



Rosie Lee Smith

July 4, 1929 - October 20, 2020

Rosie Lee Smith, longtime Dover resident and beloved wife, mother and career professional, passed away peacefully, on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Rosie Lee was born to Annie Lee Ross and James Hatcher on July 4, 1929, in Selma, Alabama. She was a witness to history during her years in Selma, which were at the heart of the civil rights struggle.

Henry and Rose were married on June 18, 1950, in Washington, DC, at the former Bolling Air Force Base. They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

While stationed in Japan with her husband and family, Rosie was President of The Wives' Club, played softball and tutored students in English. She worked for many years as a hiring manager at Woolco, in the now shuttered Blue Hen Mall; the first African American to serve in the role.

Rosie Lee touched many lives through her generous spirit, positive attitude and love for family. Several close friends called Rose their second mom. She loved to cook southern food and enjoyed puzzles, word games and working in her garden. She especially enjoyed sports, and her enthusiasm for Duke and Roll Tide Roll was unrivaled by any fan.

Rosie is survived by her husband, Henry, a retired Senior Master Sergeant

and Tuskegee Airman; sons, Louis (and wife Connie Cline), Steven, Ronald (and wife Julia Felscher) and Calvin; sister, Dorothy (and husband Terrance Snead and family) of San Antonio, Texas; sister, Roberta (and husband William Dawson and family) of Los Angeles, California; nieces Rowena West and Rachel D. Watts of Alabama; cousin, Synetha Holyfeld; and many other loving family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to:

Disabled American Veterans
183 South Street, Camden, DE 19934
302-697-9061

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Mrs. Smith hired me for my first \u201creal\u201d job - working in the Red Grill in Woolco, in 1976. I had a prior commitment and couldn\u2019t start right away, but she had no problem in holding the job for the few weeks until I was available. She was so kind and understanding and at the same time no nonsense. That\u2019s just how she was. I am blessed to have had the chance to work with her and get to know her. My thoughts and prayers are with her family in this sad time. I know that she will live on for you in many happy memories. Donna Lawson Miller

Donna Lawson Miller - October 28, 2020 at 07:35 PM

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“ As a friend of Steven's "Smitty", I remember Mrs. Smith fondly from our time at Dover Air Force Base. Condolences to the Smith Family, Terri Mumpower Syryla

Terri Syryla - October 27, 2020 at 12:02 PM

TS

“ As a friend of Steven "Smitty", I remember Mrs. Smith fondly from Dover Air Force Base. Condolences to the Smith family. Terri Mumpower Syryla.

Terri Syryla - October 27, 2020 at 12:01 PM