



Ruby Smith

February 6, 1928 - June 3, 2022

Ruby Julia Smith, 94, of West Grove, Iowa passed away June 3, 2022 following a brief illness.

Born February 6, 1928, in Langtree, Devon, England, she was the sixth of seven children. In the 1950's she was staying with relatives in Swindon, England, and met an American stationed at a nearby medical base during the Korean War. Wasting no time, she pursued him. The month after the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne of England, Ruby Sutton married William (Bill) Smith in what would become her own 70-year reign as the matriarch Ruby Smith.

At the conclusion of the Korean War, the US Air Force decided that all the war brides in England would be sent to America while their husbands concluded their service in England. With two children under the age of two and another on the way, dealing with sea sickness and a reaction to the smallpox vaccination, Ruby found herself on a ship crossing the Atlantic. She was headed to New York where she would meet her reluctant in-laws. From there, they would travel by train to Iowa. She was a courageous British pioneer to undertake the journey and settle in Davis County. Throughout her life she was strong-willed and as tough as nails.

Bill joined her later and they eventually located outside of West Grove where

they would remain for the rest of their lives. In total they had six children: Terry, Dean, Marilyn, Bill, Rick, and Phillip. Her table was always open, and she would feed anyone. With the addition of grandchildren and great-grandchildren Ruby could single handedly host and cook a holiday meal for twenty-five or more. She would scan the plates on the table to make sure to give you an additional helping of whatever she deemed you needed. Bill and Ruby spent Saturday nights dancing at the VFW in Bloomfield. They vacationed internationally and enjoyed cruises with groups from Bill's employer and visited her home in England numerous times. Later in life, they wintered in Texas for many years with daughter, Marilyn. Ruby passed on a love of vegetable gardening, flower gardening, birdwatching and travel to children and grandchildren.

Ruby was an excellent caregiver and was protective of her family. She always put the comfort of others above her own needs and gave of herself freely. She valued being independent and was reluctant to accept help or have anyone make a fuss over her.

Ruby was colorful both in spirit and dress. She had an outsized personality, and you always knew when she had arrived at an event. Ruby was fun and could tell stories to match those of her story-telling husband. She was direct and always told it like it was.

She was the life force of the Smith family to whom we were all tethered. The platinum jubilee for Mrs. Ruby Smith has ended but she had an excellent, long run wearing the crown. She was our queen, our mother, our grammy. There will never be another like her.

Ruby is survived by children Terry (Craig) Swaim of Drakesville, Dean (Teresa) Smith of Bloomfield, Bill (Cheri) Smith Jr. of Burlington, Rick (Tiffany) Smith of Des Moines and Phillip (Jill Leggett) Smith of Tiffin; brother Denny

Sutton of England; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Ruby was preceded in death by husband, Bill, and daughter, Marilyn Smith-Jones.

Per Ruby's request there will not be a public service and those who wish to express sympathy may consider making a donation to their favorite charity in her name.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruby Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ruby Smith.*



June 08, 2022 at 09:32 AM



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



June 07, 2022 at 06:43 PM



“ *When I think of my childhood, Ruby is a big part of it. She was definitely one of a kind. Scared me at first, but had one of the biggest heart. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you and your families. May you have peace knowing that she is with your dad and Marilyn. ((Hugs)) to all.*

Barb Goldizen DeGeest

Barb Goldizen DeGeest - June 07, 2022 at 01:43 PM

TC

“ *Teddy & Mary Cary lit a candle in memory of Ruby Smith*



Teddy & Mary Cary - June 06, 2022 at 10:37 PM

GS

“ *Ruby was always a joy to be around. I loved to hear her talk with her English accent. You can now rest in peace with Bill.*



Georgia Stevens - June 06, 2022 at 09:35 PM

MH

“ *Monte & Rexanna Harsch lit a candle in memory of Ruby Smith*



Monte & Rexanna Harsch - June 06, 2022 at 08:30 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ruby Smith.*



June 06, 2022 at 04:43 PM

MJ

“ *Shared many birthdays at the Smith house. We were neighbors until my family moved to Arizona in 1963. Always visited Bill and Rudy every time I returned to Iowa for vacation.* ”



Martin John - June 06, 2022 at 03:44 PM

SW

“ *Sue White lit a candle in memory of Ruby Smith* ”



Sue White - June 06, 2022 at 03:43 PM

JB

“ *Sorry to learn of Ruby's passing. We were in water aerobics for several years and my spot was usually beside her, but I didn't dare take the corner spot because that was Ruby's! She was wonderful, sassy, outspoken and a true delight to know. Rest In Peace Ruby.* ”

Judy buban - June 06, 2022 at 03:10 PM

TM

“ *Teresa Marlow lit a candle in memory of Ruby Smith* ”



Teresa Marlow - June 06, 2022 at 11:00 AM

DJ

“ Spent a fair amount of time in the Smith household with Marilyn when we were in High school. Loved Ruby (although she kinda scared me the first few times, lol)
Loved to watch her and Bill dance at the Legion dances . She was one of a kind. The obituary was wonderfully written and spot on!
Hugs to the family, she will be missed @

Deborah Townsend Jacobsmeier - June 06, 2022 at 09:34 AM

SH

“ Ruby will be truly missed.



susan houglan - June 06, 2022 at 08:36 AM

DR

Your Mom Will always hold a special place in my heart. She was like a second mother to me when we were kids. All of you take care of yourself and know that she had a wonderful life.

Debbie Roberts - June 06, 2022 at 09:28 AM

DC

Had many great adventures with Ruby, JoAnn and Diane. Juanita and Stan are waiting for you, don't get in too much trouble! RIP Love you

Deb Connor

Deb Connor - June 06, 2022 at 02:04 PM

LC

“ *Ruby was so amazing she adopted us as her extended family. Loved her straight talking ways . She will now be reunited with Bill again . Condolences to all the family from Liz & Family Holsworthy UK*

Liz Curtis - June 06, 2022 at 08:22 AM

LR

“ *Lynn Roberts lit a candle in memory of Ruby Smith*



Lynn roberts - June 06, 2022 at 07:05 AM

FW

“ Ruby was my late wife Sheila's aunty. I first met her in England over 50 years ago when she visited her home County of Devonshire and she was as described in her obituary, a phenomenal woman. I once asked Sheila what her greatest wish was and she told me that it was to drive up to Ruby and Bill's home to meet her American cousins. Luckily I was able to fulfill that wish in 1983 with our children Dean and Angela. Ruby made us so welcome and Angela had her 11th birthday party at her home. The memories of that visit remain special to this day. Tragically only 8 years later Sheila passed away aged 42 and I am so thankful that she achieved her wish in Iowa. After she died I returned three times and was treated as a member of the Smith family by Ruby, Bill and all her children. Some of my happiest days were spent with her and Bill and their family. My last visit three years ago was to be the last time I would see them. I shall always remember Ruby with much love. A tough lady but with a heart of gold. Sleep well Ruby. I have attached an early photo of Ruby near her home in Devon. Frank Waghorn.



Frank Waghorn - June 06, 2022 at 04:22 AM

CW

“ I remember when Ruby would come and help with dinners at the Legion Hall when my mother, Wilda Hardy was serving the Legion ladies in that capacity. We would have the greatest time during all the cooking, fixing and getting things in order. She was a delight to be around, always joking and making the job much easier, giving you a light poke with her elbow to make sure you were listening. Rest in peace, dear lady,.

Loving prayers and hope for peace to you, her family.

Cathy Warner

Cathy Warner - June 05, 2022 at 11:46 PM

RG

“ Regina Gooden lit a candle in memory of Ruby Smith



Regina Gooden - June 05, 2022 at 10:39 PM