



## Rita Jane Smith

January 3, 1956 - April 27, 2020

Rita Jane Smith, 64, of Anderson, passed away on April 27, 2020 surrounded by family at her daughter's residence. She was born on January 3, 1956 in Anderson, Indiana.

Rita is a 1974 graduate of Anderson High School and 1978 graduate Ball State University with a Master's in Education.

She retired in 2015 after 37 years as a teacher, mostly as a 7th grade Math teacher at Northside Middle School.

She was a member of Madison Christian Church, Frankton, where she sang in the choir and was very active, Chi Omega Sorority, 4 euchre clubs and a book club. She also enjoyed socializing, shopping, traveling and eating out with co-workers, friends from high school and college. She volunteered and made soup for St. Mary's soup kitchen. After retiring, she worked at Grace Place where she enjoyed working with friends and getting to know her customers. Her biggest joy was spending time with her grandson, Jack.

Rita is survived by her loving spouse whom she married July 25, 1981, Ted Smith; daughters, Ashley (Michael Songer) Smith, Chelsea (Bradley) Jones, grandson, Jack Jones and one on the way.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Ruth McKinney.

Private services will be held due to the health restrictions.

Burial will take place in the Fairview Cemetery, Tipton.

[www.loosecares.com](http://www.loosecares.com).

# Cemetery Details

**Fairview Cemetery**

Tipton, IN

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ Mrs. Smith was one of my teachers at Northside Middle School. I have always remembered her to be a kind, wonderful teacher. I was given the opportunity to reconnect with her years after and she was just so sweet. I was deeply saddened to hear of her passing. Such a wonderful person. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. She will be greatly missed.

*Stephanie Farrell*

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**Stephanie Farrell** - May 02, 2020 at 09:43 PM

AL

“ Ted, Ashley, and Chelsea, your wife ,mother, and grandmother was one of a kind. Very kind, gentle and reassuring to students. Understanding of fellow older teachers and a great example of a positive attitude when dealing with the younger generations. While on the staff at North Side Middle School. I only saw her sad on one day, and that was when the family's dog Brutus died. On my last day of school before retirement, she stopped by to say goodbye. While it was an awkward situation for me being elated, she was generally sad that it was like two friends parting and going there separate ways. Fortunately, for me because of her interests and the White Sox . We were able to meet her daughters and all ways had positive and informative conversations. We are sadden by her death and our prayers and thoughts are extended to your family.

*Al & Kathy Lind*

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**Al Lind** - May 01, 2020 at 08:11 AM

TF

“ Tom Fletcher Family

*Rita was a wonderful cousin and friend. I have wonderful memories of vacations at the lake, family celebrations and sharing teaching stories with Rita. We will miss her. Good bless Rita and her family.*

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**Thomas Fletcher** - May 01, 2020 at 07:53 AM

RG

“ I worked at Northside Middle School with Rita, late 1980's and early 1990's. One year she invited my family and I to the 500 Parade, Indianapolis. We followed Rita, Rita's mother and her daughters. The daughters were in the back of their station wagon. I was making the Vulcan sign with my fingers, the way Spock does on Star Trek. The daughters were having fun trying to make the Vulcan sign with their fingers.

*We finally got there and watched the parade. It was a hot day. My daughter was around a year old. We enjoyed the parade! When we left we were supposed to meet at the McDonald's on Fall Creek Blvd, but when we left, Rita and her family got out right away and we got stuck in a traffic jam. By the time we got to McDonald's, they were long gone. That evening, at home, we watched the parade on television setting on our comfy sofa! It was neat to watch it on television after just being there a few hours earlier.*

*What a great time and good memory. We will miss you.*

*Randy Gore and family*

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**Randy Gore** - April 30, 2020 at 10:00 PM

RG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Randy Gore** - April 30, 2020 at 09:41 PM

RG

*This photo was taken when the staff played basketball against the students. Rita was one of the cheerleaders. Always a cheerleader. Will miss you, Rita. Randy Gore and family*

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**Randy Gore** - April 30, 2020 at 09:45 PM

DB

“ *So sorry to hear of Rita's passing, her smile and sweet disposition is what I see when thinking of her. Such a wonderful Christian soul. Praying for Ashley and Chelsea and their families. Love and prayers to all.*



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**Deb Betz** - April 30, 2020 at 08:47 PM



“ *Rita was a genuinely nice person who I met through her husband Ted while he played on our softball team. She was always nice to be around as she always seemed to smiling.*

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**Kent Odom** - April 30, 2020 at 07:28 PM

EO

“ Sad to hear of Rita's death. We became friends from our weekly morning breakfast at Grace's Place. We looked forward to seeing her every Tuesday and was disappointed when she wasn't there. She especially enjoyed talking and showing pictures of her new grandson. You are missed Rita A donation will be given to Community Hospital Breast Cancer Shop in honor of Rita

Ed and Pat O'Donnell - April 30, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ Chinese Dogwood Tree was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Smith.



April 30, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ Colorado Spruce Tree was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Smith.



April 30, 2020 at 01:39 PM

JF

“ I am truly sorry to hear this news of Rita's passing. My prayers are with the family, especially Ashley and Chelsea. Rita shined. She brought joy and encouragement whenever we gathered. Her love was genuine and her enthusiasm was infectious. She was courageously faithful and in Christ has found her complete healing. As we grieve, may we find strength in our Heavenly Comforter and celebrate the life that Rita lived among us. -Joshua Fletcher

Joshua Fletcher - April 30, 2020 at 11:38 AM

SA

“ Teaching with Rita at North Side was a sheer joy. Her infectious smile and positive attitude brightened everyone's day for which she will always be remembered. It was such an honor to have known and worked with her. Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson - April 30, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Smith.



April 30, 2020 at 10:33 AM

TO

“ Sending up Prayers for the family always enjoyed our conversations and her help keeping up with girls Lady Elite real nice Lady.

Tonia - April 30, 2020 at 09:54 AM

FF

“ I would like to offer sincere condolences to the whole family, especially Chelsea and Ashley. Rita was one of the kindest and sweetest people I ever knew. May perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in God's peace. I am praying that the Lord will transform our grief into a deeper longing for heaven when we will be reunited again in God's love.



~ Fr. Luke Fletcher (Rita's first cousin, once removed)

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Fr Luke Fletcher - April 30, 2020 at 08:36 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Smith.



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April 30, 2020 at 07:38 AM

SE

“ I taught three years with Rita at North Side Middle School! I enjoyed being on a 7th Grade Team with her and sharing stories about her daughters and our families! Over the last 25 years or so, I would continue to see her several times; especially, when she was out and about with her small group of "retired" friends! I will miss her beautiful smile and fun laughter and being able to share the memories of teaching and our families!

God Bless her family and friends during this difficult time! So sorry for your loss.

Heaven gained a wonderful angel!!! I will miss you ~ Rita!!!

Stacey England

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Stacey England - April 30, 2020 at 07:14 AM

PM

“ *Paula Moss lit a candle in memory of Rita Jane Smith*



Paula moss - April 30, 2020 at 01:13 AM

LW

“ *Rita was a beautiful soul. We went to church together at Frankton and I seen her at Grace's Place several times. She was such a wonderful person and had a heart as big as gold. Rest in Jesus arms sweet Rita. You will be missed.*

Ludy Watkins - April 29, 2020 at 11:43 PM

BW

“ *I had the privilege to work with this sweet awesome woman ❤️ From the moment I met her in 2013 I loved her. I felt as though I had known her forever and Her smile just lit up a room. We always had so much fun together and would just look at each other and laugh. I never heard her say an unkind word about anyone and Her excitement about being a Grandma was just precious. She will be missed by so many and my heart is truly broken. So happy she is at peace.*

Brenda Webber - April 29, 2020 at 10:33 PM

JJ

“ *She was my favorite teacher at Northside. My heart goes out to her family and I am praying for their blessed comfort and hope I'm this difficult time.*

John G Jones - April 29, 2020 at 09:53 PM

RM

“ So sorry to hear this, she was a wonderful person, compassionate and caring and a fighter.. She is healed today, and in time we will all be gathered together....Pastor Mike Moschenrose

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**Rev Mike Moschenrose** - April 29, 2020 at 09:32 PM

NK

“ I met Rita many years ago teaching at North Side. She always had that sweet smile that would brighten up a room. She was pure sweetness and love no matter her circumstances. Her beautiful presence will be missed by all who knew her and loved her. I send my heartfelt prayers to her family.

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**Nina Kline** - April 29, 2020 at 09:11 PM

CA

“ I had to the privilege to meet and work with Rita at Grace Place. She always had that beautiful smile on her face. Even though I didn't see often, whenever I did it was like seeing a very dear friend. My prayers to her two beautiful daughters and that awesome little grandson you blessed her with, Jack. I know her heart was filled with love for Jack.

*I will always be grateful for knowing her.*

*With deepest sympathy for her family,  
Carol Anderson*

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**Carol Anderson** - April 29, 2020 at 08:53 PM

KP

“ Ashley, Fred and I loved your mama and you, I know the last time spoke to you at cracker barrell your mom was not good. Prayers to help you get through this. God sure gained a special angel when your mom got there. I know her and Fred is talking away in heaven.



*Love you all  
Kathy Partlow*

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**Kathy Partlow** - April 29, 2020 at 08:52 PM

BK

“ I am so saddened to learn of Rita’s passing. It was such a pleasure to teach with Rita at 10th Street Elementary. She was so kind and thoughtful to students and staff. I loved getting to know Ashley as well. To her family that she cherished, please accept my heart felt condolences. God hold you close with comfort.

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**betty knapp** - April 29, 2020 at 08:45 PM

NC

“ I worked with Rita at North Side and saw her at retired teacher luncheons. She was the sweetest person I have every known. The world lost a beautiful soul and heaven gained a special angel. I will miss her smiles and friendly conversations. Gone much to soon.

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**Nanette Cox** - April 29, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ I met Rita at Grace’s Place and she quickly remembered that she knew two of our children that went to North Side Middle School. She was so excited about being a grandmother. I know you must have a million good memories and hopefully they will comfort you and bring you peace. She is truly your angel now.  
Marilyn Hoover

Marilyn Hoover - April 29, 2020 at 07:56 PM

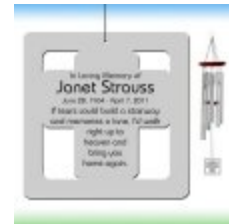


“ Always had a smile you will be missed by alot of people. You were one that was very much loved.

Sue Phifer - April 29, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ PLEASE GIVE TO ASHLEY SMITH purchased the Cross Wind Chime - Personalized for the family of Rita Jane Smith.



PLEASE GIVE TO ASHLEY SMITH - April 29, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ I’m heartbroken for the Smith family! Rita was a wonderful person, an incredible teacher, and an amazing friend! She was always comforting and loving to everyone even when she was going through health issues. She was loved her family so much and was so excited about being a grandmother! She will be sadly and deeply missed! Praying that God will bless and comfort her family!  
Friend and previous co-worker  
Carla Bingham

Carla Bingham - April 29, 2020 at 06:47 PM



Marilyn Hoover

*I met Rita at Grace's Place and she quickly remembered that she knew two of our children that went to North Side Middle School. She was so excited about being a grandmother. I know you must have a million good memories and hopefully they will comfort you and bring you peace. She is truly your angel now.*

*Marilyn Hoover*

Marilyn Hoover - April 29, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ *I met Rita when she worked at Grace's! She was such a joy and fun to be around-we always wanted her to wait on us. Rita will definitely be missed!*

marsha - April 29, 2020 at 06:32 PM



“ *My deepest condolences To the Smith family and close friends/ School co workers and church members. I was VERY fortunate to have Mrs Smith in 7th grade for one semester! I had just moved back to my mom's from Oak Hill school. She WAS AMAZING ❤️😍❤️💖😍💖 She also lived on the same street as my mom. My sister Bridgette and I use to go down to their house to play with her daughters! We have lost touch after all these years but Bridgette's husbands ( Brett ) mom ( Kathy ) was also a teacher at North side ( 8th grade ) and they still kept in touch. She was just a great lady and oh so sweet. My prayers are with you all. 🙏🏠💖🏠🏠🏠*


Antoinette Rohrer - Brown - April 29, 2020 at 06:11 PM

JV

“ I am just heart broken , I have enjoyed Rita every since the day she became my teacher in 7th grade. She knew I was going through tough times and was always there to listen and offer guidance . Then as I became an adult and had Reece , Rita would read to her and spoil her and Madison Christian church when she was a toddler . Every time I would run into her somewhere she always had a smile and asked me how I was doing and then wanted to hear about Reece . She would tell me how she followed her sports in the newspaper and was so proud of her . Rest easy my friend . You surely will be missed .

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**Jennifer VanBlair** - April 29, 2020 at 05:59 PM

 Bruce Swafford

“ I had the pleasure of meeting this awesome human at Grace Place. ALWAYS she greeted us with that smile. My heart hurts from this news. Our loss is heaven's gain. Rest without pain, my friend.

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**Bruce Swafford** - April 29, 2020 at 04:32 PM

SD

“ To the Smith family, may God give you warmth and great comfort at this time of bereavement. Ms. Rita was my basketball coach at North Side Middle School. I am grateful that she was a part of my young life. Such a beautiful soul and she treated everyone with dignity and respect. She will be truly missed.

*Shonnie Wilson-Daniels*

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**Shonnie Daniels** - April 29, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Smith.*



April 29, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ *What a wonderful lady and teacher. Our daughter painted her a picture many years ago during her first battle with cancer and about 7 months ago we saw Rita who informed us that she still had that picture. This brightened not only our day but the small on Rita face was priceless seeing a former student who cared so much. God bless and peace be with you all.*

**Heather Ancil** - April 29, 2020 at 04:06 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Smith.*



April 29, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ *Scott &Heather Ashburn;  
Katherine,Natalie,Margaret purchased the Lovely  
One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Rita  
Jane Smith.*



**Scott &Heather Ashburn; Katherine,Natalie,Margaret** - April 29, 2020 at 01:35 PM