Rifle Club purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



**Nimrod Rifle Club** - May 20 at 12:04 PM

---



“ Aunt Shirley had a big heart and she checked on all of us. I always knew that if I needed her, no matter what time or where she was, that I could count on her. She would call often and sometimes we would talk for hours. We always had lots of things to talk about. I never talked to her that she didn't mention something about Terry or Dee or a member of their families. She was so proud of the men you are and the families you have. After Uncle Lemmon passed away she had to learn how to do life without him. She loved people and never met a stranger. I'm not quite sure how it got started but she loved going to casinos and being with people. She met a lot of people there and many became friends. She met Larry somewhere along the way. Their relationship grew and they made a life together. She was so happy when they moved to the country. She loved to fish in the pond and feeding the ducks, the geese, and the birds. I can't believe she's gone. It was my privilege to be with her and help take care of her during her final days.  
Love you Aunt Shirley!

Glenda West - May 20 at 01:33 AM

---



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



May 20 at 12:41 AM

---



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley Joann Smith.



May 19 at 08:36 PM

---



“ I worked with Shirley at AT&T for years Shirley had a wonderful personality and giving heart she was always helping people and we lived in Garland a street over from her when we were raising our kids so we go back a long way , prayers for all of her love ones I know she will be missed. Love to all Shirley Moore

Shirley Moore - May 19 at 04:16 PM

---



“ Alene Yates lit a candle in memory of Shirley Joann Smith



alene Yates - May 19 at 03:28 PM

---



“ So many memories. I'll. Miss our talks RIP friend.  
Alene Yates.

alene Yates - May 19 at 03:25 PM

---



“ Shirley, I'm gonna miss you girl. Have so many wonderful memories of us when we lived together and worked for the telephone company. You were the glue that held all the Paducah graduates together. You kept up with everyone and tried to keep everyone informed on what you knew. You just had a love for people, and everyone loved you. You are in the arms of Jesus now, healed completely, and no more pain. We're going to stroll over heaven together one of these days. Rest in peace my friend. I love you dearly.  
Shirley Bowling Horton

Shirley Horton - May 19 at 02:47 PM

---



“ One of our favorite memories was when Aunt Shirley came to visit us in Alaska. She was always spontaneous, having fun wherever she went so it wasn't long until she had a great big bite of snow! We love you and miss you Aunt Shirley—Parrish & Brenda



**Brenda Morgan** - May 19 at 02:07 PM