

In Loving Memory Of

Sunrise
February 16, 1940

Sunset
June 13, 2013

Kathryn Smith

Services

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

3:00 p.m.

WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

165 West 105th Street

New York, NY

Officiating Rev. Alistair Drummond, Pastor

Elder Yvette Banks, Eulogist

Obituary

Catherine Smith born in Wadley, Georgia on February 16th 1940, although she swore according to her mother she was born on February 13 because the mid wife did not return to the town until the sixteenth and forgot her actual birth date. She was the child of Robert C. Stuckey Sr. and Louella Kellman Stuckey. She had a brother Robert Stuckey Jr. She later changed her name to Kathryn because she said it made her feel sophisticated.

Her proud parents and brother, moved to Macon, Georgia after crop season when she was five years old and where Kathryn attended grammar school. She would love to tell stories about the adventures she shared with her brother. She was a member of the Girl Scouts and the Four H Clubs earning her many badges and certificates. She attended Ballard Hudson. There she met and married her high school sweetheart Leon Slocumb. Their union produced two beautiful daughters.

Divorcing in 1962, Kathryn relocated to New York working as a live in maid and companion for the Bernstein family in Great Neck Long Island for five years. In 1967, she earned enough money to maintain her own apartment in Brooklyn on Astor Place and continued supporting her daughters living in Georgia.

She was a very proud and independent woman who later became a leg model for Orbach Department Store while working as a cashier there. In 1969, she enrolled in the Manpower program where she earned a certificate as a Book keeper. Not only did she become the head bookkeeper for the prestigious Manufacture Hanover Bank from 1970-1974, but she fell in love again to marry James Astor Smith the Regional Director for the Manpower Program and an advocate for the union and Secretary of the Black Trade Unionist-Party AFL-CLO in 1970. She oversaw the personal bookkeeping duties for their Arthur Treachers Franchise and Limousine Service-Astor Limo which serviced clients from the Wall Street area. As a couple they actively engaged in major civil rights policy changes strategizing with A. Philip Randolph, to make their demands for economic equality understood. Diligently working for the community they worked with the Tower West Tenants Association to secure Mitchell Lama affordable housing rights remain protected for then and now.

By hosting several fun raising events in their apartment on the upper west side, she discovered that not only was she an expert event planner but a novice cook who enjoyed serving many Democrats running for public office- Percy Sutton, Charles Rangel, Bella Abzug and others. She later entered a cooking program at the Promisa Institute in the Bronx where she earned her license as an institutional cook. She worked for Georgies' Bakery in Brooklyn. Later she worked for the Lussa Girls' Group Home located on 135th Street and 5th Avenue in Harlem as head cook and nutritionist. After the closing of the Group Home, she opened a food cart in Mart 125 located on 125th Street in Harlem. Kay's Kitchen served the best homemade Sloppy Joe's in the area earning her to a feature in the Amsterdam Newspaper.

After the closing of the Mart, Kathryn continued to cook for various occasions, she especially enjoyed cooking meals during Easter for members of the West End Presbyterian Church where she attended from 1970 to present. Although born and baptized as a Southern Baptist of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia, she felt at home at West End. She did volunteer work at PS 84 as a reader of children stories to 3rd graders, a member of the PTA (treasurer) and accompanied students on school field trips. She also had a love for Jazz and Soul music favorite artists were James Brown and Otis Redding fellow Georgians like her. She loved to dance the 2-step, the jerk, the bugaloo, the twist and cha cha even though her husband didn't enjoy it as much, they went out with friends to allow her let go to clear her mind and for her to continue to have a peaceful patient vibe.

She graciously provided scrumptious dinners to her family and distinguished guests on Sundays so they could sample her meats-duck, goose, quail, Cornish hens, etc, always accompanied by homemade desserts, ice-cream from crune, cakes and cookies made from scratch. Gil Noble "Tell It Like It Is" and "Meet The Press" television programs provided food for thought to generate lively political debates which sometimes became very heated. If you attended one of her official tea parties using her fine china gold trim teacup service you would enjoy the apartment terrace breezes as it cooled off the handmade sugar and chocolate chip cookies, which were heavenly.

She would advocate for public and social policies but believed that people should be self sufficient. This idea she stressed to her girls from early on. She was a great listener a wonderful and encouraging mother, a devoted and loyal wife, a very eloquent woman who never ever criticized anyone. She was a great decorator with artistic flair. She always had an encouraging word to say no matter what. Her saying was "It can't stay this way forever something will give and you must live with whatever the cards have dished out."

She kept her spirits up until the bitter end, she would often joke with the doctors saying she was being cheated of years because she had not out lived her parents who died in their eighties. She would say "longevity runs in my family so what happened?" The day prior to her death she called family and friends to speak with each person individually to say goodbye. This was her way of still caring and looking out for others rather than concerning herself with death.

Catherine Smith known as Kathryn Stuckey Slocumb Smith of Wadley, Georgia departed as a strong sophisticated lady from this earth on June 13, 2013 at the Hospice Unit of the Bellevue Hospital. Knowing that her family and friends loved and cared about her well being everyday of her life, she was a recipient of much agape love.

She leaves behind: a brother, Robert Stuckey Jr.; daughters, Sherley Diana and Willette Slocumb; grandchildren, Andre', Sigourney and Sivad Slocumb-Warlick; great grandchildren, Alijha and Laila Slocumb-Warlick; aunt, Louellen Dunton; nieces, Barbara, Cassandra and Francine Slocumb; nephews, John Slocumb and Robert Stuckey III; cousins, Frank Kellman, Kathleen Smith and Jacqueline Kellman; sister-in-law, Patricia Slocumb; and cousin-in-law, Gil Smith.

Special acknowledgements goes to her long time friends and neighbors, Delores Zecca, Pastor Jeannette Harris; the Tower West Tenant Association Committee; WestEnd Family, Mattie Washington, Margret Young, Yvette Banks, Marion Walters, Rev. Kenneth and Peggy Thomas and Rev. Alistair Drummond. Also remaining are sons-in-law, Thomas E. Merritt Jr.; ex-son-in-law, Andre' Warlick and future son-in-law, Dijim Dious; family and friends, Eric Smith, Harold Ricks, Dorothy Chambers, Cynthia J. McCray, Raymond Warlick, Tenaya Owens and Thomasine Rogers; and a host of other relatives and friends.

2:00 p.m. Viewing (till 3:00 p.m.)
3:00 Funeral Service
Officiating Rev. Alistair Drummond, Pastor
Peter Adamczyk Guest Music Minister

Order of Service

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 280 “Amazing Grace”

Prayer

First Lesson.....Psalm 139:1-18,23,24

Second Lesson.....1 Peter 1:3-9

Musical Selection.....Elder Margaret Young

Gospel Reading.....John 6:33-40

Eulogy.....Elder Yvette Banks

Words of Remembrance..... Sivad Slocumb-Warlick
Rev. Jeannette Harris

Musical Selection.....“Take Me To The King”Deacon Sheila Washington

Sermon.....Rev. Alistair Drummond

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn No. 467.....“How Great Thou Art” - O Store Gud

Commendation and Benediction

Postlude

Interment
Quantico National Cemetery
Quantico, Virginia

Repast

Following the service all are invited to the Chapel for Refreshments

Don't Count The Years

*Don't count the years they matter not
Count only the dreams
That the years have brought.
The happiness and the faith so dear,
The moments rich
You have treasured here.
Don't count the years
Only the smiles
Or the peace you have known
On the the weary miles.
The laughter you've shared.
And the friends you've made
Each magic hope
That shall never fade
Years are but numbers.
Tis living that counts,
A heart that knows joy
Small or large amounts,
a mind filled with loving.
Eliminates fears.
Count every blessing never the years.*

Garnett Ann Schultz

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.



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Amazing Grace

A decorative graphic of musical notes on a staff, positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.*





How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;*

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

Refrain

*When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;*

Refrain

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*


Refrain

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And there proclaim:
"My God, how great Thou art!"*

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