



Kathleen Smith

August 24, 1944 - September 1, 2022

Kathleen Marie Smith, 78, passed away peacefully after a month-long illness on September 1, 2022. Kathy was the oldest of five Taylor kids in Oak Park, Michigan. She attended Our Lady of Fatima grade school and graduated from St. James Ferndale High School in 1962. There, she met her forever love David Smith of Ferndale. They were married in 1966. Kathy and Dave raised their family in Oak Park. They have lived in Royal Oak since 2000.

As a child, Kathy loved doing dishes with her father while listening to him sing. While Dad was her favorite, she also enjoyed listening to Roy Orbison and Johnny Mathis. When the Good Humor Man came around, she would send one of her brothers out for a Raspberry Creamsicle. During her teen years, her brothers always kidded her about her “butt walk” exercises across the living room floor, with Noxema Skin Cream applied liberally to her face. The brothers laughed, but Kathy will always be remembered for her beautiful skin.

Kathy loved books. In childhood, she read all of Nancy Drew and Ann of Green Gables. Throughout her life, she scoured the shelves of the Oak Park, Ferndale, Royal Oak, and Clawson libraries. She spent little on herself but was often in debt with library overdue fines. Some of her favorites-A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Last of the Mohicans, Gone with the Wind-also became her favorite films. She loved to read to her kids and grandkids, and to help them develop their skills in reading and writing.

A legal and accounting secretary, Kathy was efficient and dependable. She began working for Benda Grace Stulz and Company, now of Sterling Heights, in 1977. She remained with Benda, working full and part time and intermittently for over forty years.

While Kathy cared for her people, she was also a private person who valued her alone time. She once told a brother that she “found her voice” rather late in life. She became comfortable sharing her acute sense of humor and her opinions about the world. While she was adored by all, Kathy was never one to lecture or judge. Like her father, she was a living example of grace, common sense, and fun.

Later in life Kathy also took a liking to travels with Dave to visit family, and with Dave, her brother Mark and his wife, Betsy, to destinations like Key West, Savannah, and Yellowstone.

Kathy leaves behind her adoring husband Dave, and beloved children Kevin (Heather), and Karen Timek. Kathy longed to someday be reunited with her youngest, Brian, who died in 1984. She is mourned by four grandchildren, Bryan and Lily Smith, and Benjamin and Emily Timek; and by brothers Joe (Carolyn), Mark (the late Betsy), John (Carol), and Robert (Mickey).

Kathy was a lifelong parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima, now Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Her practice in the Catholic Church and her love of reading fueled her devotion, not only to family, friends, and coworkers, but to the suffering and the underdog. Her life of love has prepared her for the her journey to the Source of love.

Funeral Mass for Kathy will be held at 10:00 am Wednesday, September 7th at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 13500 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park.

Reception to immediately follow at Plum Hollow Country Club, 21631 Lahser Rd, Southfield. www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

SEP 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Oak Park
13500 Oak Park Boulevard
Oak Park, MI 48237

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Marzolino, Miller and Chiesa familie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kathleen Smith.*



The Marzolino, Miller and Chiesa familie - September 12, 2022
at 11:56 PM

MT

“ *Kathy was my sister and my friend! I learned many things from her....things that made me a better person. Like, it was ok to cry over a sad movie like the Sullivans, and it wasn't a sign of weakness, but rather, an ability to empathize. That sometimes, the words of a good book could leap off the page like they were written just for me. That it was ok for a guy to love musicals and plays...and soft skin and hand cream. We shared recipes like we shared feelings and politics. As recently as this past March we attended a concert with the music of ABBA...and we danced and sang along like teenagers.I think that visual of her...happy and singing...is the way I will always remember her. Kathy was my sister and my friend!*

Mark Taylor - September 09, 2022 at 11:46 AM

MT

“ Aunt Kathy,

It is hard to put into words just how much you meant to me and to your entire extended family. January 2022 was an especially difficult month for my dad, Juan, and me when complications from my mom's dementia caused her to be hospitalized. I remember calling you around 3pm and asking if you could help us. By 9am the next morning Juan and I were picking you up at the Atlanta airport!! You didn't hesitate. You just told me to book you on the next flight. You were so full of love and were always thinking of others. That was who you were. I believe you had a gift of compassion and determination that few of us have.

I remember hugging you that morning at baggage claim and knowing right then and there everything was going to be ok. You always brought calm and clarity – and even a small bit of needed humor – to any stressful situation. I remember later that day in the hospital how excited my mom was to see you and I saw the joy and comfort you brought to her. I also saw the strength and relief you brought to my father. To him you were not just a sister but also one of his best friends.

Although you only stayed for a week, it felt like you left us with a year's worth of love. And less than two months later, when you returned to Georgia with Dave, none of us will forget how my mom screamed out your name in excitement the instant she saw you, hugged you, and complimented you on your beautiful yellow shoes. It's funny how it is the little things you remember the most.

Luckily the tragic days were limited. There were so many good times. I can remember hearing about all the wonderful trips you and Dave took with my parents including Fort Lauderdale, Key West, and Yellowstone National Park. I can remember calling my mom during those trips and I would end up talking to all four of you on speaker – I could literally hear how much fun you were having and couldn't believe at how much you were all laughing.

Juan and I enjoyed all your visits to Atlanta. It was so nice getting to know you all over again – this time as an adult. Joe so eloquently wrote in his obituary that you felt late in life you found your voice. You sure did. I'm so glad you did and thank you for sharing it with us. I enjoyed all the political and state-of-the-world discussions we had at restaurants all over Atlanta or at my parents' house at Lake Arrowhead, just relaxing with a Diet Coke. Whenever we had enough of serious conversation we would just start talking about Publix, your favorite grocery store!

To your family – Dave, Kevin, and Karen – thank you for sharing your wife and mother with everyone. She will be missed beyond words. Her impact on my life will stay with me forever and I will often speak of her memory and her legacy of love, compassion, and strength. I suspect her son Brian welcomed her into Heaven, but something tells me my mom and our dog Charlie were there waiting for her too.

Love, Michael Taylor and Juan Escamilla, Atlanta, GA



Michael Taylor - September 08, 2022 at 10:27 AM

MT

“ *Kathy was a very kind and beautiful person from a wonderful family. We have nothing but very fond memories of the Taylor family gatherings growing up. We are so sorry for Dave and the Smith/Taylor family. Mike & Judy Taylor*

Mike Taylor - September 07, 2022 at 09:53 AM

KT

“ Mom, I miss you desperately and I love you forever and always.
Love, Karen.

Karen Timel - September 06, 2022 at 06:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Kathleen Smith.



September 06, 2022 at 02:37 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the
family of Kathleen Smith.



September 05, 2022 at 01:42 PM

CT

“ Aunt Kathy, Thanks for putting up with my dad and his brothers
when they were younger, I still don't know how you made it out of
that house with your sanity! Give Brian a huge hug for me please.
Uncle Dave, Kevin and Karen- wishing you strength and sending all
our love,
Chris, Kelli, Sutton and Finn.

Chris Taylor - September 05, 2022 at 12:53 PM

CO

“ *I'm sorry for all the family. Kathy was truly one of the nicest people you could have ever met. Always kind and always thoughtful. My deepest condolences.*

Cosette - September 05, 2022 at 08:52 AM

AH

“ *So sorry to hear that god called Kathleen Alice hodder*

alice hodder - September 04, 2022 at 05:07 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kathleen Smith.*



September 03, 2022 at 05:48 PM