



Nina Marie Smith

March 1, 1933 - September 28, 2016

Nina Marie Singleton Smith, 83, was called home into God's loving arms on September 28, 2016. She died peacefully in her home, surrounded by those she loved.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Nina was the first of the late Roscoe and Mildred Singleton's two daughters. Her younger sister, Mildred Ann, was born eleven months later, and the two were inseparable until her passing in 2014.

In 1945, the singletons moved to Washington D.C., a city that would change Nina's life. While riding a trolley with her father, Nina spotted a handsome young man. She immediately pointed him out and announced that she would marry him one day. That handsome young man happened to be Clifford V. Smith Jr., and they were devoted to each other from that moment on.

Together they attended the prestigious Dunbar High School, where Nina graduated in 1950. She went on to attend nursing school at Philadelphia General Hospital and quickly became a favorite among her patients.

Upon graduation, Nina and Clifford were married on August 22, 1953. She went to work as a nurse at numerous hospitals in the east and Midwest, all while raising a family of three daughters, Sharon Theresa, Debra Lynn, and Patricia Marie, as Clifford completed his graduate studies.

When Clifford became Vice President of Administration at Oregon State University in 1978, the couple moved to Corvallis and instantly fell in love with both the town and the people, where any subsequent jobs would take them, it went without saying that they would retire to Corvallis

Year later, when Clifford was appointed Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Nina flourished as the First Lady and was active in numerous organizations, serving on the Red Cross Board, the YWCA Board, and the University's Nursing School Advisory Board. Nina's winning personality, compassion for others and dazzling smile were a huge assets throughout Clifford's career.

Once it was time to retire, Nina and Clifford returned to Corvallis, and lived the life they had always imagined.

Some of their favorite activities included vacationing to their homes in Tucson, Arizona and Waldport, where they had a beautiful view of the Pacific Ocean. When they weren't traveling, Nina and Clifford spent much of their time at the theatre, whether it be listening to the symphony or viewing the latest performance at Keller Auditorium. Nina always spent the drive back singing along to the tunes in her beautiful soprano voice.

Not only did Nina have an appreciation for music, but she also possessed a deep love for her animals. From the Collies she spent much of her life chasing throughout various neighborhoods to her daughters and granddaughters horses, Nina always treated her four-legged friends as though they too were members of the family. She also had a passion for bears, and covered her home in anything and everything grizzly. Clifford would often refer to her as "Silver Tip Grizz" because of her affection for the furry animals.

When she wasn't taking care of her family and pets, Nina loved completing crossword puzzles, collecting pocketbooks, eating Werther's Original and See's Nuts & Chews Candies, in addition to watching marathons of her favorite TV shows. There wasn't an episode of "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit" or "Criminal Minds" that she hadn't seen. Nina was also an exceptional cook; her phone would constantly ring from her daughters requesting the services of "Dial-A-Cook", a title she wore with much pride and laughter.

Within the last five years, both Nina and Clifford's health was deteriorating; so they decided to move up to Portland and into a new house with their daughter, Tricia, and youngest granddaughter, Lucy, whom Nina affectionately referred to as "Precious". The four of them enjoyed their time together, often laughing about the number of animals running around the spacious home.

Nina's ability to draw people in with her bubbly personality and her incredible outlook on life taught us much about courage, grace, empathy, manners, and most of all, respect for all of God's people and animals. She is survived by Clifford, her beloved husband for 63 years, daughters Sharon Jones (Collis), Debra McKee (Tom) and Tricia Pausz, grandchildren Ryan, Allison, Haley, Ben, Chris, Nicholas, "Precious" Lucy, great granddaughter Taaji, her Collie Phoebe, her Grand Newfoundlands Rosie, Tonka, Piper, grand-cat Merp, and grand-horses Malik and Adam, along with her many family and friends.

She will be forever missed.

A Mass will be held for Nina at 10:00 am on Friday, October 7 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 501 NW 25th St, Corvallis, followed a reception in the Upper Social Hall, and burial at Oaklawn Memorial Park, 2245 SW Whiteside Dr, Corvallis.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 757-8141
info@mchenryfuneralhome.com

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 7. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
501 NW 25th St.
Corvallis, OR

Reception

OCT 7 (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
501 NW 25th St.
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall



“ *McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Nina Marie Smith*



McHenry Funeral Home - October 19, 2016 at 10:57 AM

KA

Beautiful! I will never forget you Nina my friend, your in the arms of Jesus now!

Karen - October 22, 2016 at 01:01 AM

TR

“ *I can't believe that you have been gone for 3 months. It feels like it was yesterday. I am so grateful and blessed to have had these last 4 years with you, seeing you every day, sharing our animal stories, watching Criminal Minds and listening to you and Dad bicker over the remote. Taking care of you and being with you as you left us has been one of the biggest honors in my life. I love you and shall miss you every day. Thank you for loving me so.
Your baby girl, Tricia*

Tricia - January 06, 2017 at 01:05 AM

PK

“ Nina was a beautiful person in spirit and in deed. She and Cliff are dearly loved by their friends, family and community. I have fond memories of the many good times and laughs we shared.
Pat & Tim Kennedy

Pat Kennedy - October 16, 2016 at 09:31 PM

SB

“ We share our love with you at this difficult time.

Shirley and John Byrne - October 08, 2016 at 12:58 PM

TG

“ We are so sorry for your loss, Nina was such a lovely lady and so gracious and such a good mom and grandma and wife. What was not to love about her, and funny and good spirited to the end. Sorry to see her go and love and hugs to the family!

Tascha Gamroth - October 06, 2016 at 10:19 PM



“ My favorite memory is just seeing her round the corner with her classic "Heeeeeeeee!" I'll miss you, Grandma Nina.

Ben McKee - October 05, 2016 at 10:53 PM

TK

“ So sorry for your loss. A mother's love cannot be replaced. Sending prayers to all of you at this difficult time. Love you Jones family, Terri Kerley

Terri Kerley - October 05, 2016 at 07:40 PM

CS

“ You will be missed and loved. It has been an honor and pleasure to have you in my life the last 16 years. With much love, Cyndie and Calie.

Cyndie Shaner - October 05, 2016 at 10:55 AM

SH

“ I miss you so much, Mom.

Sharon - October 05, 2016 at 08:14 AM